

natterchat

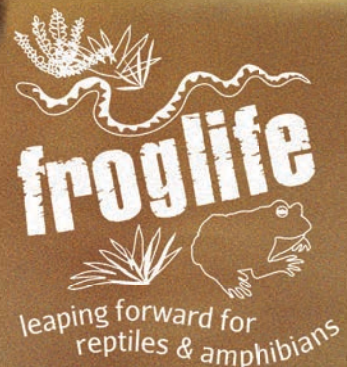
Froglife's newsletter - amphibians, reptiles & nature news

the nature reserves issue

Froglife's latest research

New reserves, new challenges

Toads on Roads



Plus...River Nene Dragon Finder : Green Pathways : Events : Appeal

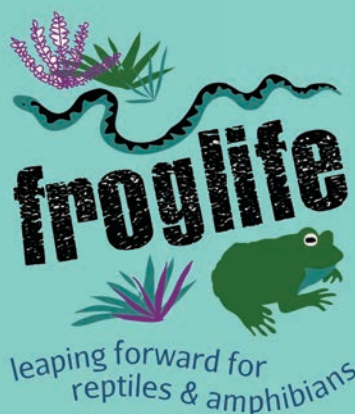
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Cover photo: Greg Hitchcock

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Help us find dragons...

Grab your phone, get your wellies, and go out dragon hunting this spring, to help us map amphibians and reptiles.

Our free Dragon Finder smartphone app will help you to identify all the different amphibians and reptiles you might spot in the UK. You can also use it to record your sightings, adding to our Living Atlas of where the animals can be found.

Search for Dragon Finder in the App Store or Google Play.

Alternatively you can download it from the Dragon Finder website at www.froglife.org/dragonfinder



from the CEO



We were elated in 2012 when we were awarded a substantial grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for our London Dragon Finder, this was followed by further elation in 2013 with a grant for our Scottish Dragon Finder, and now 2014 has brought further success with a grant for our River Nene Dragon Finder. The London and Scotland projects are proving very successful and we are confident that

River Nene Dragon Finder will continue the success. The project will be working across a wide range of sites, including sites afforded European and/or national protection as well as community green spaces without protection but that are wildlife hotspots.

Froglife has entered into a lease agreement with Peterborough City Council for the management of all conservation aspects for the Boardwalks Local Nature Reserve, situated in central Peterborough. Boardwalks is included in the River Nene Dragon Finder project and as such we will be carrying out substantive habitat creation and restoration work at the site. Previously toads have been

recorded at the site, however sadly none have been recorded over recent years, we hope that this work will see a return of the toad population and also encourage other amphibians and reptiles.

Other areas of our work have also gone from strength to strength, this year we secured funding from Young Start, The Robertson Trust and Scottish Natural Heritage to extend our Green Pathways Scheme to Glasgow. The project is up and running and is already supporting lots of young people who for a range of reasons need a little bit of help. Our Living Waters programme expanded into Northamptonshire and Sheffield, phase one has now been completed in both

regions with phase 2 in the planning stages.

This year's success would not have been possible without our dedicated volunteers, the hundreds of people who literally turn up rain or shine to help us and the ongoing goodwill from all of our supporters. A big thank you to everyone who has helped and also to our trustees and staff who regularly go the extra mile.

Kathy Wormald, CEO
kathy.wormald@froglife.org

froglife news : autumn / winter 2014

River Dragons

This comprehensive project will be working along the River Nene from Northamptonshire through to the Washes in Cambridgeshire. Although there are a lot of similarities to our other Dragon Finder projects such as habitat work, Swimming with Dragons (fun educational sessions where we transform a swimming pool into a pond with floats), Wildlife Gardening Workshops and Dragon events there are also activities that have been tailored for this region including boat trips, Dragon Boat Festivals and hosting Mapestry workshops. I hear you cry 'what is mapestry!' this is a tapestry created by local residents reflecting the geography, wildlife and places of interest along different parts of the river. Once completed the Mapestry will go on tour.



awarded another three year grant from BBC Children in Need. We are very excited about this and will keep you posted on our progress.

Green Glasgow

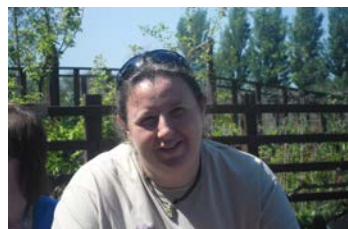
Glasgow Green Pathways has got off to a flying start and is working with disadvantaged young people from across Glasgow on a wide range of wildlife focused projects. Our Peterborough Green Pathways Scheme that has been operating in Peterborough for the past six years has just been



project profile



GET OUT THERE AND FEEL THE DIRT!



