



THE FROGLIFE TRUST



ANNUAL REVIEW 2007/8



WELCOME

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From Lin Wenlock, Chair
and Kathy Wormald, Chief Executive

We are pleased to report that 2007/8 has been a very successful year for Froglife. We have recruited new staff, including a Social Inclusion Manager, Reserve Warden, PR & Development Manager and CEO. We are also kick starting 2008 with two new recruitments, including a London Project Officer, this means that staff numbers have risen from six to ten. We are also pleased to report that Professor Robert Oldham and Tracy Spraggon have joined the Board of Trustees and Simon Barnes has joined as a patron.

Our species have proved to be a popular media topic, with many articles appearing in both national and regional press and in a wide range of magazines including BBC Wildlife. Hampton Nature Reserve featured in *The Nature of Britain* series and Radio 4's *The Archers* had a great storyline about Great crested newts. To top it all the BBC's *Life in Cold Blood* series was incredibly popular, and Froglife hosted a very successful event in Cambridge to celebrate the series.

Our website has been revamped and now includes a facility for interested individuals to receive regular email updates via our new Frogbites. We continue to keep everyone informed about our activities as much as possible through Frogbites and through Frogpage and Toad Talk, our biannual newsletters. Our information and advice service continues to receive thousands of wide ranging enquiries, helping individuals seeking advice on building ponds, with concerns over the welfare of toads on roads in spring as well as dealing with the inevitable 'how do I get rid of a snake in my garden' enquiry, an attitude we work hard to reverse! The enquiry service continues to collect important data too – from reported sightings of non-native species to incidences of ranavirus and other amphibian diseases.

This year Esmée Fairbairn Foundation has continued to support Froglife's Head of Conservation position which has enabled us to play an active role in policy issues, including becoming a member of Wildlife and Countryside LINK and taking on the Lead Partner role for the London Standing Water Habitat Action Plan (HAP) and the Cambridgeshire Pond HAP. With grants from City Bridge Trust and Baily Thomas we have also launched our London Living Waters project in 2008. O&H Hampton Ltd has agreed a two year funding and habitat management plan for Hampton Nature Reserve in Peterborough. This has not only enabled us to recruit a new Reserve Warden but has allowed us to submit a successful funding bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Froglife's unique approach involving communities and schools in amphibian and reptile conservation efforts – an approach with benefits all round – continues to excel. 2008 saw the completion of our Urban II funded project Grass Roots, Green Shoots. We have also continued to work successfully with the Peterborough City Council Youth Offending Service delivering conservation focused reparation and ISSP sessions. The young offenders have been very active on the reserve, and thanks to Cross Keys we now have a workshop where the young people make a range of wildlife-friendly products.

We could not have achieved as much as we have without the continued support of all our partners, donors, Froglife Friends, and other supporters. Likewise this could not have been achieved without our very enthusiastic and effective staff, and the contributions of a dedicated board of trustees.

