

Adders are Amazing! Gwiberod Gwych!

9. ADDER STONE TRAILS

INTRODUCTION

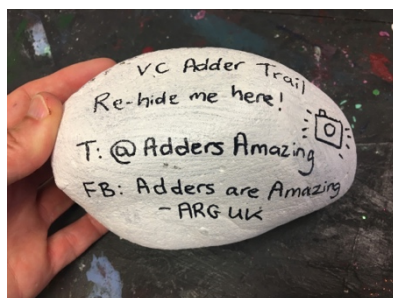
The idea for this activity came from contact by concerned members of the public, wishing to raise awareness of adders on a popular beach in Pembrokeshire. Signs are not always possible, but engaging local children in a fun awareness raising activity can be very effective. All it needs is some paint, some pebbles, a local authority or landowner who is willing to host the stones, and a willing group. We worked with schools, scouts/guides, and other community groups. The objective is to get members of the public to find the stones, share their pictures on social media, such as Facebook/Twitter, and re-hide the stone for others to find, spreading positive adder awareness in an engaging way. This activity works for all age groups – why not ask local community groups to get involved and create a trail on your adder site?

MATERIALS:

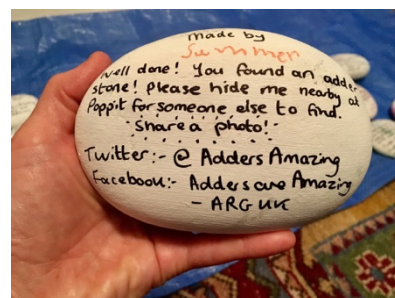
- Pebbles or local stones (don't take these from a beach – garden centres sometimes stock cheap bags of pebbles)
- Aprons (optional but advisable)
- Waterproof table cloths or lining paper
- Acrylic paint in a variety of colours (See 'Resources')
- Paint brushes and plastic pots for paint and brush washing water
- Black waterproof marker pens (Sharpies)
- Clear spray varnish (optional)

MAKE IT!

1 Make sure the stones are clean and dry. If you have time to pre-prepare, paint the underside of stones with white paint before the activity day. Here you can put additional information and a link. Create your own page, link to a Facebook /Twitter group or simply tag ARG UK.



2 After introducing a school or local community group to adders, get them started by asking them to put on aprons and write their first name on the underside of a stone of their choice using a marker pen. This personalises the stones.



MAKE IT!

- 3** Add the rest of your text later when the stone is dry. For now, let the painting begin! Encourage people to use adder patterns and shapes with bold habitat colours.



- 4** Leave the stones to dry before giving them a final optional coat of clear spray varnish. Don't do this at the venue and always do in a well-ventilated area, outdoors ideally.



- 5** If possible, take the group out after the stone painting to see the adder habitat. This provides an opportunity to talk to the group more, and to ask the children to hide their own stones along the trail for other people to find.



- 6** This activity works well with all ages and abilities, so get creative with your local schools and community groups! We worked with Girl Guides, charities working with Veterans (The VC Gallery) and schools to create unique and different adder stone trails on different sites.