FROGLIFE PROJECT:
Green Pathways

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS INVOLVED: Rebecca Neal

HOW LONG HAS THE PROJECT BEEN RUNNING?
Since January 2012

Last week I had a fantastic experience at an event I was gatecrashing with Froglife's London Dragon Finder project; after a lot of suggestive loitering and longing glances at a nearby stand, I was given a pet corn snake to hold. It started off artistically draped across my arms, then went on a warmth-hunting expedition down my body

and into my cardi, ending up encircling my waist leaving just its tail visible. For the lady who owned the snake this was quite normal, but I will still be getting that buzzy feeling from the memory for years to come. Pondering this later, I felt lucky that I can also provide buzzy feelings for the teenagers I work with, and how important it is to have the green spaces available to enable me to do this. My project is about giving young people good outdoor experiences and supporting them to do positive things in their community for people and wildlife. I am fortunate to be able to take these young people to some fantastic reserves. My favourite is Hampton Nature Reserve which Froglife manage on behalf of O and H Hampton. Here I can snake hunt,

climb trees, den build, get muddy and pond dip to my hearts content. And despite the seemingly frivolous nature of these activities, young people get a huge amount from them. Many teenagers I work with have never seen a wild reptile. I can find them a slow worm to hold in their hand and give the information that comes with it something solid to hang from. Another site I love to use is Kings Dyke Nature Reserve. Here there is a fantastic fossil hunting area, lots of reptiles and amphibians and a bird hide with very active bird feeders. I take groups here regularly when sometimes it's just nice to have somewhere sheltered to drink hot chocolate. It's quite amazing to see how loud fidgety trouble-makers turn into focussed interested people, when given instant

feather-coated feedback on noise levels. Every visit to these reserves comes with a feeling of freedom, a dose of adventure and at least one random nature-fact. I'd like to think that whilst having a great time doing my job, I also help young people to appreciate the intrinsic value of nature and understand its value to our survival. Protected areas are an important resource to deliver this message.

For more information:
rebecca.neal@froglife.org

froglife green pathways
wildlife & community action by young people

appeal: leapfrog schools

Froglife's Learning Coordinator, Jenny Leon, launches leapfrog

Do you know a school that could benefit from either a new or restored pond? Maybe there's an unused corner of the school grounds that could be transformed into a wildlife area and outdoor classroom... And it doesn't just have to be schools Froglife are happy to deliver this project with any groups that feel they would benefit from a wildlife / outdoor learning area or environmental education activities and events; from children's nurseries to local green spaces, social centres, youth group venues and even company grounds. We can also include team building events for Leapfrog Companies. If the answer is 'yes' please visit www.froglife.org/leapfrog for more information and to find out how you can get involved. Froglife can support eligible groups (most funders require applicants to own the land) to apply for funding to cover the capital costs and the team are experienced at building or restoring ponds for wildlife. Unfortunately companies have to cover the costs themselves. Froglife staff have also got lots of hands on experience working with children and young people and can work with the group to engage them with the process.

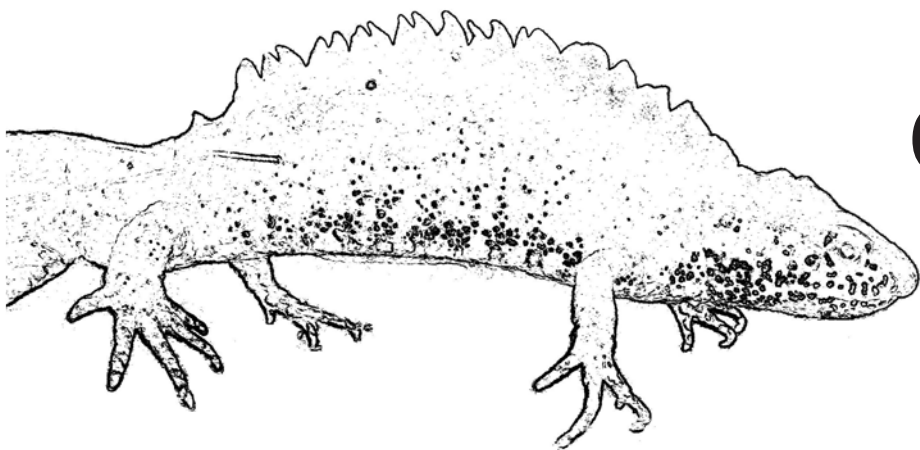
As well as the pond and outdoor classroom side of the Leapfrog project Froglife also offer a range of educational activities and courses. You can now book Taddies in the Classroom for Spring 2015! This is a great opportunity to bring nature into the classroom allowing pupils and teachers to get up close and experience first-hand the incredible transformation of frogspawn into froglets. This project enables children to learn about lifecycles, amphibians, ecology and much more.

