

Wyre Forest Reptile Report 2021

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2021 marks an end of an era. After moving to Knowles Mill in 1982 and spending the following 39 years surveying Adders across the Wyre Forest, taking meticulous notes, photographing head markings to identify individuals and producing an annual report, Sylvia Sheldon has finally put her boots up! Unfortunately she was unable to carry out any surveying during the Covid-19 pandemic and she has now decided to hand the baton onto the next generation. Fortunately we still have a dedicated group of volunteers surveying the sites with known populations of adders. Natural England has also funded Nigel Hand from Central Ecology to carry out further, more detailed surveys, of other areas of the forest as well as looking at the main sites. This information was collated into the figures below.

On the face of it 2021 seemed like an improved year for Adders. However, it has become more difficult to compare figures over the years as the level of surveying has changed. For example, Sylvia and Chris Bradley found adders on 61 sites in 1991 but there appears to only be nine sites remaining 30 years later, a single animal being seen in three of them. Historically many more sites were looked at on a regular basis, with 87 sites surveyed in 2000, most of these have been shaded out as the trees, often conifers, have grown. New sites have been created but adders seem to be very loyal to an area and, in most cases, have not been recorded moving onto these sites. Much has been written about their decline in Wyre and other areas in the Midlands and there is no doubt they are struggling. With an ever increasing disturbance by humans, predation by buzzards, pheasants and corvids, climate change and possibly genetic issues it is difficult to see a natural reverse in their decline, but we live in hope!



Male Adder *Virera berus*

Phil Rudlin

Adder numbers 1990-2021

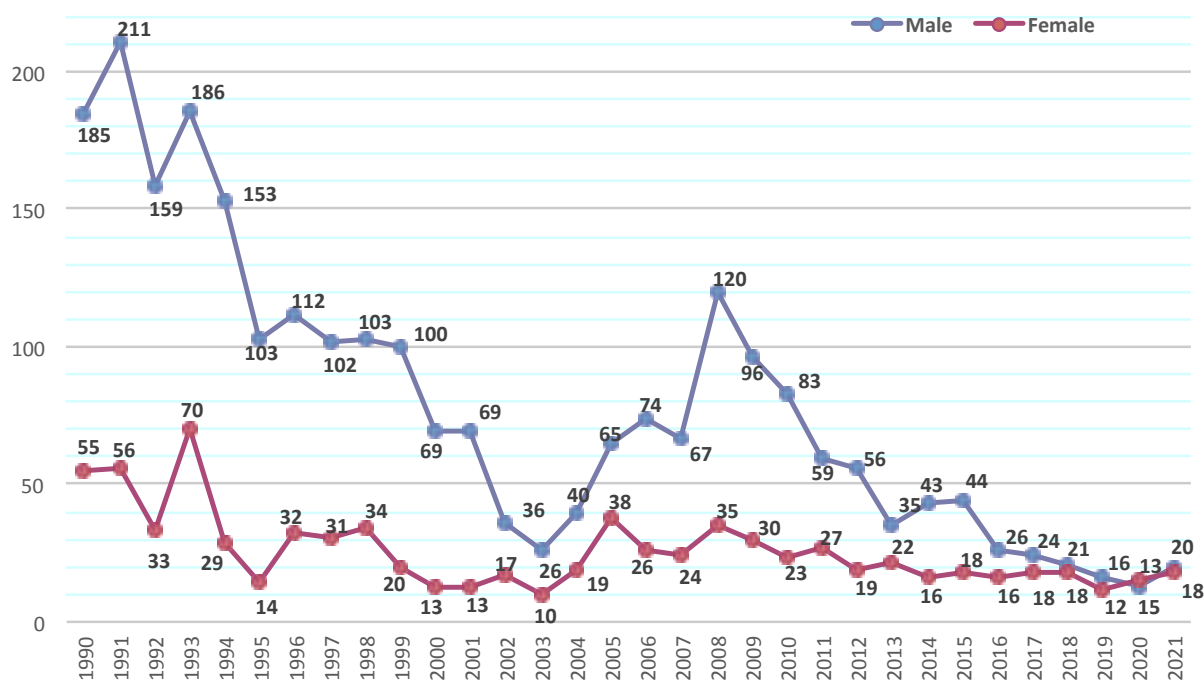
Year	Sites Surveyed	Sites with Adders	Mature Males	Mature Females	Total	Average per Site	Year	Sites Surveyed	Sites with Adders	Mature Males	Mature Females	Total	Average per Site
1990	56	50	185	55	240	4.8	2006	38	21	74	26	100	2.1
1991	76	61	211	56	267	4.4	2007	28	19	67	24	91	4.8
1992	78	55	159	33	192	3.5	2008	51	24	120	35	155	6.5
1993	80	59	186	70	256	4.3	2009	55	22	96	30	126	5.7
1994	76	50	153	29	182	3.6	2010	55	24	83	23	106	4.4
1995	76	44	103	14	117	2.6	2011	44	20	59	27	86	4.3
1996	80	41	112	32	144	3.5	2012	27	14	56	19	75	5.4
1997	84	44	102	31	133	3	2013	26	12	35	22	57	4.8
1998	85	42	103	34	137	3.3	2014	26	15	43	16	59	3.9
1999	67	35	100	20	120	3.4	2015	26	12	44	18	62	5.2
2000	87	24	69	13	82	3.4	2016	26	10	26	16	42	4.2
2001	Data incomplete due to FMD						2017	26	9	24	18	42	4.7
2002	20	13	36	17	53	4	2018	26	11	21	18	39	3.5
2003	20	9	26	10	36	4	2019	26	8	16	12	28	3.5
2004	47	20	40	19	59	3.6	2020	27	10	13	15	28	2.8
2005	54	25	40* 65*	16* 38*	56* 103*	4.1* 2.4*	2021	19	9	20	18	38	4.2

* Usual Sites without three new sites added

* Total when three new sites were added

FMD – Foot & Mouth Disease

Wyre Forest Adder records 1990-2021



Other reptiles recorded during Adder census

Year	Grass Snakes	Slow-Worms	Lizards	Year	Grass Snakes	Slow-Worms	Lizards
1990	36	26	24	2006	11	49	70
1991	20	35	20	2007	12	45	52
1992	30	35	13	2008	34	129	169
1993	49	62	38	2009	18	156	98
1994	20	46	23	2010	28	124	90
1995	23	36	11	2011	26	59	117
1996	22	48	15	2012	16	43	34
1997	28	53	42	2013	13	42	21
1998	21	42	37	2014	19	43	23
1999	34	41	19	2015	16	70	38
2000	12	24	23	2016	49	97	31
2001	Data incomplete due to FMD			2017	41	96	32
2002	9	17	14	2018	40	87	18
2003	5	10	26	2019	38	116	39
2004	7	18	19	2020	53	174	62
2005	12/16*	53/71*	58/144*	2021	58	170	106

** the total with the three new sites added

FMD – Foot & Mouth Disease