

How we can help you

Email us at info@hiwarg.org.uk and request an “Amphibians & Reptiles on Allotments” outreach pack (also on our website – see below).

Join us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/groups/455730808110700 and share your sightings, ask for identifications, learn about the animals habits and life cycle, etc.

Don't forget to record your sightings at: www.recordpool.org.uk



While you wait for your HIWARG outreach pack, you can find ID guides and other useful habitat information on our website at:

<https://groups.arguk.org/hiwarg> and click “Info and ID guides”.



Have you seen a reptile or amphibian on your allotment?

Did you want to learn more about them?

Did you know most of our amphibians and reptiles are in decline?

Do you want to create or enhance habitats for them on your plot?

Would you like to help the conservation of our native species?

This leaflet will help answer the above questions and more



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Amphibians & Reptiles on Allotments



An Introduction

Allotments can be amazing sites for wildlife. The huge variety of habitats can attract all sorts of animals, from pollinators visiting flowers, to slugs and other invertebrates, which then bring in their predators as well. Amphibians and reptiles are great natural form of pest control for allotments.



Although reptiles and amphibians tend to be secretive in their habits, some species can regularly be seen on allotments. Frogs and newts can be found in the damper spots and toads can be found in and around pots, all emerging at dusk to eat slugs and other invertebrates. Slow worms, common lizards and grass snakes are also commonly found on allotments. Although our adder population is in a steep decline, they can also be seen on allotments occasionally.

Unfortunately, many of our native species of amphibians and reptiles are in decline, but they do not have the same public appeal that more iconic mammal species receive, such as hedgehogs, pine marten and water voles.

Meet the Species

Grass Snake



Viviparous Lizard



Common Frog



Smooth Newt



Smooth and Palmate Newts can be difficult to tell apart, but our ID guides and/or our support can help.

Great Crested Newt



See **“How we can help you”** for more help with identification and habitat advice.

Adder



Slow Worm



Common Toad



Palmate Newt



About HIWARG

The Hampshire & Isle of Wight Amphibian & Reptile Group is an independent voluntary conservation group, affiliated to the national organization, ARG-UK. Our focus is the conservation of native amphibian and reptile species, especially with surveying, habitat management, public engagement, volunteer training & doing as much as possible to understand & protect the native species in this county. Typically we work with land owners and managers with surveys and conservation advice on their sites.

We are setting up an outreach type of support for allotment associations and allotment plot holders who would like advice or guidance for amphibians or reptiles on their allotments. As allotments are made up of individual plots they do not make great sites for our usual type of wide ranging survey. However, an allotment can be a vital oasis in a desert of development. You can help us (and the animals) by being our eyes on the ground and submitting sightings and we can help you by supplying advice, guides and support. Between us we can make a huge difference to local populations of amphibians and reptiles. See overleaf on how to get in touch.