

NATTERCHAT

Froglife Newsletter

Autumn / Winter 2011

£2.50

the brownfield issue...

- what's the real legacy of our industrial past?
- green vs brown, which is better for wildlife?
- supporting brownfield conservation

plus... all the latest news : christmas offers : toad talk

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from the ceo

Dear all,

Whilst pondering the subject of brownfield sites, I recalled the opening lines of William Blake's poem in the preface to *Milton*:

*"And did those feet in ancient time,
Walk upon England's mountains green:
And was the holy Lamb of God,
On England's pleasant pastures seen!*

*And did the Countenance Divine,
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here,
Among these dark Satanic Mills?"*

There is a wealth of literature raising concerns over the destructive force of industrialisation on the British landscape, from Shakespeare's Sonnet 65, with references to the "wreckful siege of battering days", to Blake's poem and its immortalised lines about "dark satanic mills" in "England's green and pleasant land". Songwriter Colin Moulding later changed this to "England's green, once so pleasant land".

Whatever your views of the degradation of the British countryside and the role that industrialisation has played in this demise, ironically, some of the legacy has resulted in fantastic wildlife sites. It has become evident that ex-industrial, or 'brownfield' sites, are often biodiversity hotspots. Many of these sites are now designated nature reserves such as Orton Pits (managed by Froglife) and Canvey Wick. However the number we're able to save is tiny compared to the number targeted for development.

We are by no means saying that every ex-industrial or commercial site is wildlife rich, but we do need to take a very cautious approach and not just consider these sites as excellent for development. Proper habitat assessments must be carried out in order to ensure that those sites that are wildlife treasures get the protection they deserve.

The Industrial Revolution did produce 'satanic mills' creating abysmal conditions for so many people. But, we now have the opportunity to harness the positive aspects of these ex-industrial sites - it may very well be that these sites could be the saviour of our "green and pleasant land".

Kathy Wormald, CEO
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Cover photo: Railway Fields Nature Reserve (Haringey) by Rebecca Turpin



FROGLIFE VOLUNTEERS REWARDED AT LOCAL CEREMONIES

Froglife is immensely proud of all of our volunteers and we're extremely grateful for their hard work. This summer we entered two volunteers in local award ceremonies - the Huntingdonshire Green Heart Community Awards and the Peterborough Evening Telegraph Green Awards. We're very pleased to announce that both nominees came away with trophies! Young volunteer Amy Hamlett won Young Green Achiever of the Year at the Huntingdonshire award ceremony, thanks to her continuing commitment to Froglife projects and fundraising; earlier this year 12 year old Amy swam a staggering 3000m to raise money for our Tuppence a Toad campaign. She received an award and a certificate as well as £200 to donate to Froglife. At the Peterborough ceremony, previous Wildlife Ambassador Graham Patton, who'd clocked up over 180 hours volunteering, scooped the Green Volunteer Award. He came away with an award, certificate and a basket of goodies. So, huge congratulations to both Amy and Graham and thanks once again to all our dedicated volunteers!



Melanie Hamlett/Froglife

Jodie Coomber/Froglife

To find out more about volunteering with Froglife visit www.froglife.org/volunteer

DRAGONS IN DEVELOPMENT

New frogflifer Vicky Ogilvy has been out and about across London developing our new Dragon Finder project. Froglife received a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to develop ideas for the final project application to be submitted in March 2012. "Dragon Finder is an ambitious reptile and amphibian conservation project that will run across the whole of London over a five year period," explains Vicky. "The main aims of the project are to work with communities to help discover where amphibians and reptiles are currently found and to create new habitats for these species. This will be vital in helping to conserve them for the future. A key part of the project will be awareness raising through a wide programme of events, which will include skills training workshops as well as family fun days. I'm currently surveying London allotment holders so if you have a few minutes to spare please visit the website and fill in the questionnaire."

More at www.froglife.org/dragonfinder



TUPPENCE A TOAD: ONE YEAR ON...

