

Derbyshire Amphibian & Reptile Newsletter

Issue No 31. January 2021

TOAD PATROLS 2021

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the government control measures our toad crossings were cancelled part way through last year. With the virus pandemic still present the situation for 2021 is uncertain.



ARG UK have been discussing with Froglife the the situation for 2021 toads on roads crossing patrols. Froglife have produced their guidance linking to the relevant government websites. In addition last week ARG UK has produced a new risk assessment for Toad Crossings incorporating a section on covid-19 as they exist at present.

The key thing will be whether there is any change in Government regulations & guidance on covid safety before the toads start migrating.

As it looks now the patrols in the south of England will have to comply with the current regulations & guidance as usually their toads are active in February & early March. Some ARGs, notably Kent, have said that they can not support toad patrols and that any people going out on them will be at their own risk and will not be covered by ARG UK insurance.

For us in Derbyshire being further north and usually having a later period of toad migration in March & early April, it may be that the next proposed review of covid measures by the Government in mid February could possibly result in changes. We will keep you posted.

DERBYSHIRE AMPHIBIAN & REPTILE GROUP

We are an affiliated member of



ARG UK

Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the UK

Volunteers working for the
conservation of amphibians & reptiles

www.arguk.org

Registered charity
(number 1165504)

Derbyshire ARG

Chair - Kelvin Lawrence

Vice Chair - Christian Murray-Leslie

Secretary - Chris Monk

Treasurer - Jayne Thompson

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Derbyshire ARG website

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NEW EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2021



2021 Herpetofauna Workers Meeting on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th February.

10.00 to 15.10 each day with 3 one hour sessions across each day separated by 30 min or 1 hour breaks. As usual there will be a mixture of presentations and workshops. We are sorry to be missing out on some of the social networking, although there will be an on-line social session on the Saturday evening including the famous #HIGNFY quiz. This is a good compromise given the restrictions we are facing, and is a great opportunity to catch up on the latest news and research, and hopefully feel inspired for the new amphibian and reptile season. The event is hosted by ARC and costs £35 to join.

To register for the event please follow the link to <https://www.arc-trust.org/Event/hwm2021>



ARG UK Short talks & AGM

Thursday 18th February

7:15 pm to 9.00pm on Zoom

To sign up follow the link to Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/arg-uk-2021-annual-general-meeting-agm-with-arg-updates-tickets-135964909705>

A stand alone event free to all affiliated ARGs and their members (plus any potential ARG members). Hear from some of our ARGs and other friends from all over UK and Ireland including: Sheila Dyason (Dorset – DARN), Suzie Collinson (Cumbria - CARG), Kevin Clarke (Nottinghamshire ARG), Erik Paterson (Clyde ARG), Trevor Rose (Friends of Angus Herpetofauna & British Herpetological Society), Rob Gandola (Herpetological Society of

Ireland), Ryan Boyle (Northern Ireland ARG), Matt Legg (NW Wales ARG) and Pembrokeshire ARG.



They will cover: monitoring slow-worms in churchyards, finding adders in Pembrokeshire, digging ponds in NW Wales, restoring wetlands in Ireland, a photographic calendar competition, conserving amphibians in Scotland, ambitious plans for installing amphibian escape ladders, TikTok tadpoles in Northern Ireland, and making grass snake egg laying heaps in Nottinghamshire - plus a rather fabulous video. So please do come along, be inspired, share your news and views and have a say in how we coordinate our fantastic network of volunteer amphibian and reptile groups. Hopefully the formal AGM will only take up about 15 minutes of the meeting.



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GREAT CRESTED NEWTS



Natural England is rolling out its scheme for use in planning and development across Derbyshire (excluding High Peak) in 2021. This will allow developers who take part in DLL to ignore the presence of great crested newts on planning application sites and not need to survey for them or undertake mitigation measures although they will still have to consider all other protected species matters (bats, reptiles, birds, otters etc.). To sign up for the DLL scheme developers will need to pay a sum of money determined on various factors such as the number of ponds affected by the scheme and in which zone of mapped great crested newt occupation the development sits. This money will be used to create new ponds in areas of opportunity for great crested newts and to maintain the pond and habitat for at least 20 years.

As a preparation for the scheme Natural England funded some work on creating new ponds & restoring defunct ponds in advance last winter and also the current winter period. This work is being managed by Wildscapes the consultancy arm of the Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust. Derbyshire ARG have been involved in assisting Wildscapes to locate suitable areas for new ponds or defunct ponds that can be restored. These have included the Ballidon dewpond restoration and the restoration of some dewponds in the Peak District last year and suggesting sites in Derby City and Erewash Borough this winter. As well as providing advice on proposals for new ponds in South Derbyshire and with the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust for new ponds at their Woodside Farm nature reserve.

Ballidon dewpond before & after desilting by Wildscapes for the DLL project



ROAD MORTALITY WEBINAR

Not just toads but many other animals are killed on the roads.

Join Froglife and other organisations from around the world & the UK at an online Wildlife Mortality on Roads Conference. Not only will it focus on amphibians and reptiles, but a whole host of other wildlife affected by road mortality. With speakers on:

Indian Roadwatch, Reptile road mortality, Hedgehog mortality on UK roads, Canadian mammals and the UK's Project Splatter.

For this free webinar on Wednesday 10th March 2021 from 1.00pm book your ticket at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wildlife-mortality-on-roads-conference-tickets-133720328101>