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Barred grass snakes are widespread throughout the UK, being a familiar sight in many gardens. I'm working to understand the population dynamics of the UK's largest snake.

Abstract

The barred grass snake (*Natrix helvetica*) is the largest of the three native snake species to the UK. However despite them being quite widespread and often seen, we still don't fully understand how the snakes operate a population level. This quilt tile symbolises one the many barred grass snakes I will encounter during the course of my PhD in order to shed some light on the population dynamics of grass snakes. Unfortunately it isn't all plane sailing as recently as pathogenic fungus which infects the snakes has been identified in the UK. I'll be surveying the snakes for this fungus as well as the snakes themselves to determine whether or not it causes any significant changes within the population.