With the year-long Tuppence a Toad campaign drawing to a close, Deputy CEO Sam Taylor has been reflecting on a year of fun, fundraising and an awful lot of tuppences. "Froglife has had a really busy year raising awareness and funds to help save common toads from the threat of roads. It's hard to sum up all we've done and the things we have learnt! Toads on Roads started in the mid-80s, with support from the WWF, but since this start-up support the project has received no direct funding, and we calculate it costs approximately £4,000 a year to keep it going. We decided we wanted to do more for the toads and Patrollers, so Tuppence a Toad was born. Over the last year we've held three fundraising events, in Peterborough and London, and supporters across the UK have been taking on sponsored challenges or simply collecting their tuppences, all in the name of toads. Of the £13,000 raised, £5,000 is being set aside specifically as a Toad Patrol Pot - we will be contacting all Toad Patrols offering a list of essential materials and equipment. Our new Public Engagement Officer Liam Atherton will also be going out to meet some of the Patrollers and give talks. All in all it's been a really busy year! Thank you to all our supporters and here's to a brighter future for our toads."

For more about the campaign see www.froglife.org/tuppence

Laura Brady/Froglife



froglife corporate supporters: world of water



www.worldofwater.com

Froglife was delighted to welcome World of Water as a corporate supporter earlier this year.

The aquatic superstore has 20 branches across the UK selling everything you need for ponds and water features, as well as kit for fish tanks. They stock a wide range of native pond plants, planting materials and pretty solar powered water features plus everything you need to help keep your aquatic feature maintained.

If you've been into a World of Water store this year you may have spotted a familiar face. The chain has sponsored an updated version of Froglife's popular *Just Add Water* booklet which is now available in all of their branches. Customers can pick up handy tips on creating a wildlife friendly pond and also purchase the 'Froglife Pond Kit', which includes pond liner and free Froglife Friendship for a year.

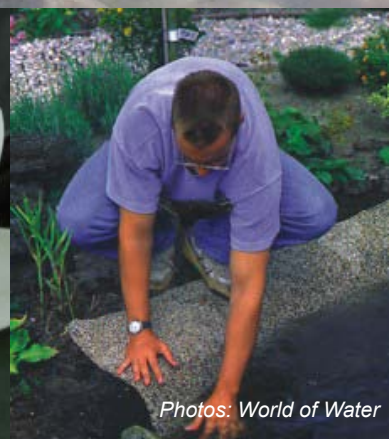
World of Water stores can be found in: Bicester, Birmingham, Blackpool, Cardiff, Chertsey, Cranbrook, Crawley, Coggeshall, Enfield, Gloucester, Hailsham, Haslemere, Manchester, Nottingham, Reading, Rugby, Staines, Swindon, Watford and Widnes.

You can also order online at www.worldofwater.com

Support from organisations like World of Water means that Froglife can continue to offer wildlife-friendly advice to wide audiences, as well as ensuring we can support communities and habitats through our projects.

There are three levels of corporate support available, or if you prefer we can tailor a special package to support your needs and employees. Froglife can offer staff away days and training opportunities to business supporters, and help you to meet your Corporate Social Responsibility requirements.

If you would like a chat about how Froglife could work with your business, get in touch with Sam Taylor on 01733 425822 or email sam.taylor@froglife.org.





BEAUTIFUL BROWNFIELDS

Wasteland or wildlife haven? Guest writer Sarah Henshall gives us a glimpse into the wonderful world of brownfields and provides us with some food for thought...



Sarah is Brownfield Conservation Officer with Buglife - The Invertebrate Conservation Trust. Buglife is raising awareness about the potential importance of brownfields - heading campaigns to save threatened sites and working with planners, developers and ecologists to ensure high quality sites are sympathetically developed and losses of important habitat are mitigated and compensated for. For further information visit www.buglife.org

"If you asked the question "What are the UK's most wildlife rich sites?" the most likely response would be "ancient woodlands, lowland heaths or meadows". I guarantee an abandoned oil refinery, former power station, brick pit or colliery would not be mentioned. These types of sites are known as brownfields, and it is sites like these that support some of the UK's most rare and endangered invertebrates. In fact, 15% of rare and endangered invertebrates and 35 UK Biodiversity Action Plan species are found on brownfield sites. And it's not just invertebrates that love these spaces either - species such as great crested newts, adders and orchids can also thrive on these so-called 'wastelands'.

Brownfield sites can provide a mosaic of habitats and abundant wildflowers; they often replicate habitat features found on lowland heath, chalk downland and dune systems. These types of habitat are declining in the wider countryside due to scrub invasion, agricultural 'improvement' or urban development. Therefore wildlife (particularly invertebrates) usually found on these habitats are becoming increasingly reliant on brownfield sites as an alternative. For example brownfield sites in the Thames Gateway support one of the most important remaining meta-populations of shrill carder bee and brown-banded carder bee (pictured) in the UK.

