

Derbyshire ARG

2021 Members meeting

Wednesday 10th November



2021 Surveys

Reptiles

Amphibians



Reptile Surveys undertaken in 2021

- ▶ 1) HASSOP COMMON
- ▶ Survey started with refugia laid out in August 2014 and extra refugia placed at site in 2016
- ▶ In total 20 surveys visits have been made, though only one visit in 2019 was made after 2017 until 3 visits were carried out in 2021
- ▶ Slow-worms were found under refugia on every visit in 2021 plus on last visit under rocks at bottom of slope below enclosure fence 1 adult & 1 juvenile common lizard were found together with a female and 3 new born slow-worms.
- ▶ Other sightings include a common toad under a refugia and slow-worms seen on the open area of the common



Thanks to the Hassop Common surveyors in 2021:

Garry Dorrell, Cameron Evans, Maiya Evans, Simon Green & Chris Monk



DARG Reptile Surveillance Site Report
for
Hassop Common (Main Site)



Date of issue: 27th August 2021

BNG	Reporting Period	Number of Refugia
SK 2236 7312	2013 to 2021	30 tins
County	Number of Surveys	Survey Area
Derbyshire	16	1.1 Ha
District	Survey Hours	Refugia Density
Derbyshire Dales	21.5	28.49 tins/Ha

Reptile Species Summary

European Protected Species								
Common name	Scientific name	Occurrence	Total Recorded	Detection probability per hour			Trend	Confidence of Probable absence
				At site	In region	Comparative		
Smooth snake	<i>Coronella austriaca</i>	Not Recorded	0	0.000	0.009	N/a	N/a	30%
Sand lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>	Not Recorded	0	0.000	0.078	N/a	N/a	60%
Other UK BAP Priority Species								
Common name	Scientific name	Occurrence	Total Recorded	Detection probability per hour			Trend	Confidence of Probable absence
				At site	In region	Comparative		
Adder	<i>Vipera berus</i>	Not Recorded	0	0.000	0.257	N/a	N/a	84%
Cross snake	<i>Natrix helvetica</i>	Not Recorded	0	0.000	0.177	N/a	N/a	45%
Common lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	PRESENT	14	0.390	0.375	OK (104%)	Decline	20%
Slow worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	PRESENT	55	1.000	0.522	Good (192%)	Stable	0%



▶ 2) NORTH LEES & STANAGE ESTATE

- ▶ Around 40 common lizards had been seen in August by Ben Wyke when on a walk along Long Causeway which is the northern boundary of the survey area.
- ▶ Two preliminary visits were undertaken in the autumn to assess survey locations for 2022. On the first visit in September 7 common lizards were seen in sunny spells all in different locations to those seen in August. No reptiles were seen on the October visit when weather was cloudy with patchy hill fog.

Thanks to the North Lees and Stanage surveyors in 2021:

Eilidh Brown, Cameron Evans, Maiya Evans, Simon Green, Kelvin Lawrence, Chris Monk & Ben Wyke



- ▶ 3) EASTERN MOORS ADDER SURVEY
- ▶ Due to the Covid lockdown in early spring no adder survey field trips were organised in 2021.
- ▶ However adder surveyor Ben Wyke visited several times and assisted the Eastern Moors Partnership's adder head pattern photographic survey being run by Graham Thorpe to help assess population numbers and longevity of individual adders.

- ▶ 4) CROMFORD DEVELOPMENT SITE
- ▶ The original planning permission in 2015 for building a house has lapsed. We had produced a slow-worm mitigation plan for the applicant & District Council after raising the issue of slow-worms in the area and carrying out a short refugia survey.
- ▶ The Council had asked the applicant to obtain an update on the current presence of slow-worms on the site as he is considering re-applying for planning permission.
- ▶ A single visit in late August by Chris Monk found 8 juvenile & 2 sub-adult slow-worms under debris on the site, confirming that the slow-worm capture and mitigation strategy will still be needed for any future planning application



Amphibian Surveys in 2021

- ▶ A series of pond surveys were undertaken in 2021 comprising frog & toad spawn counts in March & early April followed by torchlight & bottle trapping newt surveys in late April & early June. These were undertaken across the White Peak both inside & outside the National Park
- ▶ The Freshwater Habitats Trust's PondNet great crested newt environmental DNA project that started in 2015 continued for the 7th successive year. Derbyshire ARG has been sampling the field pond at Pilsbury Lodge in the Peak District annually since 2016 and also Wolfie Pond at North Wingfield since 2020 for this Project.