Please contact Froglife's Learning Co-ordinator, Jenny Leon by email at jenny.leon@froglife.org or call 01733 602102 to discuss how you can get involved, and spread the word to others you think might be interested. We'd love to get more schools looking like this:



appeal: toads on roads

Each year hundreds of toad patrollers hit the road voluntarily to assist toads across busy roads. These volunteers help to save thousands of toads each year by picking up toads and moving them off the roads, and without their help thousands of toads would be killed. We have solid evidence that shows that the road mortality suffered by toads does lead to toad population extinctions. Despite this work being carried out by these dedicated volunteers there are still associated costs. Administering the project does have a big impact on Froglife's finances, in order to keep these costs to a minimum we are keen to further develop our online database enabling toad patrollers to administer their patrols online and hence reducing costs. We need to fundraise £4,000 to achieve this. If you are able, please support this work by either sending a cheque to Froglife, 1 Loxley, Werrington, Peterborough, PE4 5BW or by donating online at WWW.FROGLIFE.ORG/WHAT-YOU-CAN-DO/DONATE/ Any amount will help.



counting newts

Every edition, we feature a Froglife staff or supporter taking action to help amphibians and reptiles. In this issue, Froglife's Conservation Officer, Paul Furnborough talks numbers and newts.

Between 1991 and 2002, 24,000 adult great crested newts (GCN) were translocated onto Hampton Nature Reserve (HNR). This gave rise to the claim that HNR hosted the world's largest single population of GCN. This claim was probably true - but is it still? Given the population's importance and the fact that Froglife have been managing the reserve since 2003 we really wanted to find out!

In 2012, Froglife undertook its '6th Big Newt Count', an annual survey of the newts in every pond at HNR. The survey detected 3,390 adult GCN. This is certainly a large number, but how does it relate to the original population estimate of 24,000? Or, indeed, to the 2,944 newts detected in our first 'Big Newt Count' in 2006?

A 100% newt detection rate is unlikely because individual newts are often hidden behind vegetation, in sediment or in turbid water. As such any survey value is an underestimate of the true population.

In order to compare our data across the years we need to know our detection rate. Without this piece of information it is impossible to tell if our survey results from 2012 really represent a population rise from 2006. It might simply be that we had a higher detection rate.

Detection rate is calculated using this simple equation:

Actual Population (N) = Population Detected (n) x Detection Rate (p)

The baseline data of 24,000 adult GCN on site came from the number of released individuals, so we can assume that detection rate is 1 (100%) - that the population detected (n) is identical to the actual population (N). However, for the 2006 and 2012 survey data we only know the population detected, making it mathematically impossible to re-arrange the equation to find both remaining parameters. And with just a single survey visit to each pond, that is where the Big Newt Count story ends...at least for now.

Most abundance surveys for GCN require 6 survey visits to a pond in the same season. The protocols control for detection rates by taking only the highest peak count from the 6 surveys, and discarding the other 5. This allows for comparisons between years, but as no detection rate value is actually generated, it remains unsuited to estimating a site-wide population.

Equally, running a survey at Hampton according to this survey method would be hugely expensive and complicated. It would require 2,040 surveys within 3-4 months to survey the 340 ponds at Hampton Nature Reserve in this manner!

My research looks to solve the problem of quantifying the detection rate by using occupancy modelling. In brief, these models generate a value for p for every possible value of N

from the peak count up to infinity, and then return the most likely combination of p and N.

Occupancy models require variation in both abundance and detection to be either described by an underlying statistical distribution or described by covariates which could impact on abundance such as pond size and predatory fish presence, or by variables that impact on detection rate such as temperature or vegetation cover. Identifying these covariates is a prerequisite for an adequate model for a site-wide population estimate.

The models have shown that detection rates are not constant between survey seasons. This casts doubt over the robustness of using simple peak counts to 'control' for detection rates used in most abundance surveys and highlights the need for any monitoring protocols used at HNR or similar sites to incorporate detection rates into the methodology.

A follow-up article will present the findings of this research and the implications of the count data obtained by these means.

For more information contact Paul Furnborough
paul.furnborough@froglife.org

Find out more at www.froglife.org

special thanks...



A big thank you to the artist Dan Savage, who has raised more than £800 for Froglife by selling some of the stainless steel newts he created for Vangarde Shopping Park in York. The steel newts sold have been replaced with a redesign to ensure their long-term sustainability.

Dan said: "I am delighted people have been generous and donated towards such a worthy cause to conserve and protect amphibians and reptiles. The newts have been very popular since the opening of the shopping park and the people who have donated now have a piece of Vangarde memorabilia as well."

We are very grateful to Dan Savage and the Vangarde Shopping Park for generously donating the proceeds raised from the sale of Dan's newt sculptures to Froglife. This donation will go towards our core programmes such as 'Toads on Roads' which is otherwise unfunded, so this provides vital support to our charity and the amphibians and reptiles that we work to protect.