Lin Wenlock

K. Wormald

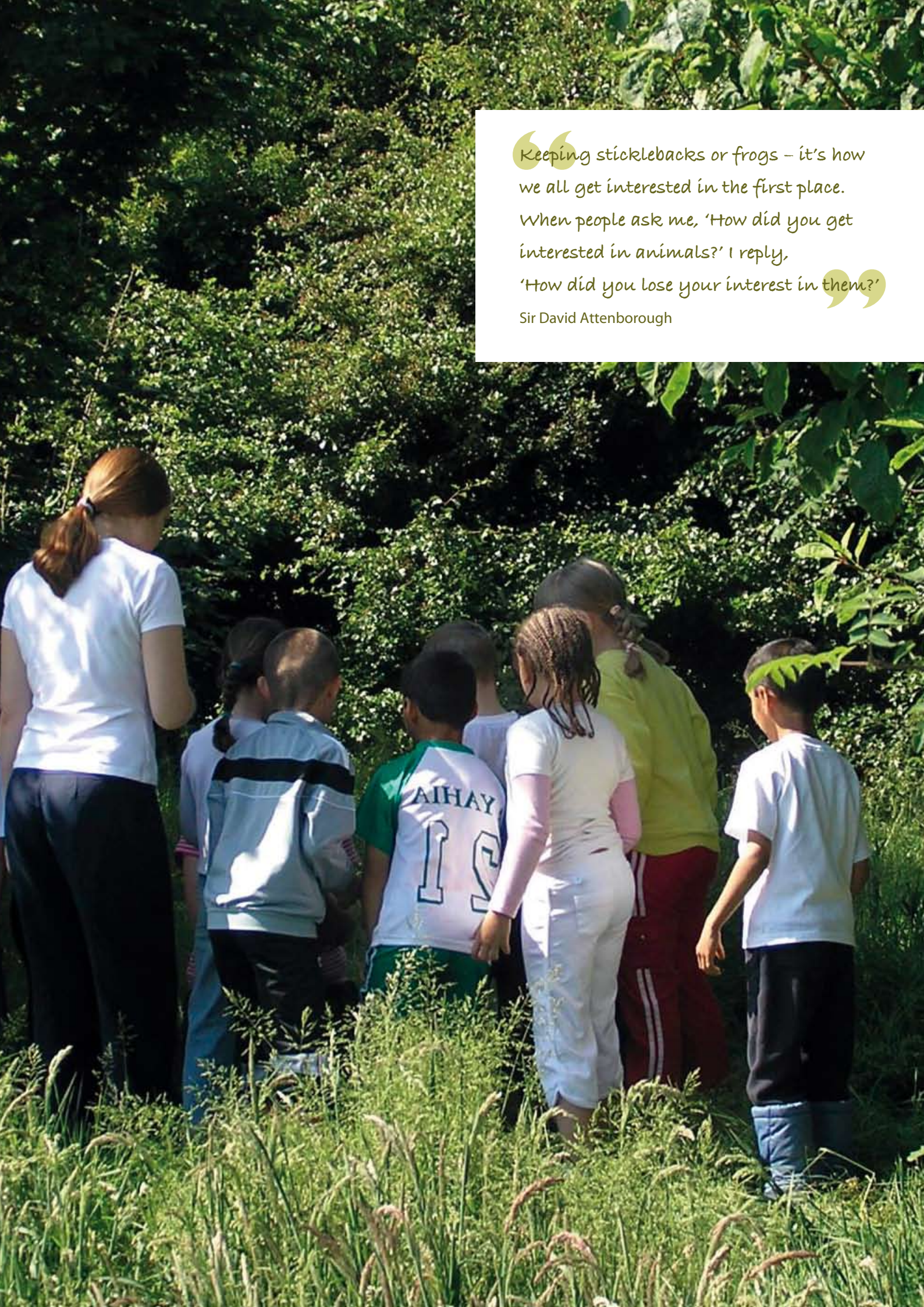


Lin Wenlock, Chair



Kathy Wormald, CEO



A group of about eight children and one adult are standing in a field of tall, green grass. They are all facing away from the camera, looking towards a dense thicket of green bushes and trees in the background. The children are wearing various casual clothes, including t-shirts and a jersey with 'AIHAY 12' on the back. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

Keeping sticklebacks or frogs – it's how we all get interested in the first place. When people ask me, 'How did you get interested in animals?' I reply, 'How did you lose your interest in them?'

Sir David Attenborough

WHY AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES?

Because:

- They are excellent indicators of a healthy environment.
- They are crucial parts of the food chain, feeding on garden pests and acting as food for many of the UK's mammals and birds, some threatened.
- They are under appreciated components of the world's biodiversity and face a range of serious threats: from loss of habitats, to widespread pollution and disease.

However, let's not overlook their intrinsic value, many of us have fond memories of pond dipping as a child, and essentially, amphibians, especially frogs, are still one of the most widely recognised garden species.



But many amphibians and reptiles are facing an extinction crisis

- Amphibian species worldwide are thought to be becoming extinct at a faster pace than anything seen before in the Earth's history.
- Nearly 1/3 of all amphibian species are now threatened with extinction.
- Reptiles are thought to be facing similar declines.