Bottle trapping



PondNet at Pilsbury Lodge



PondNet at Wolfie Pond



Amphibian results

- ▶ 36 ponds surveyed and 2 PondNet ponds sampled
- ▶ 17 of 36 ponds had great crested newts, maximum count 19 at Hartington Moor Farm viaduct dewpond. At 4 of the 16 ponds this was the first record of great crested newts.
- ▶ 30 of 36 had smooth newts, maximum count 76 in rectangular concrete pond at Tansley Dale
- ▶ 15 of 36 ponds had toads - adults, spawn or toad tadpoles
- ▶ 15 of 36 ponds had frogs - mostly spawn or frog tadpoles
- ▶ PondNet GCN eDNA results not yet released by FHT. Wolfie Pond has been a fishing pond since it was created and always comes back negative. Pilsbury is usually positive for GCN but has had occasional negative results

- ▶ Thanks to pond surveyors in 2021

Tim Brooks, Pete Bush, Garry Dorrell, Cameron Evans, Maiya Evans, Susan Grant, James Green, Simon Green, Paul Jarman, Zoe Lingard & Chris Monk



Pretty pictures of some of the Peak District ponds surveyed in 2021

Derbyshire ARG

Planned surveys for 2022

Reptile Surveys

- 1) HASSOP COMMON Initially keep survey in place but look to move it along to the western end of Longstone Edge on the steep south facing scarp slope
- 2) ADDER SURVEYS Hope to organise at least a couple of field survey meetings on the Eastern Moors, as covid-19 restrictions stopped us holding these surveys in 2020 & 2021
- 3) NORTH LEES ESTATE & STANAGE This is planned to be a long term survey using walked transects and some refugia surveys, which we are doing at the request of the Stanage Forum. With the nearly 50 sightings of adult & juvenile common lizards so far we have exceeded the approximately 20 sightings reported in the previous 20 years. Using refugia will aim to see if slow-worms are present, there are very occasional adder sightings in the last decade, 2 of which were confirmed but no grass snake records. It is a large site >500 hectares so we have decided which parts to focus on in 2022 & perhaps expand to other areas in future years.

