

Be a Spawn Spotter for HIWARG

Take part in a 'citizen science' project to record frog & toad spawn at the beginning of the amphibian breeding season



HIWARG

Hampshire & Isle of Wight
Amphibian & Reptile Group



Pete West, HIWARG
Zoom Presentation
12 Jan 2021

What is Spawn Spotting?



Recording sightings of amphibians, especially frogspawn, that are seen while out walking, etc.

Why Spawn Spotting?

All records help to inform on:

- distribution of native and non-native amphibians
- population size and trends over time
- Identifying threats (pond loss, disease, invasive species, etc)
- Phenology – seasonal changes from year to year.



All of your observations help the conservation of amphibians in Hampshire and Nationally.

What do you need to do?

No experience or extra time required, just record spawn or amphibians you see when you are out and about:

- in your garden or pond;
- when on your local walk;
- record as much or as little as you want, the more detail the better for conservation purposes;
- where possible, please take photos and include with your record.

Not just spawn!

You can also record adult frogs and toads, as well as newts and other amphibians (and reptiles too if you wish) that you spot on your travels if you wish.

Covid-19

- “You should minimise time spent outside your home, but you can leave your home to exercise. This should be limited to once per day, and you should not travel outside your local area... meaning avoiding travelling outside of your village, town or the part of a city where you live” GOV.UK
- “You can exercise in a public outdoor place: by yourself, with the people you live with, with your support bubble, in a childcare bubble or, when on your own, with 1 person from another household.” GOV.UK
- ‘Spawn Spotting’ is something you can do as part of your daily exercise as it is only recording your observations.

What to look for

Common Frog

Adult 60-90mm



Common Toad

Males 60-75mm
Females 70-90mm
(or larger)



How to count spawn

Common Frog



- Usually spawn from January to late March, roughly 2000+ eggs per clump.
- Try to count individual clumps.
- You may find lots of clumps forming large mats of spawn. Count a rough area and multiply this across the mat for a rough estimate. Alternatively, make a note of the area covered and include with your record.

Common Toad



- Usually spawn in March/April, roughly 1500 eggs per string.
- Counting strings of toad spawn is really tricky, so often a record of its presence, or a note of the area covered is sufficient.

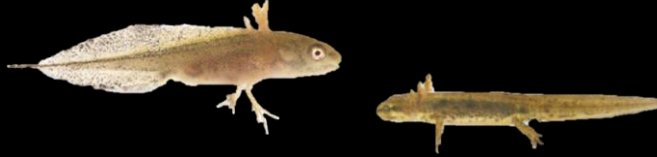
You can record spawn in the pond over several visits as the first spawn and a peak count is useful information.

Newts



Palmate Newt

Adult 80-90mm



Great Crested Newt

Male 120-140mm

Female 130-160mm



Smooth Newt

Adult 90-100mm



Less common, but notable species



Natterjack Toad

50-75mm

Native



Midwife Toad

50-90mm

Non-native



Alpine Newt

90-110mm

Non-native

Water Frogs



Pool Frog

(Southern Clade in Hampshire)

60-70mm

Non-native



Edible Frog

75-100mm+

Non-native hybrid



Marsh Frog

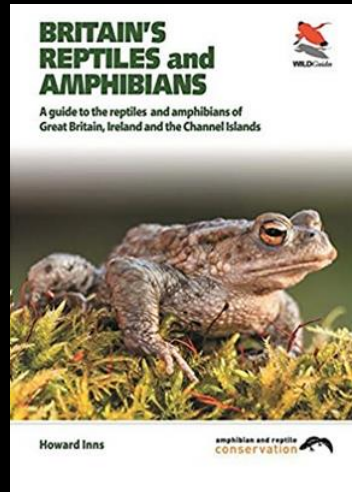
100-130mm+

Non-native



Getting help with IDs

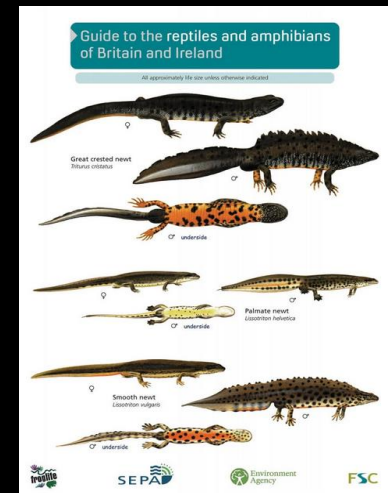
ARG UK/ARC Amphibian Identification
(free download on the ARC, ARG UK and HIWARG websites)



