

# Identifying Britain's Snakes



**Grass snake** (*Natrix natrix*) Widespread throughout England and Wales. Often found near water in open woodland, commons, hedgerows and gardens. Usual length 70–100 cm.

**Slow worm** (*Anguis fragilis*) Our only legless lizard, found throughout mainland UK in a wide variety of habitats and thrives in wild gardens where its superficially snake-like appearance can sometimes cause alarm. Usual length 35–40 cm.



**Adder** (*Vipera berus*) Found throughout mainland UK on heathlands, commons, road and rail embankments and in open woodlands. Male (*head left*) usually greyish with black markings; female (*above*) usually pale brown with dark brown markings. Usual length 40–70 cm.

**Smooth snake** (*Coronella austriaca*) Uncommon with distribution limited to heathland in Dorset, Hampshire and Surrey. Usual length 45–55 cm.