Stanage Reptile Survey Zones

North Lees & Stanage Reptile survey areas



Long Causeway & Buck Stone



Stanage Plantation area



Below Stanage Edge



Hooks Carr & Stanage Edge



Cattis-side West



Cattis-side East



Stanage Edge south & Millstones



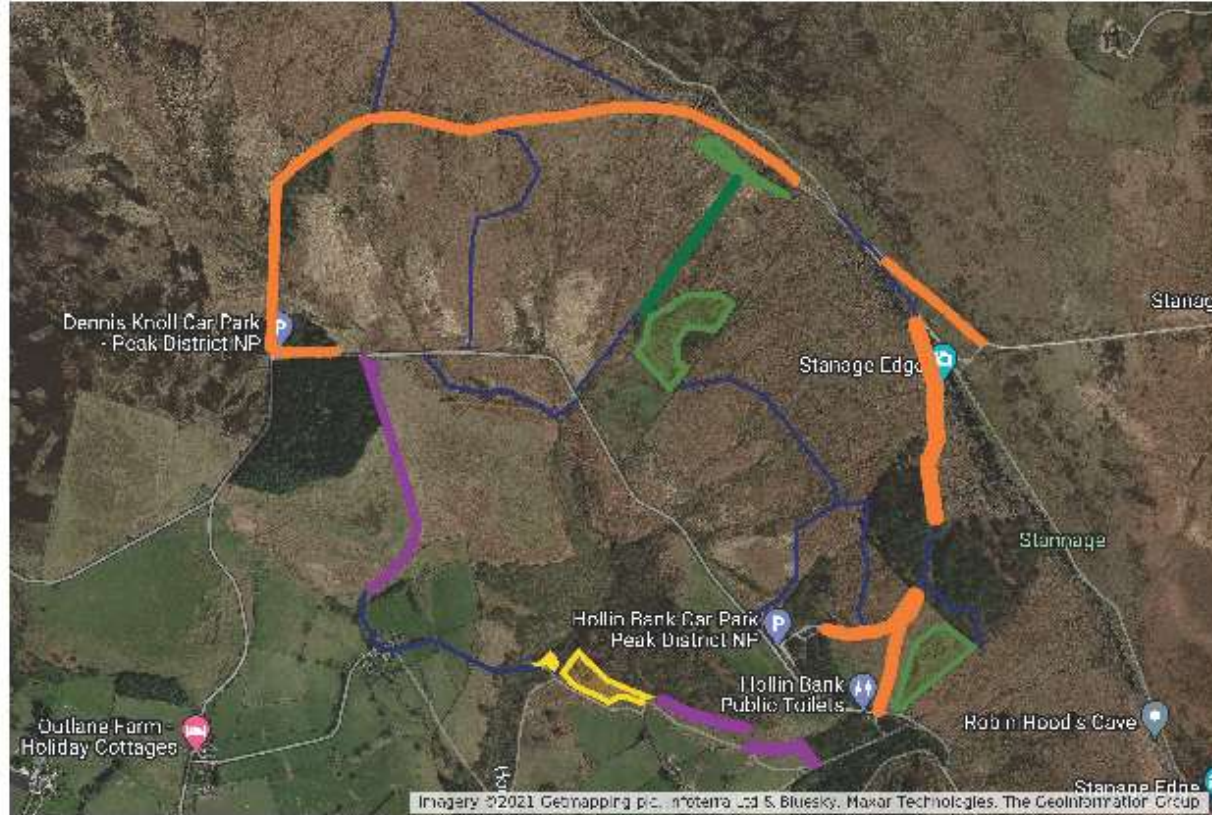
North Lees & Dennis Knoll



Stanage Reptile Survey

North Lees Estate and adjoining areas

-  North Lees #1
-  North Lees #2
-  North Lees #3
-  Hood Brook #1
-  Outseates boundary
-  Long Causeway #1
-  Long Causeway #2
-  Above Stanage Plantation
-  Below Stanage Plantation
-  Ruined wall
-  Bottom of edge
-  Bottom of ruined wall
-  Access route
-  Walking route
-  Walking route
-  Walking Route
-  Walking route
-  Wetland below Stanage Plantation
-  Walking route
-  Connecting paths
-  Connecting path
-  Public footpath



Proposed transects and ACO locations

- 4) LINACRE RESERVOIRS near Chesterfield. Severn-Trent rangers are keen to survey for grass snakes so we are planning to do a training day with them and then help them set up a reptile survey. If all goes to plan we can organise a field survey event there. As well as grass snakes, common lizard has also been reported

Amphibian Surveys in 2022

- 1) Woodside Farm nature reserve between Ilkeston and Mapperley. The pond creation being done by Wildscapes for the Natural England GCN District Level Licensing project has created 6 new ponds on the nature reserve, 3 last autumn/winter and 3 last month. Although Wildscapes will return to take water samples to test for GCN presence, Kate Lemon from DWT would like us to do surveys to see what other amphibians are present both in the new ponds & also in the ponds dug when the Trust took over the land.



Older pond
at Woodside

New pond
created
winter
2020/21 next
to older pond
at Woodside



- 2) Dewpond surveys in the White Peak in consultation with the National Park we will be surveying newly restored ponds and monitoring amphibian colonisation of ponds restored in previous years.
- 3) Eyam water troughs survey. The village had a water supply installed in 1588 consisting of about 12 spring/stream fed troughs. Most troughs still survive although many have had the supply pipes damaged or blocked. One of the troughs has smooth newts and locals say great crested newts are also seen there. We will be checking all the troughs next spring



Two of the Eyam troughs that have amphibian records

Newts

Frogs

Now onto toads