FIVE FUN FUNDRAISING IDEAS!

1. Run a raffle, or an auction of promises
2. Feeling fit? Why not take part in a sponsored run, walk, or swim!
3. Everyone likes a spot of tea and some cake. A coffee morning is a fun ...and delicious... way to raise money.
4. Talent shows are a great way to show off your skills while raising valuable funds too.
5. Put your creative talents into action and sell your works of art at a craft fair

You can fundraise for Froglife in all sorts of ways, for ideas and guidance please visit www.froglife.org and download our new fundraising pack.



boardwalk empire

New reserve and exciting challenges-
Boardwalks Local Nature Reserve

by Silviu Petrovan



Since 2003, Froglife have been managing Hampton Nature Reserve, a Site of Special Scientific Interest and Special Area for Conservation, near Peterborough. This amazing 145ha area is a former clay extraction site for brick production which left a legacy of over 400 ponds and an amazing array of species, both aquatic and terrestrial. It is a bizarre landscape - a myriad of long and narrow ponds bordered by undulating mounds and ridges. And, crucially, it is home to probably the largest population of great crested newts in the UK (more about this in Paul Furnborough's article). While the site is relatively close to the city, its sheer size, and lack of visitor-friendly infrastructure, such as parking and marked footpaths, means that this privately owned reserve is not open to the public. Access to the site needs to be arranged with Froglife, through

our volunteer activities. As such, when the opportunity presented itself for Froglife to manage a new reserve, one that was within walking distance of central Peterborough, with parking, and great potential for amphibian conservation and public engagement we didn't hesitate long!

A new challenge

Despite its central location and size Boardwalks Local Nature Reserve (LNR) remains relatively hidden. It borders the River Nene, comprising some beautiful (if somewhat in need of management) ponds, and long sections of boardwalks through the wet woodland. Importantly, it forms a corridor of green areas, woodland and aquatic habitat along the Nene, bordering the much bigger and immensely popular Nene Park with over 1 million visi-

tors every year. Another local nature reserve, Woodston Ponds, managed by the Wildlife Trust and home to more areas of reeds and ponds, can be found on the opposite side of the river, making this whole area a real haven for local biodiversity.

The reserve land is currently owned by Peterborough City Council. This is what James Fisher, the Wildlife Officer at the council said about it:

"The Boardwalks LNR contains a mosaic of habitats including numerous ponds, areas of wet woodland and willow scrub, marsh and tussocky grassland. The site is rich in wildlife, and is easily and freely accessible. In recognition of its importance for both wildlife and people it was declared an LNR in 1991. It has been a valuable place for wildlife for many years,

Find out more at www.froglife.org

however the site in its present form dates from 1985 when many of the ponds were dug and the bridges and walkways were installed. Today it is one of the richest sites in Peterborough for water beetles, and also supports populations of amphibians, reptiles and birds. However, natural succession tends to cause the rapid growth of vegetation such as willow trees which can quickly shade out the ponds, reducing their value for wildlife. The City Council is now working to enhance the site following a period of limited management, and is extremely keen to work in partnership with Froglife to help deliver some exciting improvements not only to benefit wildlife but also to provide better access and interpretation for visitors to the Boardwalks."

A key site

The agreement is expected to be finalised and signed by the end of this year. And the timing could not be better! This autumn Froglife are launching the River Nene Dragon Finder Project, the third such project in the UK. The Boardwalks is a central site for the project - which will be delivering habitat creation and restoration projects at over 50 sites along the river, between Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire, as well as organising a huge amount of public engagement activities.

Froglife were previously involved at the Boardwalks in 2006 when we helped the dedicated Peterborough Conservation Volunteers team to restore some of the pond habitats. However, recent surveys suggest that some ponds are in urgent need of restoration, in particular to support the population of Common Toads. New ponds, above flood level, are also needed as all the existing ponds have been colonised by fish during the winter flooding. Ponds without fish develop a distinct biodiversity assemblage and can be the only suitable habitats for some species, such as newts.