High quality brownfield sites are characterised by early successional habitats comprising of free draining bare loose substrate that warms up rapidly, sparse vegetation, scattered scrub and lots and lots of nectar rich flowers. This mosaic of habitat provides ideal conditions for invertebrates to complete their complex life cycles. Brownfield sites are now being recognized for their importance to wildlife, yet they are under imminent threat from redevelopment, particularly in the Thames Gateway and other key development areas in the Midlands and North East England.

Brownfield sites have an image problem; their very name is drab, uninspiring and they are viewed by many as messy, abandoned areas often associated with antisocial behaviour. On the other hand greenfield sites evoke images of lush, healthy wildlife rich habitats. But the evidence is clear- some brownfields can be more important for wildlife than greenfields, yet they are prioritised for development purely because of their classification.

I particularly like brownfield sites because they are rough diamonds. At first they look messy and untidy but if you just look a little closer these sites are real gems, they are amazing places where wildlife has taken hold and thrives."

GREEN GOOD : BROWN BAD?

'Greenfield' describes land that has never been built on whereas 'brownfield' sites are defined as previously developed land, where there is potential for redevelopment. They are sites that have been used historically for industrial and commercial purposes, but have since become derelict and often contaminated. Consequently, it is the policy of the UK to prioritise brownfield sites for new developments. Makes perfect sense... or does it? Frogflifers Rob Williams and Liam Atherton look at both sides of the story:



Our green and pleasant land...

By Rob Williams

'Greenfield' encompasses a huge range of habitats, from agricultural land to wetland and ancient woodland. This vast array of different habitats provides thousands of opportunities for all manner of plants and animals to flourish and this is why greenfield land is so important. Brownfield sites, whilst still good for biodiversity, will never be able to reproduce, in full, this amazing variety.

With large amounts of intensively-farmed land across the UK landscape it would be foolish to say all greenfield is buzzing with wildlife. However, many greenfield areas do have characteristics which are very important for maintaining

biodiversity. They often occur in large continuous areas where habitats are interconnected. This is crucial as some species simply can't survive in small areas, even if it is good habitat; this is where brownfield sites are disadvantaged as often they are smaller and more isolated. The better connectivity between greenfield habitats allows populations of plants and animals to expand. It also allows migration if conditions become unsuitable and this will be key as global warming changes the world around us. Studies of adders and natterjack toads have also shown that interconnected habitats prevent population declines as a result of 'small population' problems like inbreeding.

Greenfield land can also act as 'reserves' for wildlife, with brownfield sites frequently colonised in the first instance by animals and plants from nearby greenfield areas and so without such land, brownfield sites would sometimes remain, well..... brown. The potential for future improvement within greenfield land could make it even more important. A change away from intensive farming to environmentally friendly methods would see biodiversity values sky rocket and would allow many of the species currently taking 'refuge' within brownfield sites to retake their rightful place in the wider countryside.

Biodiverse Brownfields

By Liam Atherton



Prioritising the development of brownfield over greenfield areas may at first glance be a no-brainer. However, when we consider that many brownfield sites are proving to be significantly more biodiverse and/or ecologically valuable than some greenfields, the need for a more considered approach, rather than a universal policy of 'save greenfield, develop brownfield', is abundantly clear.

Brownfield sites provide 'surrogate' habitats for species whose natural habitats are shrinking due to human influence - the loss of flower-rich grasslands to farming

intensification being an obvious example. The cyclic disturbance and abandonment in brownfield areas, along with low nutrient content, favours a variety of habitats and species, including many important Red List and Nationally Scarce species.

The mosaic nature of brownfield habitats, bare-ground through grassland and scrub, provides perfect conditions for our native reptiles in particular, and may prove to be essential for the conservation of our dwindling smooth snake and sand lizard populations. Amphibians can benefit too, Hampton Nature Reserve, managed by Froglife,

is a brownfield site and is now designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) on account of the largest population of great crested newts in Europe, and being one of only two areas in Britain where the rare bearded stonewort may be found.