However, Froglife is working hard to save our native amphibian and reptile species

Froglife is working in partnership with The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) by putting CEFAS in touch with members of the public who suspect their frog populations have contracted ranavirus, a concerning amphibian disease first identified in the UK by Froglife and the Institute of Zoology, London. The Rana Project aims to collect

and analyse samples from across Europe to assess the threat of ranavirus to farmed and wild fish as well as amphibians. Froglife receives numerous reports of dead or dying frogs through our enquiry service, so we are perfectly placed to help with research and advise the public on how to preserve specimens in order for them to be collected and analysed.

This is the latest step in what continues to be an important part of our work on emerging amphibian diseases. Froglife, and our partner the Institute of Zoology, remain one of Europe's leading players in terms of

reporting and monitoring the spread of amphibian diseases. In 2008, one disease of particular significance is chytridiomycosis, a highly infectious fungal disease which is thought to have contributed to amphibian declines all over the world. Froglife continues to act as a focal point for interactions with the public on the issue: dealing with concerned members of the public and feeding through unusual incidences of disease to the Institute of Zoology for further study.

Froglife's vision is really refreshingly simple: that efforts to protect amphibians and reptiles have a positive impact on our own health and well-being. Efforts to save them are ultimately of benefit to every one of us.

Ken Livingstone, Froglife Patron





FROGLIFE – BUILDING SUPPORT FOR AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

Working with individuals and ensuring we get media coverage is central to raising awareness of the threats facing amphibian and reptile biodiversity.

During the past year we have had:

5 National and numerous local radio interviews

18 Articles in magazines and local & national newspapers

2 National & regional TV interviews & features

We have attended:

39 events – meeting over 5,000 people

And we have worked very closely with several schools, hosted over 19 volunteer sessions on Hampton Nature Reserve in Peterborough, with over 40 volunteers supporting our work on the reserve, with young offenders and with local initiatives such as working in schools.



FROGLIFE – DELIVERING FOR CONSERVATION

London's Living Waters

During 2007 as Lead Partner for the London Standing Water Habitat Action Plan (HAP), Froglife has been busy building partnerships, collecting data and developing an implementable HAP. Froglife is keen to ensure that this HAP has achievable targets that will deliver for biodiversity. Hence we have worked in close partnership with a wide range of organisations including a number of the London boroughs. This process has ensured that the HAP includes a process for achieving the agreed targets, monitoring the impact of the conservation action and when necessary adjusting the targets accordingly. Froglife's role in this process is ongoing, not only are we sanctioned with delivering a HAP but we must prioritise and monitor the efforts of our partner organisations.

We have taken our role seriously, so seriously in fact, that we have raised funding for a London Living Waters project. Froglife will recruit a Project Officer who will be based in Lewisham, courtesy of Lewisham Borough Council. The project will work closely with Lewisham, Greenwich, Enfield and Haringey Borough Councils to promote London standing water habitats and to develop volunteer groups to help conserve this vital habitat.

Cambridgeshire Pond HAP

As a consequence of being Lead Partner for the London Standing Water HAP, Froglife has been asked to take on the lead partner role for the Cambridgeshire Pond HAP. In partnership with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership we are in the process of developing the HAP. Again we are keen to ensure that this is not a document gathering dust on a bookshelf but instead a document that can help to redress the dramatic decline in this valuable and now protected habitat.

Kilted Herps

Over the years Froglife has operated a number of projects in Scotland, particularly Toads on Roads and our information service, however, these have always been administered from our Peterborough office. We appreciate that with devolution it is becoming increasingly important for us to have a stronger presence in Scotland. To achieve this Froglife is in the process of registering as a charity in Scotland. We have great ambitions for our work in Scotland and the first priority is to raise sufficient funds to recruit a Programme Coordinator to be based in Scotland and to promote Froglife's work. A longer term ambition is to have an office in Scotland on a par with the one we have in England, running Scottish projects delivering for Scottish biodiversity.

