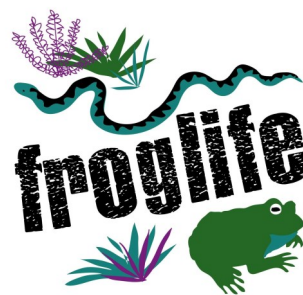


AMERICAN BULLFROG

(*Lithobates catesbeianus*)



Identification:

- Adults up to 25 cm in length: largest frog encountered in the UK.
- Green or brown skin, often with dark stripes on hind legs.
- Very large eardrum (tympanum): at least as large as the eye in females and twice the size of the eye in males.
- Fold of skin over the top of the eardrum.
- No ridges along the back.
- Oval, horizontal pupil.

Call:

- Deep, low-pitched bellow. Reminiscent of calls made by cattle. A deep bass "gr-rum" or "jug-o-rum".



Distribution:

- Non-native species.
- Native to North America.
- Probably introduced to the wild in the UK via the pet trade.
- Potentially very damaging to native fauna; currently controlled by Natural England.
- Rarely encountered in the UK.

Ecology:

- Strongly aquatic.
- Found near the edges of ponds and marshes.
- Opportunistic feeders and will eat anything smaller than themselves.
- Cannibalism is common.

Lifecycle:

- Breeding season begins in spring and lasts throughout early summer.
- Breed in densely vegetated shallow ponds.

Eggs and larvae:

- Very large tadpoles: up to 15 cm.
- Eggs are laid on the surface of the water and one clutch can consist of up to 20,000 eggs.

N.B. The release of exotic species into the wild is a criminal offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.



INFORMATION
SHEET

Froglife is a UK wildlife charity committed to the conservation of amphibians and reptiles - working with people, enhancing lives together for a healthier planet. Find out more about our education projects and activities at www.froglife.org