Unfortunately the perception of these areas as worthless and derelict does not lend itself to their protection. An attractive greenbelt, that may actually be of much less value for wildlife, will generally be viewed more favourably by the wider public, which inevitably leads to further bias at the planning level.

Development cannot be black and white and we shouldn't assume that greenfield is more biodiverse or ecologically important than brownfield, and equally, vice versa. Such stereotyping serves only to blunt the effectiveness of wildlife conservation - sites need to be judged on their individual merits rather than their category. However, the ability to consider brownfield sites in this respect may ultimately depend on changing public perception of them as social and ecological wastelands.



RESERVE NOTEBOOK

In a specially extended edition of the reserve notebook, Conservation Officer Paul Furnborough talks about the history of this impressive brownfield site and the importance of the work carried out by the volunteer group to maintain it.

The disturbed, nutrient-poor ground associated with many brownfield sites supports a wealth of early succession plants and insects. Ex-aggregate (quarry) sites frequently host a wildlife-rich mosaic of ponds and terrestrial habitat, and Hampton Nature Reserve stands out as a fine jewel in this already very sparkly crown.

Peterborough is blessed with a rich seam of Oxford clay close to the surface. Clay of this type has a high carbon content which, once heated, burns without adding further coal. This quirk of geology has supported a thriving brick industry since the 1850s, leading to many pits and ponds across the city. On Hampton Nature Reserve (also known as Orton Brick Pits) the clay was uniquely strip-mined using a drag-line, leaving behind the now familiar 'ridge and furrow' landscape. Each year another row was dug, and as the machinery moved on and the furrows filled with clean rainwater, the newts, stoneworts and other wildlife moved in. The site now hosts a rich variety of water-loving flora and fauna as well as these flagship species, including bats, water voles, reed buntings, bitterns, smooth newts, grass snakes, dragonflies, water beetles and pond plants.

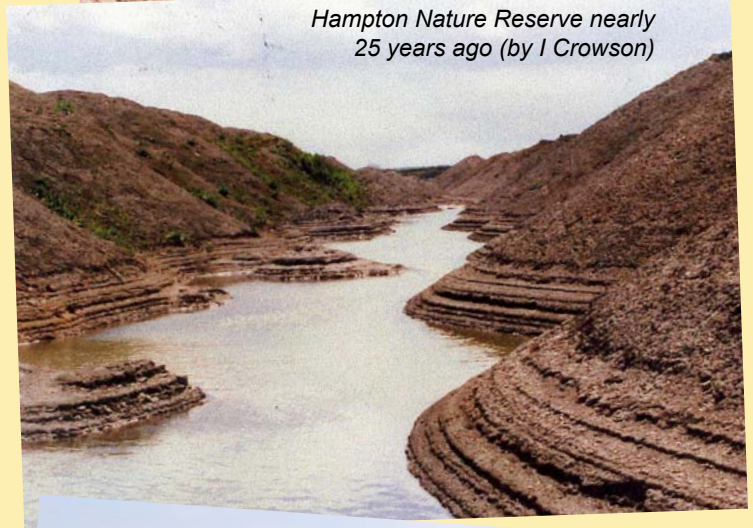
On the Reserve we're in the lucky position that the very feature which makes it so good for its most cherished wildlife also makes it manageable. Over time all sites will pursue a natural process of succession leading to increased scrub and eventually tree cover, but because of the extreme low nutrient levels on site this process is relatively slow here. If scrub were to get a foothold on the main reserve, which is 145 hectares, it'd be a colossal task to get back on top of it! But although this process is uncharacteristically slow it still needs to be managed. Our regular volunteer teams go out six times a month over winter to keep it in check. By hitting different parts of the reserve on rotation we manage to prevent the site from being overwhelmed by scrub and trees. As our summer survey season comes to an end we're all preparing for the hard work to come!

Scrub is a valuable habitat, especially for reptiles - the trick is to keep it from running rampant and to encourage a variety of growth stages and vegetation structures rather than to remove it completely. This is a staple of habitat management work everywhere and reserve managers are always looking for more volunteers to help. If you are inspired to help in this effort, why not get in touch with your local reserve warden - try the BTCV or Wildlife Trust if you're not local to a Froglife project.

Paul Furnborough, Conservation Officer: paul.furnborough@froglife.org or 01733 425825



Hampton Nature Reserve nearly 25 years ago (by I Crowson)



The Reserve more recently (by Sarah Lambert)



The volunteers enjoy a well-deserved tea break



Volunteers also get a chance to get up close and personal with some of our native species (Common lizard by Keith Wilson)



OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED...

