



Gwent Wildlife Trust

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Grass Snake Natrix natrix

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About

Our largest snake, the Grass Snake, particularly likes wetland habitats, but can also be found in dry grasslands and in gardens, especially those with a pond nearby. Lays eggs in rotting vegetation, often in compost heaps. Like all reptiles, Grass Snakes hibernate, usually from October to April. During the summer, they can be found basking near favourite ponds or even swimming.

How to identify

Usually greenish in colour, with a yellow collar and black neck patches. Females are bigger than males. Often found near water and frequently swims.

Where to find it

Widespread in England and Wales, and most of the UK.

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Protect local wildlife



Species information

Common name
Grass Snake

Latin name
Natrix natrix

Category
Reptiles

Statistics
Length: over 1m Weight: 240g Average Lifespan: up to 25 years

Conservation status
Protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, and classified as a Priority Species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.



Farmland



Grassland



Heathland



Towns and Gardens



Woodland

When to find it



How can people help

The loss of our grassland and wetland habitats through human activity threatens the survival of our reptiles. The Wildlife Trusts are working closely with planners, developers and farmers to ensure these habitats are protected by fostering Living Landscape schemes: networks of habitats and wildlife corridors across town and country, which are good for both wildlife and people. You can help: look after grass snakes and other reptiles in your garden by leaving piles of logs for hibernating beneath. In partnership with the RHS, The Wildlife Trusts' Wild About Gardens initiative can help you plan your wildlife garden.

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