

## Please tell us about the amphibian or reptile that you have seen...

Please use one form for each species you've seen.  
(If you have seen lots of amphibians and reptiles, please ask us for a bigger recording form.)

Who found the amphibian or reptile? (Block capitals please)

Name: .....

E-mail address/phone number: .....

Postcode: .....

What species did you find?

Please tick or write numbers observed in boxes below:

Male:  Female:  Not sure:

Juvenile:  Spawn or eggs:

Where did you see your animal?

Please give us an Ordnance Survey grid reference and/or a postcode, together with a site name and brief description of where the site is:

.....  
.....  
.....

When did you find the animal?

Day:   Month:   Year:

Could we contact you for further information if necessary?

Yes:  No:

Please return this form to:

David Orchard, Chair of ARGSL  
106 Thicketford Road, Bolton, BL2 2LU

Alternatively, please e-mail: [argsl@btinternet.com](mailto:argsl@btinternet.com)

## When recording amphibians and reptiles...

All records are important to us, whether you have seen anything unusual or not. The most important thing is to ensure that the information you give us is accurate. If you have any doubts or queries about what you have seen please contact us for advice.

You can give us your information online by using the ARGSL website or you can use the short form on the back of this leaflet.

ARGSL will share your records with local records centres but your contact details will not be made public. If you have any queries please e-mail us at:

[argsl@btinternet.com](mailto:argsl@btinternet.com)

The Amphibian and Reptile Group of South Lancashire is a non-profitmaking voluntary group dedicated to the conservation of amphibians and reptiles. ARGSL is affiliated to ARG UK, the representative body for Amphibian and Reptile groups across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Keep an eye on the ARGSL website for our latest initiatives!

[www.argsl.co.uk](http://www.argsl.co.uk)

This recording project is coordinated by the Amphibian and Reptile Group of South Lancashire with support from the Big Lottery Fund and Amphibian and Reptile Conservation



amphibian and reptile conservation 

[www.arc-trust.org](http://www.arc-trust.org)

# Have you seen any amphibians or reptiles near you?

If so please let us know!

Photos: David Orchard/Howard Inns



YOUR records will be used to produce the first Amphibian and Reptile Atlas for Greater Manchester Lancashire and Merseyside!



Amphibian and Reptile Group of South Lancashire

# DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN?

Top row - Howard Inns / David Orchard / Tracy Farrer / Matt Wilson • Bottom row - Fred Holmes / Howard Inns / Jim Grundy / Simon Booth / John Wilkinson

## COMMON LIZARD



- generally found in uplands, heath and mossland
- not found in gardens
- sometimes confused with a palmate or smooth newt, but lizards move quickly and have scales

## COMMON FROG



- often found in gardens
- smooth, moist skin
- variable in colour
- has big powerful back legs
- jumps long distances

## GRASS SNAKE



- extremely rare in the North West of England
- dark olive/green with a yellow “collar” behind the head

## PALMATE NEWT



- the male has black webbed hind feet and a thread-like tip to the tail.
- has two lines of dark spots along the tail and a small ridge along its back
- female smooth and palmate newts look very similar. If possible, find a male before identifying either species

## REPTILES

If you are not sure what you have seen, this quick guide may help!

For further information see the [Species](#) page of our website:

[www.argsl.co.uk](http://www.argsl.co.uk)

## SMOOTH NEWT



- the most widespread of our newts
- often mistaken for great crested newts as they can appear quite large
- the male has a wavy crest running from its head to the tip of its tail and dark spots its sides. Both males and females have an orange belly

## AMPHIBIANS

## ADDER



- normally found in upland areas (rare in NW England)
- has a distinctive zigzag pattern down its back
- the UK’s only poisonous snake

## GREAT CRESTED NEWT



- not often found in garden ponds
- the male has a jagged crest along the body with a break in the crest between the body and the tail
- rough dark brown/black skin
- much bigger than the other newts - up to 15cm long

## SLOW WORM



- rarely seen above ground
- looks like a small snake but is in fact a legless lizard
- can sometimes be found in gardens or allotments, especially around compost heaps

## COMMON TOAD



- often found in old lodges and angling ponds
- rough, dry skin
- either crawls or jumps small distances

**All reptiles are rare in the North West of England. If you see one of these animals we are especially keen to hear from you.** If you see an amphibian or reptile anywhere else in the UK, please report your observations using the ARG UK website at [www.arg-uk.org.uk](http://www.arg-uk.org.uk)