SUBMIT YOUR RECORDS

- With brownfield sites being targeted for development it's important that planners are aware of the species inhabiting them and surrounding areas, so this is where you come in. All species records should be submitted to your Local Records Centre (LRC) so that when they receive requests for data they can supply the full picture.
- Make a note of what you've seen in your garden and out and about, and get in touch with as much information as you can provide. LRCs aren't just interested in the very rare species either, they want to hear about everything!
- Find your Local Records Centre at www.nbn-nfbr.org.uk/nbn.php

SUPPORT A CAMPAIGN

- As brownfield sites often come under threat, there may be a campaign you can get involved with to try and preserve a local site. If not, you could think about starting your own (for more information see the FAQs overleaf).
- As an example of a successful campaign, take Canvey Wick in south Essex. The site was originally coastal grazing marsh but was prepared for an oil refinery in the 1960s - the refinery never opened and the site was abandoned, becoming a prime target for redevelopment. But the site was also found to have more biodiversity per square foot than any other site in the UK and in 2005, after successful campaigning from Buglife, it was designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Buglife are now working with The Land Trust and the RSPB to make Canvey Wick the first brownfield nature reserve in Essex.

Find out more about the Canvey Wick campaign at www.buglife.org.uk/conservation/campaigns

- Changes to the planning system (see overleaf for full details) could mean even more wildlife sites come under threat, not just brownfields, and campaigning could become more important than ever. The National Trust has launched a campaign for the government to rethink these changes.

Show your support by signing the National Trust's petition: www.planningforpeople.org.uk

Canvey Wick (by Claudia Watts)



Records of all species should be submitted to LRCs, not just rare ones like this great crested newt (by Laura Brady/Froglife).



MAKE A DONATION

You can help us with our own brownfield conservation projects and other important work through making a donation to Froglife:

- Post us a cheque, visit www.froglife.org/support or call 01733 558844 to make your donation today.
- Take a look at our Frogalogue - we've got plenty of gifts and cards on sale and all profits come straight back to support our work. See the back page and order form enclosed for more details or visit www.froglife.org/shop.
- Give the gift of Froglife Friendship: the ideal Christmas present for the frog fan in your life! Call 01733 558844 or fill in the order form to set up a year's Friendship for just £18.



Q&A: your questions answered

www.froglife.org/advice

A local brownfield site that is home to frogs and newts is under threat of re-development, can anything be done to stop it?

The protection of amphibians, and reptiles, with regard to development is determined by legislation, planning guidance and Biodiversity Action Planning. The more widespread species of amphibian have little legal protection but may need to be considered under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (for example common toads). Reptiles and rare amphibians (great crested newts and natterjack toads) have full legal protection and will definitely need to be taken into consideration by the council and planners.

The first step is to make sure your records are submitted to the Local Records Centre so that they are immediately available when the site is being assessed. It's also a good idea to look at records for other protected species that may be inhabiting the site (bats, invertebrates, etc) and seek advice from relevant conservation organisations (including Froglife). The next step is to be persistent! Ideally you need to write to all the relevant council officers outlining your objections and consider setting up a petition and gaining local support. If, at any point, you think work has been carried out illegally, you should contact Natural England (who deal with protected species licenses).

What exactly classes as a brownfield site?

Planning Policy Statement 3 defines brownfield land as 'that which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land and any associated fixed surface infrastructure'. Basically, any land that has previously been developed. In some cases, urban gardens and allotments can be classed as brownfield, but in general parks, residential gardens, allotments and recreation grounds are excluded as the land itself has not been previously developed. Land occupied by agriculture or agricultural or forestry buildings is also excluded.

It's often assumed that brownfields are just waiting to be re-developed, however, PPS3 also states in its definition that 'there is no presumption that land that is previously-developed is necessarily suitable for housing development nor that the whole of the curtilage should be developed' and, as you will have read in previous pages, there can be a huge case for protecting these unique sites.



Common toads (above) have little legal protection but are a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species. Grass snakes (below), like all native reptiles, are protected against killing and injury.

Matt Wilson



What does the National Planning Policy Framework mean for wildlife?

