

Derbyshire Amphibian & Reptile News

Issue No 23.

Autumn/Winter 2016/17

This newsletter is produced for members of the Derbyshire Amphibian and Reptile Group and other interested persons on an occasional basis and includes news items, advice and information and results from toad crossing patrols. If you have any items that you wish to be included in future editions please e-mail them to the Secretary

DARG EVENTS FOR 2016

Our last event of the year is on

**Saturday 29th October 10am to 1pm.
GCN pond conservation task.**

Raking out invading grass and removing some silt on an important amphibian dewpond near Hartington, which supports great crested & smooth newts, frogs and toads. Tools provided - you just need to bring your wellies, gloves & suitable clothing for the weather.

Task rating : Easy



Leaders: Kelvin Lawrence & Chris Monk.

Meeting: 9.45am for 10am at Hartington Station car park on the Tissington Trail off the B5054 road between Newhaven and Hartington. Grid Ref SK150600.

Please e-mail us to let us know you are coming on derbyshirearg@gmail.com

OTHER EVENTS

Saturday 19th November 10am to 5pm
ARGUK North-West Regional Conference at Manchester Museum in Oxford Road.
Cost £15 for ARG members. Book through <http://www.arguk.org/get-involved/events>

Saturday 3rd December 9.30am to 5pm
Amphibian & Reptile Conservation and British Herpetological Society 2016 Joint Scientific Meeting at Bournemouth Natural Science Society Museum. Cost £25
<http://www.arc-trust.org/Event/scientific-meeting-2016>

DERBYSHIRE AMPHIBIAN & REPTILE GROUP

We are an affiliated member of



Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the UK

Volunteers working for the conservation
of amphibians and reptiles

www.arguk.org

Registered charity
(number 1165504)

Derbyshire ARG contacts:

Chair - Christian Murray-Lesley

Vice Chair - Kelvin Lawrence

Secretary - Chris Monk

Treasurer - Jayne Thompson

Committee Members -

Bob Baker, Beverley Bowman, Lisa Lawrence, Matt Liston, Iaian Stafford and Trevor Taylor

Group e-mail

derbyshirearg@gmail.com

Group website (temporary)

<http://groups.arguk.org/DARG/>



<https://twitter.com/DerbysARG>

ADVANCE NOTICE

The 2017 Herpetofauna Workers Meeting will be held in Nottingham on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th February. Jointly organised by ARC and ARGUK the location is a city centre hotel close to tram stops and a 15 minute walk from the railway station.

Details and booking arrangements are still being finalised so check the ARGUK & ARC websites and our Twitter account for announcements.

REPORTS on DERBYSHIRE ARG EVENTS & SURVEYS 2016

Reptile surveys

The survey near Cromford continued for a second year with 10 visits by individuals and a group survey meeting. The maximum numbers of reptiles seen were 15 adult and 13 juvenile slow-worms on 15th July; 2 adult grass snakes on the 5th July and 3 juvenile grass snakes on the 30 May.

Slow-worms at Cromford



The survey near Hassop continued for a third year and this year felt cover objects were laid out in a new area close to the original site. 8 visits were made to the site and the maximum count was on the 14th August when 13 adult slow-worms were seen and 5 newly born common lizards were spotted in four widely spaced different locations. The maximum number of adult lizards seen were 3 in the original survey site and 2 in the new area added in 2016.

Adder spring emergence surveys in the Peak District continued for the twelfth year, with some areas covered by volunteers from the Longshaw Estate and the Eastern Moors Partnership. During the year new reports were received of adders having been seen at locations further north from where we have been surveying and these need checking next year.

Eastern Moors juvenile adder 2016



Great Crested Newts

A GCN Survey and Ecology Training Course was run by the group at Hilton Village Hall for the second year running. It again proved popular with not just group members but had other people attending, some from as far away as Bristol. The field work sessions were carried out on the nearby Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve, and contributed to the survey data for that site.

A field trip was organised for group members to carry out water sampling for analysis for great crested newt eDNA at ponds near Pilsbury. The main pond was surveyed for the Freshwater Habitats Trust's PondNet project so habitat assessments and additional measurements were carried out there. The eDNA results from Pilsbury will be sent by FHT to us later this autumn.