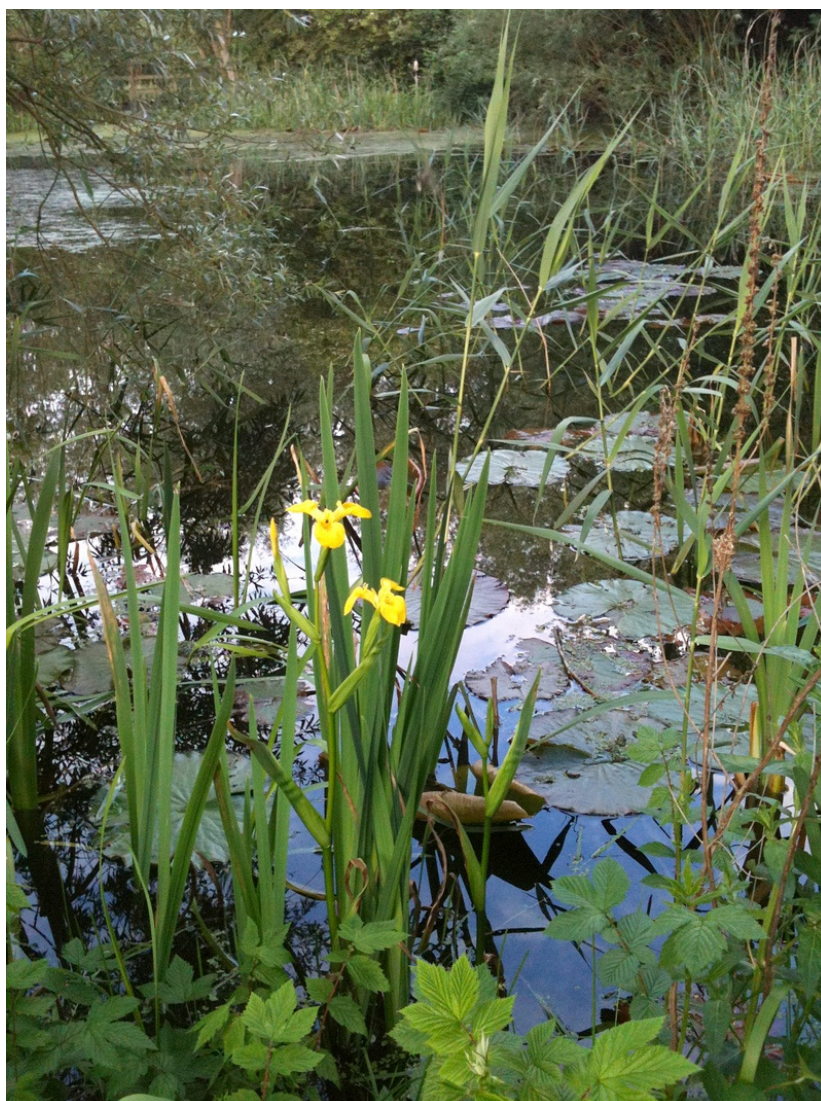
Immediately adjacent to the north of the Boardwalks lies Thorpe Meadows, this site comprises three large grass-land areas that have recently been

improved for biodiversity with tree planting and modification of the grass cutting regime. With funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and support from Peterborough City Council Froglife's River Nene Dragon Finder Project will create two new large wild-life ponds in Thorpe Meadows which will make a great addition to the habitats in the Boardwalks reserve.

The Boardwalks is an important site for wildlife, education and public enjoyment. In the next few years, through a series of carefully phased restoration works, and with help from the local council and enthusiastic volunteers, we will be restoring, enhancing and conserving the important and unique habitats and biodiversity present at the Boardwalks, including its amphibians, reptiles, aquatic beetles and breeding birds. We are hugely excited to be part of this process!

HOW FROGLIFE WILL BE IMPROVING THE BOARDWALKS

- Improving access by widening and creating paths
- Improving the pathing surface where necessary
- Installing new seating areas
- Installing a pond dipping platform
- Promoting the LNR to the public and local residents
- Recruiting volunteer wardens
- New interpretation boards
- Provision of dog bins
- Setting up a "friends of the Boardwalks LNR" group



Pond success in Sheffield



Woodhouse Washlands – A newly restored pond with breeding great crested newts

Only 10-15 years ago great crested newts were still found in many sites in the wider Sheffield area but a Froglife survey in 2013 revealed that at 7 of the 8 surveyed sites crested newts had in fact become extinct and at the remaining site the newts were confined to breeding in a single pond, a rather dramatic situation. The story is a familiar one in many parts of Britain, several ponds have disappeared and the few existing ones had become unsuitable for the species through becoming greatly over-shaded, silted up or colonised by fish.

As a consequence, and with funding from Sheffield City Council and the SITA Trust in 2013-2014 Froglife has created 30 new ponds and the restored 5 ponds throughout the south of Sheffield with the aim to help newts recolonize these sites and to establish a strong, interconnected population. While this process might

take several years to complete the ponds have already proved a great success for amphibians generally and many other species and the crested newt population has expanded into several of the newly created ponds at Woodhouse Washlands.

The new ponds have been a great attraction to amphibians with the following table outlining which species were present at each site.

