2026 Froglife Online Research Conference

Wednesday 21st October

13:30 -16:30 online

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Presentation Summaries: Wednesday 21st October 2026

Evaluation of the impact of Froglife projects on habitats and communities

Jenny Tse-Leon, Froglife

As Froglife approaches 25 years since its establishment as a charitable trust, this presentation aims to take stock of the progress towards our mission and strategy targets. The last published review of Froglife's achievements was in 2015, when turnover was approximately £900,000 with 20 people on the staff, today Froglife employs 23 people with turnover of over £1.5 million. Our national projects continue to extend the community engagement established by previous Froglife projects with new suites of projects in the last ten years, working with disadvantaged urban communities across England and Scotland. This presentation reviews the success of our projects in engaging communities and restoring and creating habitats in these urban neighbourhoods

The Cornish Adder Project

Dr Stephen Green, Cornwall College University Centre

Research into *Vipera berus* genetics within Cornwall is sparse and has been notably absent from recent published studies. In response, The Cornwall Adder Project was established to evaluate *V. berus* genetics in Cornwall and to enhance national genetic and population ecology research.

The Cornish Adder Project is investigating the population genetics of *V. berus* at a long term monitoring site in Cornwall in association with the Cornwall Reptile and Amphibian Group (CRAG). We are undertaking microsatellite DNA analysis to conclusively identify individuals, along with the genetic diversity within the population. Ventral scale clippings of *V. berus* from photo-mark-recapture efforts are kept, analysed and sequenced, and data collated in an ongoing genetics bank. This research is vital to investigate the impacts of recent habitat clearance on the adder population, and to evaluate outcomes of subsequent positive habitat management efforts. Continued monitoring will indicate the impact this change is having on the population, along with helping to inform future conservation management. The project has started to generate some interesting results that will feed into a new Froglife / Natural England Species Recovery Programme study in Cornwall over the next two years.

Evaluating success of a mitigation translocation of slow worms, *Anguis fragilis*.

Emily Seccombe, University of Reading

Reptile mitigation translocations are widespread and can occur on large scales. However, there is a lack of evidence for success of these practices, as highlighted by several global reviews. These reviews emphasise a lack-of long-term monitoring as a key barrier to assessing success of herptile translocations. Here, we present a case study of the translocated slow worm (Anguis fragilis) population at Totternhoe Nature Reserve, Bedfordshire, UK, where extensive monitoring has occurred, allowing the assessment of the long-term population dynamics.

If you been involved with translocations of amphibians or reptiles in the UK, we would like to hear from you! For details of the University of Reading/Froglife research survey, click here.

Travelling toadlets

Dr. Angela Julian, ARG UK

Travelling Toadlets is a UK citizen science project run by **ARG UK (Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the UK)** in partnership with the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, the University of Chester, Froglife, and Natural England. The project aims to learn more about how newly metamorphosed common toads disperse from their breeding ponds and to improve conservation measures for these vulnerable young amphibians.

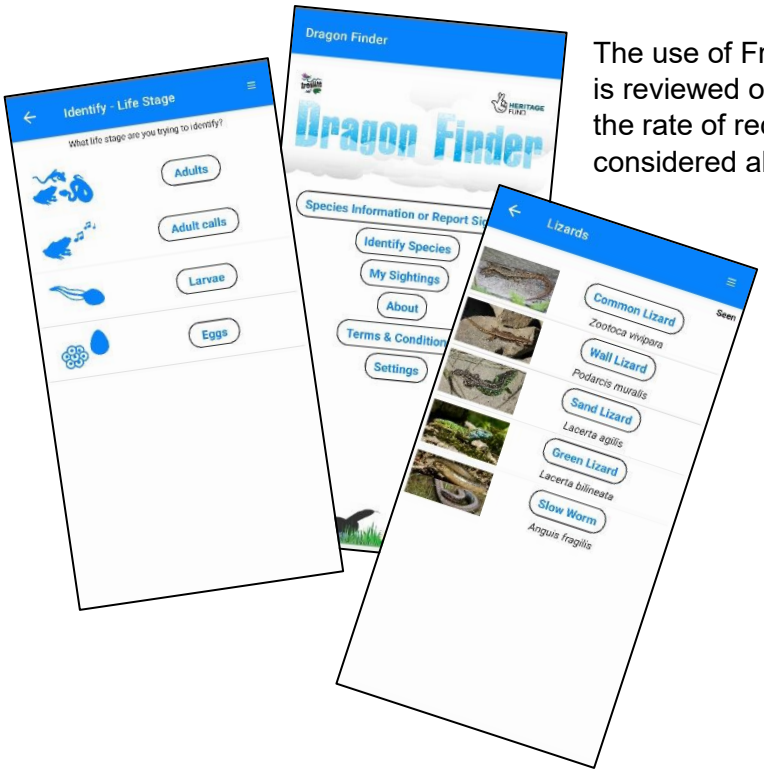
Predator induced tadpole behaviour

Josie McPherson, University of Edinburgh

Growing up around predators changes how tadpoles behave. Using tropical poison arrow frogs, experimental research found that tadpoles who grew up alongside predators swam less in unfamiliar environments and left shelters both later and more erratically than those who grew up without predators. Predator-exposed tadpoles behaved more differently from one another than tadpoles without predator exposure, suggesting that early experiences play an important role in creating behavioural differences among individuals.

Citizen Science engagement with the Froglife Dragon Finder App

Dr Andrew Smart, Froglife



The use of Froglife's Citizen Science App Dragon Finder is reviewed over its 10 years of operation. Changes in the rate of recording, and the type of recorder are considered along with changes in species records over time. The use of the data to explore phenology is considered along with species and habitat links. Links with disease and information for the Garden Wildlife Health Project are also a reason for the development of the App and this is considered for both reptiles and amphibians along with targets for the next 10 years.