Brogaod yng Nghymru

Like Scotland, we feel that we will be able to operate a lot more effectively in Wales if we had a stronger presence in the country. We will during 2008 be investigating ways in which we can strengthen our presence in Wales.

With support from the Countryside Council for Wales we have supported 14 Welsh Toad Patrols, translated our advice sheets and website into Welsh and we have received numerous Welsh amphibian and reptile enquiries.



“Why I support Froglife: Their numerous national projects, their passion for education, welfare and conservation truly draw people in, getting them involved and contributing to efforts that are making a difference locally, nationally and on a global scale.”

Ken Livingstone, Froglife Patron



FROGLIFE – REACHING THE HARD TO REACH



Our Social Inclusion programme has gone from strength to strength. Peterborough Environment Enrichment Project (PEEP) is an established and successful project delivered by Froglife on behalf of the Peterborough City Council's Youth Offending Service (YOS), accommodating the reparation element of court orders given to young people. Reparation is similar to community service and we try to help rehabilitate young people by giving them an appreciation of the environment and helping them to develop an interest in conservation issues.

“As we have built our relationship with Froglife it has become clear that there are so many opportunities for us to use environmental projects to enable young people to raise their self-confidence and enable them to discover and develop new gifts and talents.”

Mark Budner – Sparks Youth Project

Many of the young people referred to Froglife have expressed an interest in continuing to volunteer for Froglife post reparation. To accommodate this Froglife has developed a project to provide these young people with the opportunity to join Froglife as a young volunteer in order to gain conservation work experience and towards achieving recognition through initiatives such as the Youth Achievement Awards. We have submitted funding applications to a range of funding bodies and hope to have this programme up and running by mid 2008.



Sadly, the Urban II funding for our Grass Roots, Green Shoots project has come to an end. Grass Roots, Green Shoots has been about involving young people in conservation work in their local area, especially young people who are having trouble in mainstream education. The project has been enormously successful with most of the young people showing incredible enthusiasm for getting involved in the natural world.

As is often the case for projects funded for a specific period of time, there is still so much that we can do on this project.

Fortunately, the project has developed an excellent reputation with partner organisations particularly The Greater Dogsthorpe Partnership, Sparks Youth Project and YMCA and we are jointly exploring ways in which we can develop this project and continue to work with this vulnerable group of young people.



Through our London Living Waters project a grant from The Baily Thomas Charitable Fund has enabled us to include Owl Housing Ltd, providers of accommodation for individuals with learning disabilities, in the project. The project will enable Froglife to support these individuals in carrying out conservation work and to become part of a volunteer network.



Thanks to a grant from Peterborough City Council and Natural England we have also carried out two public consultations in Peterborough asking what local people would like to see in their green spaces. Both consultations have provided us with opportunities to meet with a wide range of social groups and provided us with a valuable insight on how the natural environment is perceived by different groups. The results from these surveys will enable us to run events and carry out other work targeted for specific social groups.






FROGLIFE – ACTION FOR CONSERVATION

Ponds for Life - Hampton Nature Reserve

Froglife manages the Hampton Nature Reserve on behalf of the developer O&H Hampton Ltd. The reserve is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) enjoys European designation. The reserve supports the largest known population of Great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* in Europe, and is thought to represent about 7% of the total British population.


The European designation reflects the diversity and abundance of aquatic plants, especially stoneworts. Bearded Stonewort *Chara canescens* occurs only around Peterborough (with the stronghold on the reserve) and in the outer Hebrides.



The reserve consists of a mosaic of habitats, including woodlands and grasslands, and has over 320 water bodies. Froglife is taking an 'ecosystems approach' to conserving, managing and enhancing Hampton Nature Reserve, and with this approach in mind we have, during this year, developed a number of wide ranging projects for the reserve.