Woodhouse Washlands Nature Reserve, an area managed by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, was particularly successful as all 3 newly created ponds had breeding great crested newts in 2014, just months after completion. This is of great importance to their future conservation within Sheffield as newts rarely survive long term if depending on a single pond. Also, the hope is that the site will now act as a source population for nearby sites especially the ten newly created ponds at Shirebrook Valley of which are only 500

metres away!

The remaining sites have been a great attraction for other amphibian species with frogs, toads, smooth and palmate newts all breeding successfully. Due to the identification and survey training provided by Froglife, the ponds will be surveyed in future years to monitor the populations of all amphibians. These records will then be submitted to Sheffield Biological records centre to contribute to wider conservation planning.



	great crested newt	smooth newt	palmate newt	common frog	common toad
Graves Park		✓		✓	✓
Ecclesall Woods		✓	✓	✓	✓
Whirlow Playing Fields				✓	
Beauchief Nursery					
Shirebrook Valley NR		✓			✓
Leeshall Woods		✓		✓	
Woodhouse Washlands	✓	✓		✓	✓

Find out more at www.froglife.org



Periwood pond was entirely silted up, with an abandoned dipping platform and full of rubbish. Now it has been restored it is prime breeding habitat for frogs and smooth newts

research round up

a summary of the science: mitigation tunnels

by Michael Hartup

Road tunnels are widely used to protect amphibian populations, however there is little research to support their effectiveness. Froglife have installed six infrared-cameras in tunnels across the UK, recording time-lapse images 24 hours a day.

These images have allowed us to study the behaviour of amphibians using the tunnels with a level of detail impossible with traditional trapping methods.

Interestingly smooth newts and great crested newts were most active in Autumn. Newts often seem hesitant, often observed coming and going for several hours before they make it through the tunnel. There is also some evidence

of exploring and foraging in the tunnel.

Migrating toads exhibit lots of interesting behaviour. We have recorded male toads lying in wait for females, and also jumping other male toads and even frogs. Others patrol the tunnel actively pursuing a mate. We have also recorded toads foraging for food in the tunnels with some spending several hours in there!

Frogs appear to be more reluctant to enter the tunnels. When we did see frogs, they tended to move rapidly through the tunnel, or alternatively some frogs stayed frozen in one spot for an extended period, possibly as a defensive

reaction to disturbance in the tunnel (passing cars?). No foraging behaviour was recorded.

In addition we have seen evidence of a variety of mammals and reptiles using the tunnels, including badgers, hedgehogs, cats, rats, voles, water voles, mice and shrews, adders, grass snakes and common lizards. In future work, we plan to explore the behaviour of these animals.



the latest news from froglife's toads on roads project

Every edition features news from our national Toads on Roads project, where thousands of volunteers all over the UK help to rescue common toads on the way back to their breeding ponds. Alex Draper, Froglife's Ecological Consultant compares the numbers from 2013 and 2014.

toads

↑ 7,662 9,073
The number of toads killed in 2013 in 2014

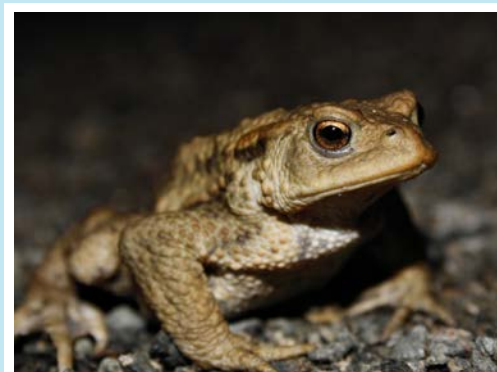
↓ 85,997 77,136
The number of toads moved in 2013 in 2014

It has been another busy year for Toads on Roads. The year's Toads on Roads action began with the mammoth seasonal task undertaken by hundreds of devoted volunteers from individual lone patrollers to coordinated local county groups that help thousands of toads to safely traverse roads. In tandem to this Froglife administers all the data, registers new sites and volunteers and carries out other support functions.

We have received most of the 2014 data now. This compares in broad numbers to 2013 below. Many patrols reported a very poor year but several patrols also had some significant upswings. As you know amphibian populations can exhibit large swings in the short term within their overall population trend. We only have data for a few sites that can identify trends by comparing animals numbers with patrol effort.