Additional samples were taken on the day at Heathcote and Hartington Moor Farm, which together with a sample from a different pond at Hilton where GCN had so far not been seen in surveys & these were analysed by the ADAS consultancy. Although the Hilton pond did prove negative both the other two ponds tested positive for GCN presence.

Attendance at events

On Sunday 5th June we had a stand at the Pleasley Wildlife Day organised by the Pleasley Pit Nature Study Group.

DARG stand at Pleasley Wildlife Day



At the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's Avenue Washlands Nature Reserve's A Venue for Wildlife event on Saturday 2nd July, we had a stand and also ran the pond dipping sessions.

Finally we attended both days of the Derbyshire County Council's Woodland Festival at Elvaston Castle Country Park on the last weekend in September.

Derbyshire Toads on Roads crossing results to date for 2016

Site Name	Toads Rescued	Toads dead on road	No of nights covered	Dates covered	Other amphibians	Other comments	Total per site 2016
BRETRY Repton Shrubs	847	15	18	24.3.16 to 15.4.16	25 smooth newts rescued, 3 dead. 33 frogs rescued	Frog and toad spawn found in stream	862
BUXWORTH BASIN	261	23	24	24.3.16 to 17.4.16	1 smooth newt and 3 frogs rescued		284
CHURCH WILNE Wilne Road	128	7	7	28.3.16 to 3.4.16	2 frogs	Toad warning highway signs put up	135
COMBS RESERVOIR	119	41	15	3.4.16 to 23.4.16			160
FOREMARK	854	50	23	24.3.16 to 15.4.16	3 smooth newts rescued, 4 dead. 5 frogs rescued		904
FURNESS VALE	572	19	19	30.3.16 to 18.4.16	1 newt rescued		591
GRANGEMILL	553	68	21	25.3.16 to 20.4.16	78 smooth newts rescued, 13 dead. 2 frogs rescued	Toad warning highway signs put up	621
HASSOP	176	76	9	2.4.16 to 18.4.16	Rescued 3 great crested, 2 smooth & 1 palmate newts, 1 frog		252
HILTON	204	62	23	14.3.16 to 13.4.16	7 great crested & 7 smooth newts rescued; 3 GCN, 4 SN & 1 Fr dead		266
HOLYMOORSIDE	298	29	13	25.3.16 to 13.4.16	9 smooth newts rescued	Some toads & 1 smooth newt rescued from road drains	327
MONYASH, Village Mere	2,355	158	22	12.3.16 to 20.4.16	12 great crested newts, 17 smooth newts & 16 frogs rescued; 1 SN & 1 Fr dead	Toad warning highway signs put up	2,513
OVERSEAL Shortheath	303	20	22	21.2.16 to 15.4.16	11 newts 7 30 frogs rescued	Several frog, toad and newt casualties on road before patrol on 24th March	323
RIDGEWAY	102	21	3	21.3.16 to 23.3.16			123
RADBOURNE	277	13	23	14.3.16 to 13.4.16	3 great crested newts rescued, 1 frog dead.		290
STUBBING COURT	310	30	10	2.4.16 to 11.4.16	4 great crested & 2 smooth newts rescued	Newly discovered site 2016	340
WATFORD LODGE	27	6	12	3.4.16 to 14.3.16	5 newts & 2 frogs rescued, 1 frog dead	Toad warning highway signs put up	33
WHATSTANDWELL	45	9	10	29.3.16 to 19.4.16	1 smooth newt rescued	Toad warning highway signs put up	54
WHALEY BRIDGE CPA pond	105	10		2.4.16 to 14.4.16	2 frogs rescued		115
WINGERWORTH	812	45	22	12.3.16 to 13.4.16	23 smooth newts & 48 frogs rescued; 1 smooth newt & 4 frogs dead	Toad warning highway signs put up	857
TOTALS for 2016	8,348	702					9,050
<i>2015 Totals</i>	<i>8,997</i>	<i>724</i>					

Additional crossings were patrolled at Bowden & South Wingfield