This year saw Froglife enter into a two year management agreement with O&H Hampton Ltd. The signing of a two year agreement, opposed to annual agreements, has proved very beneficial. In addition to carrying out a wide range of habitat management activities in order to ensure the conservation of the priority species on the site, it has also enabled us to secure funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). With HLF funding we have recruited a Reserve Coordinator whose role will be to promote the site to local residents and the wider community. Planned events include walks, school visits and publicity material.

Thanks to a grant from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership we are now able to offer our volunteers the opportunity to take part in a specifically designed training programme, the reserve will provide an excellent base for practical conservation training.



Froglife is also currently seeking funding to carry out a pond rejuvenation research project on the site. In addition to hopefully bringing new life back to existing ponds the project will include the creation of some new ponds, which will directly feed into the delivery of both the local and national Pond HAP.

The reserve is an exemplary brownfield site that shows that people and wildlife can live side by side and that with careful management wildlife can thrive on such sites. Froglife is very proud to be associated with this reserve, and has great plans for its future.

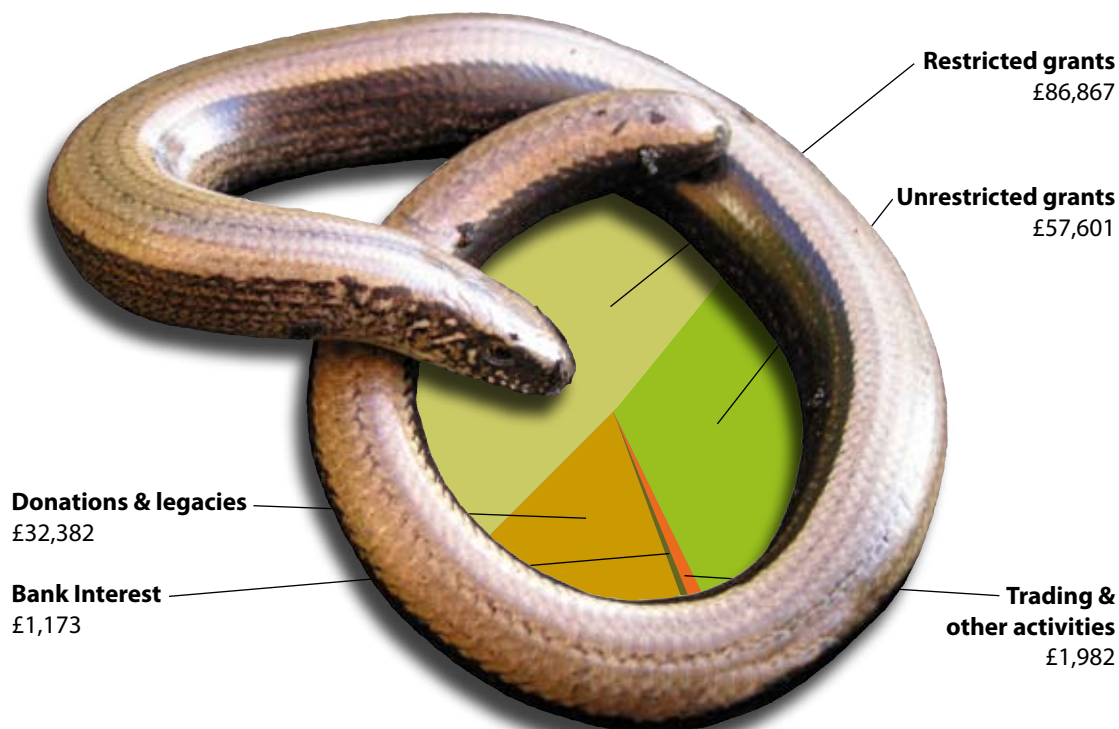
“It's no good pretending that they're the most popular animals. But they're attractive precisely because they've been badly neglected.”