The Government's new National Planning Policy Framework is not good news and has been condemned by conservationists UK-wide. Radical reforms to planning policy have been proposed that simply do not have enough provision for the conservation of our precious green spaces and wildlife. The main point of contention is the 'presumption in favour of sustainable development', which in essence shifts the default response of a planning application to 'Yes'. No longer will developers be forced to justify why they should be allowed to develop an area, the onus will now be shifted to individuals, communities and NGOs to prove why it should *not* be - a colossal task at a national level. The plans reduce 1,000 pages of existing planning policy to just 52 pages.

As an indication of the gravity of the current situation, the National Trust, for the first time in its history, is set to mobilise its 3.6 million members against the Government's planning proposals. Individuals have been called to write to Eric Pickles, the local government secretary responsible for drafting the new policy, as well as local MPs; there is also an online petition (see previous page for link).

This, combined with the coalition's inclusion of every environment and wildlife law in a list of 'Red Tape' legislation that needs amending or scrapping completely, raises concern that the protection of our natural heritage does not seem to be high on the agenda.



Ex-gravel pit = brownfield

Farmland and agricultural buildings = not brownfield



What's the real value of toad crossing data? Conservation Communication Officer Lucy Benyon has been analysing years' worth of data for a new Toads on Roads report....

To: Toad Patrollers
From: lucy.benyon@froglife.org
Subject: Toad crossing data

The above is probably a familiar site in your inbox by now, as is the content of the email - "Please remember to record your data and send it in to us!" But why do we keep on harassing you? Well, Toad Patrollers are ideally placed to give us an idea of how common toads are faring. Monitoring amphibian populations requires repeated visits to a pond/habitat during appropriate conditions - and this is exactly what you do! We now have 25 years' worth of data on toads in the UK and although it's still difficult to make clear cut statements about toad populations we can get a good idea of what's going on.

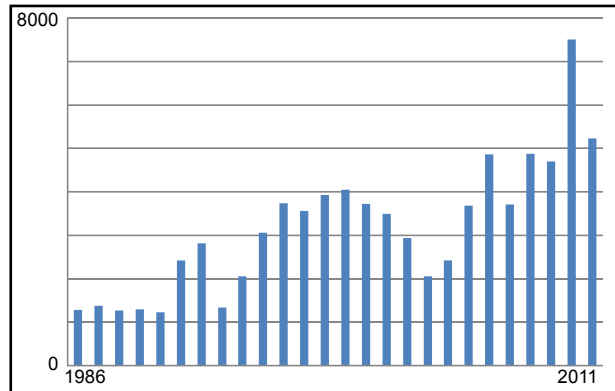


Figure 1 (above); Figure 2 (below)

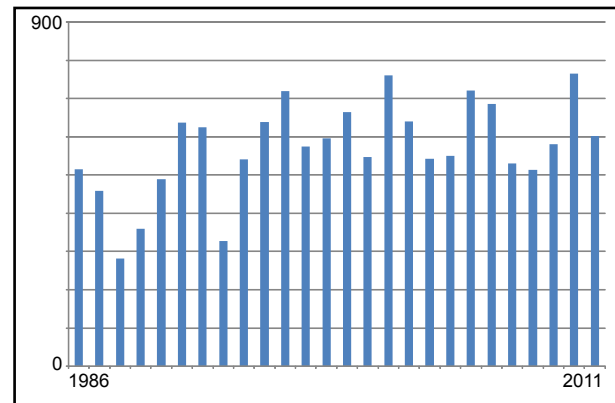


Figure 1 shows the total number of toads helped each year since 1986. As you can see, 2010 was an extremely unusual year so although 2011 seemed worrying in comparison, it was actually quite a good year for toads. Or was it? Just looking at these totals is not necessarily an accurate reflection of what is going on. This is because it does not account for the varying amount of data coming in each year. Figure 2 shows the average numbers of toads helped per site each year. This presents a clearer picture and shows the natural cyclical population changes we would expect. Perhaps 2011 produced lower numbers than we might've expected but overall it was unlikely to be anything to worry about.

We're currently putting together a summary report of toad data which we'll be sending out to all Patrollers.

So, once again, thanks to everyone who sent in their data this year and remember, it's never too late - you can submit your data online at any time! www.froglife.org/toadsonroads

FOCUS ON...

TOADS ON ROADS UK!