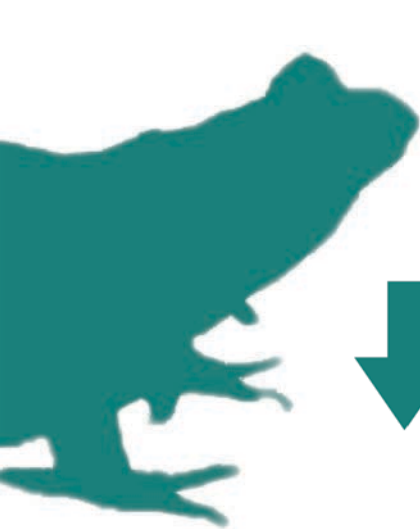
We really need more consistent data over more sites for the future. Toads on Roads project work continues. We are still looking at this data and chasing some data from sites that recorded data in 2013 but not yet given 2014 data. We registered 10 new sites and handled over 120 offers of help from the Toads on Roads web site interactive map. Also we are looking to update the patrol pack and distribute an easy to use data record form for 2015 season. Improving our data management is an important goal for us because our resources to deliver this work is very limited. Froglife has worked with John Heaser (www.toadwatch.org) to sketch out the feasibility of phase two of the Toads on Roads database which would include toad patrol data with registered sites and allow patrollers to register volunteers and data through their own computer (traditional paper data

entry would still be supported!). This would be a significant next step for Toads on Roads project, however this would entail about £4,000 worth of work setting it up. This is a major fundraising challenge for us and we would welcome any ideas to help out with this.



Find out more at www.froglife.org

In 2014 the total number of days patrolled by our volunteers totalled 2,703, up an incredible 485 days from 2,218 in 2013.



↑ **363.....371**

Number of frogs killed in 2013

in 2014

↓ **4,126.....4,094**

Number of frogs moved in 2013

in 2014

frogs



newts

↑ **285.....293**

The number of newts found killed in 2013

in 2014



↑ **3,503.....2,538**

The number of newts moved in 2013

in 2014

Froglife does not receive funding to keep the Toads on Roads project going, so every penny donated really helps! The profits from our colourful toad greetings cards go to our Tuppence a Toad appeal, and you can find them in our online shop at www.froglife.org/shop

out and about with froglife

events / volunteering / talks / training

Date	Event	Details	Type
Every Thursday and two Saturdays a month	Volunteer sessions on Hampton Nature Reserve	Details to be confirmed closer to each event. Activities will many include habitat management such as scrub clearance and bonfires. It also gives you the chance to explore this amazing site, not otherwise open to the public. For more info contact: paul.furnborough@froglife.org	practical habitat volunteering
December 15th 1-4pm	Green Pathways celebration event	This event will be to celebrate the end of the last project and the launch of the new project. For more info contact: rebecca.neal@froglife.org	celebration event
February 9th	Amphibian disease talk	A range of diseases are having a devastating impact on populations of amphibians all over the world, including here in the UK. Find out more at this informative talk, which is open for all club members to attend. Find out more about the University of Glasgow Veterinary Zoological Society and how to join over on their web page.	talk
February 20th lunchtime event.	River Nene Dragon Finder launch	This event will be to celebrate the end of the last project and the launch of the new project. City Hall, Peterborough. For more info contact: james.mcadie@froglife.org	celebration event
March 6th lunchtime event.	River Nene Dragon Finder launch	This event will be to celebrate the end of the last project and the launch of the new project. Sywell Country Park, Northamptonshire For more info contact: james.mcadie@froglife.org	celebration event
April 11th 2.30-4.30pm	Wildlife Workshop	Wildlife Workshops are an interactive workshop for allotment holders. The workshops offer in-depth discussion, tips and practical skills on how to make urban allotments attractive for all sorts of wildlife, especially amphibians and reptiles. Golders Green Allotment Association For more info contact: alan.shearman@froglife.org	training course
April 12th 1- 4pm	Amphibian and reptile training	Froglife are holding a free training session at Crombie Country Park – if you'd like to learn more about how to identify our native amphibians and reptiles and how you can spot them in your local park or garden then this is the session for you! Crombie Country Park Crombie Country Park, Monikie, Angus DD5 3QL For more info contact: james.stead@froglife.org	training course
April 18th 1- 3pm	Wildlife Workshop	Wildlife Workshops are an interactive workshop for allotment holders. The workshops offer in-depth discussion, tips and practical skills on how to make urban allotments attractive for all sorts of wildlife, especially amphibians and reptiles. Walworth Garden Farm, Braganza Street, London For more info contact:Rebeccascott@walworthgardenfarm.org.uk	training course

We have an exciting diary of opportunities for you to meet some of the Froglife team, get involved with projects or help out through volunteering. More information on our events can be found on the website at www.froglife.org/events

Find out more at www.froglife.org

froglifer factfile: lauren

amphibians, reptiles and the people who are passionate about them



NAME: Lauren Lochrie

ROLE: Conservation Youth Worker

WHAT DOES THAT INVOLVE?

Engaging disadvantaged young people with nature through a range of fun activities, in and around Glasgow's green spaces.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING AT FROGLIFE?

For around four months now.

WHAT ELSE DO YOU DO?

I play netball for my team St. Stephen's. We compete in the Glasgow league each year, it's a good combination between competition and socialising.

WHAT GETS YOU UP IN THE MORNING?