Sir David Attenborough



YOUR IMPACT ON OUR FINANCES

Breakdown of Income



Breakdown of Expenditure

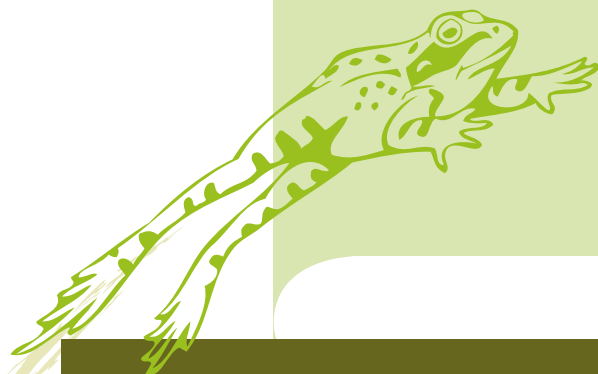
Governance costs
£2,170

Charitable activities
£217,705



“Reptiles and amphibians are sometimes thought of as slow, dim-witted and primitive. In fact they can be lethally fast, spectacularly beautiful, surprisingly affectionate and extremely sophisticated.”

Sir David Attenborough



FROGLIFE CONSULTANCY – IMPLEMENTING BEST PRACTICE

Over the past year Froglife has worked with a number of ecological consultants to ensure that habitat surveys are carried out at the right time of the year; that they are thorough, and that when it is necessary to translocate animals that actions are sensitive to the requirements of each individual animal and comply with best practice. Subsequently Froglife has gained an enviable reputation within the sector for carrying out ecological contracts, with Froglife very often being the first port of call. The income that we earn from these contracts is paid into the charity to help us deliver our conservation priorities and to ensure that the amphibians and reptiles we represent are given a voice, and more importantly are saved from extinction.



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Froglife has always valued partnership working and most of our projects do involve some form of partnership. We would particularly like to thank the following organisations for their continued help and support:

Amphibian Ark • Amphibian and Reptile Groups UK (ARG UK) • BBC • BTCV • Better Together Volunteers • Breathing Places • British Waterways London • Buglife - The Invertebrate Conservation Trust • CPARG • Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Forum • CEFAS • Cross Keys Homes • Connexions • The Environment Agency • Eco Arts • Eurosite • Flag Fen • Greater Dogsthorpe Partnership • Greater London Authority • Greater Peterborough Partnership • Herpetological Conservation Trust • Lee Valley Regional Park • London Biodiversity Partnership • Muddy Promotions • Natural England • Parents United • Peterborough City Council • Peterborough Environment City Trust • Peterborough in Bloom • Pond Conservation • Peterborough Racial Equality Council • Royal Parks • Royal Society for the Protection of Animals • Scottish Natural Heritage • Sparks Youth Project • Thames Water • Wildlife and Countryside LINK • Wildlife Trust • YMCA • Young Carers • Young Lives • Zoological Society of London

A BIG THANK YOU...

...for the terrific support we have received from so many quarters this year. We would like to thank all our volunteers including our trustees who have given up their time to help and our Froglife Friends whose donations and continued support have contributed enormously to our core work.

We would particularly like to thank the following friends for going the extra mile: Annemarie Hammond and Joan Butterfield. The following organisations who have given us grants: Baily Thomas Charitable Fund, Cambridge & Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership, City Bridge Trust, The Countryside Agency, Countryside Council for Wales, Ecospace, Esmée Fairbairn Charitable Trust, Heritage Lottery Fund, JJ Charitable Trust, Natural England, Norwich & Peterborough Building Society, Peterborough City Council, Scottish Natural Heritage.

The following organisations/companies with whom we have had contracts: ACO, BSG-Ecology, CEFAS, GKL Ltd, LDA Design, O&H Hampton Ltd, Peterborough City Council Youth Offending Service.

We would also like to thank our dedicated staff who have worked tirelessly to promote amphibian and reptile conservation.



**protecting amphibians
and reptiles in the wild**

www.froglife.org

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Sign up for Frog-bites! Frog-bites are free email bulletins from Froglife, aimed at providing up to the minute information on upcoming events, updates on Froglife's campaigns, along with further details on the part you can play in helping conserve the UK's amphibians and reptiles. To sign up visit: www.froglife.org/sign_up.htm



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