

New Forest Biodiversity Forum

Snakes in the Heather - project update

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[Snakes in the Heather](#) has been promoting conservation of the smooth snake throughout its range in southern England; project activities also benefit other reptiles and the internationally important lowland heathland habitats on which smooth snakes depend. The project is a collaboration between Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (ARC) and multiple partners including land-owning and environmental organisations, local government, private landowners, and hundreds of volunteers. The New Forest has been a focus for reptile surveys, as the National Park is regarded as a stronghold for smooth snake and adder populations.

Snakes in the Heather has three aims: 1) to raise awareness of the conservation needs of reptiles and heathland through community engagement and education; 2) to encourage people to become involved as habitat enhancement volunteers and reptile surveyors; and 3) to develop and provide guidance and technical support that furthers the conservation of reptiles.

Over four years, more than 320 events and activities have taken place, and the project has directly reached more than 10,000 people. We present a brief insight into the work undertaken and highlight what is coming next.