PATROL ORGANISER:

The Great British Public! Here at Froglife the project is coordinated by Lucy and Liam.



LENGTH OF TIME SITE

PATROLLED: We have records from some sites dating back to the 1970s. Froglife (or it's previous incarnation) has been registering toad crossings since 1986.

PATROL SIZE: In total there are 879 registered crossings - not all have Patrols and of those that do many are monitored by just one person; other Patrols can consist of 20-30 volunteers.

SUPPORT: The Toads on Roads project has received varying amounts of support over the years but sadly it's one of our projects that we struggle to maintain funding for. We set up the Tuppence a Toad campaign in 2010 to try and bring in some regular funding.

CURRENT TOAD POPULATIONS:

Analysing toad crossing data can be tricky (see left) but hopefully the figures show that toad populations are generally stable.

HIGHEST NUMBER OF TOADS HELPED IN ONE YEAR: 75,055 (2010)

HIGHEST NUMBER OF TOADS HELPED IN ONE NIGHT: 2,752 (at Henley-Marlow, Buckinghamshire on 19th March 2011)

MOST UNUSUAL ANIMAL HELPED

ACROSS THE ROAD: We do hear some stories of strange encounters - everything from bats, cats and sheep to lost people leaving the pub!

HIGHLIGHT OF PATROLLING:

Every year we're pleasantly surprised by the commitment and dedication of the UK's Toad Patrollers. They give up their time on cold, wet evenings to get out there and make a real difference to their local toad population. We'd just like to take this opportunity to thank all of them once again - keep up the good work!



Sivi Sivanesan/Froglife

frogalogue

It's never too early to start thinking about Christmas shopping...! To order visit www.froglife.org/shop, call 01733 558844 or fill in and return an order form.



Froglife Christmas Cards (pack of 10)

Featuring five designs (two of each) by our resident artist Sam Taylor. Sam has produced one card every year and these five are from 2006-10. **£5 (+ £0.50 p&p)**

Froglife Christmas Cards (pack of 6)

NEW! This year's cards feature a line-drawing by Sam alongside two other designs - a painting by Oliver Kratz and a photo of knitted frogs by Jane Hunter and Emma Copley (two cards of each design). **£3 (+ £0.50 p&p)**



Toad Notelets (pack of 8)

These eight competition-winning designs are sold in aid of our Tuppence a Toad campaign. The perfect gift for a toad enthusiast, they make excellent notelets and birthday cards. **£4 (+ £0.50 p&p)**

Frog Cards (pack of 6)

NEW! A pack of three designs (two of each) by artist Hannah Thomson. These quirky illustrations are a great gift for frog fans and include designs ideal for Valentine's or birthday cards. **£3 (+ £0.50 p&p)**



SPECIAL OFFERS!

Bundles Bags - special discounts on a bag full of goodies!

Explorer Bag

There's hours of family fun to be had with the explorer bag! Inside your fab **'Make Frogspawn Not War'** bag you'll find **Urban Tails** (our guide to identifying and conserving amphibians and reptiles in urban environments), **Just Add Water** (our step by step guide to creating a wildlife pond), the Field Studies Council **Guide to Keeping Common Frog Tadpoles** and the Field Studies Council **Guide to the Reptiles and Amphibians of Britain and Ireland**, plus a **Toads on Roads magnet** and **car air freshener**.

£10 (+ £1.25 p&p)

Friendship Bag

On top of one year's **Froglife Friendship** (welcome pack includes Just Add Water, Urban Tails and the latest issue of Natterchat), the bundle includes a **Toads on Roads magnet** and **car air freshener**, plus either a copy of **Frogs and Toads by Trevor Beebee** (for amphibian fans) OR a copy of **Snakes and Lizards by Tom Langton** (for reptile lovers). All in our popular **'Make Frogspawn Not War'** bag.

£25 (+ £1.75 p&p)

Student Bag

Everything a budding biologist needs, this will be the perfect gift for a university or college student. The pack includes **Britain's Reptiles and Amphibians by Howard Inns** (full of colour photos, this is a complete guide to our native species), the indispensable **Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook** and a suite of Froglife advice booklets: **Amphibian Ponds in Farmed Landscapes**, **Urban Tails** and **Just Add Water**. Plus there's a set of frog cards for those letters home! All of this comes in a funky **'Make Frogspawn Not War'** bag to carry around campus.

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