Mainly my alarm clock I have to admit but these fresh autumn mornings have been helping too, it's my favourite season.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES?

I'm just fascinated by their diversity and ability to survive in the most unlikely of places. There are still species we are unaware of and sadly – often as a result of human activity – are being lost before even being discovered.

HAD A GREAT WILDLIFE MOMENT?

Exploring the stunning Kaziranga National Park in India on elephant back, I got so close to Indian rhino's and other native species... Sadly no tigers were spotted but we did see footprints.

WHAT'S THE NUMBER ONE BIT OF KIT THAT HELPS YOU DO YOUR JOB?

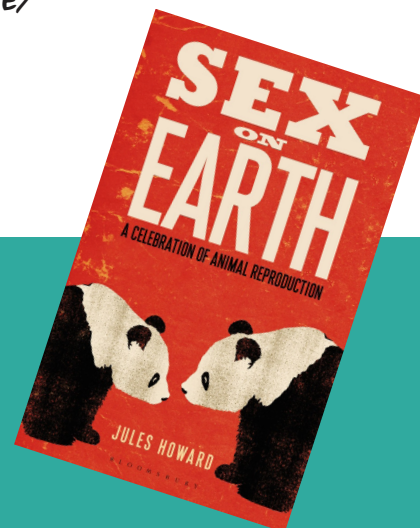
Apart from my rain coat, it's not really kit as such as I rely on outdoor spaces to carry out games and to explore wildlife... Nature does all the hard work for me in that there is so much to discover on our own doorsteps, so to speak.

WHAT COULD FROGLIFE SUPPORTERS DO TO HELP THE WORK YOU DO?

Get involved, and spread the word about my project Green Pathways! I work with a range of schools and youth groups in Glasgow and all activities are free. More generally, Froglife as a charity, rely on the public to support our fantastic projects. You can donate via our website.

WWW.FROGLIFE.ORG/WHAT-YOU-CAN-DO/DONATE/

Rebecca Neal, Froglife's Conservation Worker reviews Jules Howard's 'Sex on Earth'



Title: Sex on Earth
Published by: Bloomsbury
ISBN: 9781408193419

I feel a bit odd amongst "normal" people; a bit, you know, weird, because I think moths are cooler than football. I have, however, discovered a kindred spirit; a frogman to my frog lady; and for that I am truly grateful that I read Jules Howard's Sex on Earth.

The book follows the author's journey from someone who feels slightly shameful about his interest in the risqué side of our non-human fellow-Earthlings, to a brazen animal sexpert. Along the way he visits UK researchers, authors, professionals and amateurs dedicated to improving our knowledge on topics as bizarre as how boy raft spiders practice safe sex and the shape of duck vaginas.

The book shuns the showy and well documented for the less well known, but equally amazing. Instead of big cats we get slug mites.

As a student of creative writing, I love the language. After spending a paragraph describing adder love in a Mills and Boon stylee, Jules then talks about their reputation as "evil-fanged death-sticks". I like his employment of the ridiculous news stories regarding dinosaur phalluses, to generate the "T.rex Penis Unit" as the SI unit for measuring large extinct animals.

The book is beautifully illustrated by Sam Taylor, taking on a commission for a book titled 'Sex on Earth' must have been quite daunting. This is a fun and educational book with equal amounts of laughter and intrigue. A good read for anyone with a passing interest in nature.

You can purchase 'Sex on Earth' online at: WWW.BLOOMSBURY.COM/UK/SEX-ON-EARTH-9781408193419/

If you would like to view more of Sam Taylors's wonderful illustrations visit: WWW.SAMDRAWHINGS.CO.UK



A glossy print of the golden eye of a toad. £8

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SALE! A velvety frog friend paperweight. £6.50

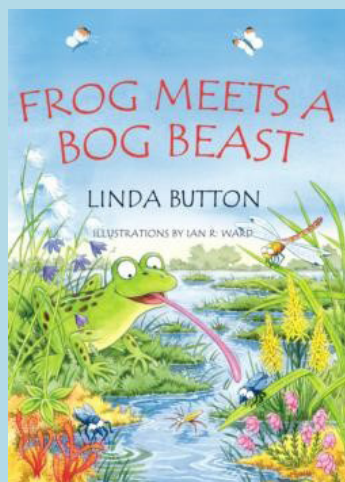


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SALE! Dragon handled paper knife. £17.00



SALE! A cuddly froggy friend £7.50



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Lin Wenlock (Chair), Roger Downie
(Vice Chair), Frank Clark, Heather
Jones, Richard Donahue and Inez
Smith.

VOLUNTEERS:

And finally, but certainly not least, a big
thank you to all of our volunteers espe-
cially all those toad patrollers who did
such a terrific job again this year.