Britain's Reptiles and Amphibians (WILDGuides)
Available from most bookshops from £13-£19



Guide to the reptiles and amphibians of Britain and Ireland
Field Studies Council 'splash proof fold out guide' £3.30
Available from the FSC website www.field-studies-council.org



Help from HIWARG

HIWARG's Website: <https://groups.arguk.org/hiwarg>
“Info and ID Guides” tab

Join our public Facebook group, share your photos and we can help:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/455730808110700>
(or just search HIWARG in Facebook)

Email HIWARG: info@hiwarg.org.uk



Protect the environment you enjoy

<http://www.nonnativespecies.org>

CHECK

Check your boots or equipment for mud or plant fragments and scrape off what you can on site

CLEAN

Clean everything as well as you can, especially damp or hard to reach areas. Visit the HIWARG website for a guide on precautions for amphibian diseases.
(ARG UK Advice note 4 - Amphibian Disease Precautions, A Guide for UK Fieldworkers)

DRY

Dry everything for as long as you can as some diseases/invasive species can survive in damp conditions for some time.

Recording your sightings



RECORD POOL



www.recordpool.org.uk


or you can use **iRecord** if you prefer: <https://irecord.org.uk>

Both Record Pool and iRecord
are GDPR compliant

Record a sighting

Record one or more reptiles and amphibians at a **single time and location**.

Or for multiple times and locations [Record a survey](#) 

Recorder 


First Name *

Surname *

Email *

Company/
Organisation

(optional)

Next 

Location

Postcode / Nearest place name *


Grid reference

(optional)

Date/Time


Date *

dd-mm-yyyy




Time *


HH:MM (24hr)



☐ Don't know what time.

 [Set embargo date \(advanced\)](#)


Records:

#	Species	Lifestage/Sex	Quantity
<div> Mark these records as sensitive (advanced)</div>			


Notes:

Any additional information which might help us to verify your record.

(optional)



☒ I agree to the Record Pool [User agreement & privacy policy](#)

Next 

- Each section has an easy drop down selection field.
- Add photos, which can be really important for verifiers to confirm rare or tricky to ID species

Record a

Record one or more

Or for multiple times a

Recorder

Recorder name:
Pete West

Recorder email:
your.email@doma

Company / Organis
HIWARG

Add a record

Species *

Frogs/Toads

common frog

Details *

Adult

- Sex -

Quantity (eg. 1)

☐ Don't know how many.

Photos

- Lifestage -
 Dead
 Adult
 Young
 Spawn/Egg
 Tadpoles/Larvae

which might help us to verify this record?

images here

or click here to browse your computer.

You can upload up to three .jpg, .png or .gif images here. Max file size 5MB for each image.

✕ Cancel

✓ Add

Records:

#	Species	Lifestage/Sex	Quantity
<div> <div>+ Add</div> <div> Mark these records as sensitive (advanced) </div> </div>			

Notes:

Any additional information which might help us to verify your record.

(optional)

☒ I agree to the Record Pool User agreement & privacy policy

Help with Grid References

These apps use the GPS/Location services of your mobile phone and don't require a phone signal. They can increase battery use, so keep your phone fully charged.

Viewranger

Free and subscription service. Up to 10 figure grid ref. Android and iOS. Guide on using GPX files with Viewranger on HIWARG's website "Info and ID guides".

OS Locate

Free and subscription service. Up to 6 point grid ref. Android and iOS.

Gridpoint GB

Free, basic features. Up to 10 figure grid ref. iOS only.

Grid Reference (GR)

Free, very basic features. Up to 10 figure grid ref. Android only.

Websites

Grid Ref Finder www.gridreferencefinder.com or Record Pool/iRecord have inbuilt grid reference finders

Remember to ask for our help with
IDs or other questions on our
Facebook group or via email at
info@hiwarg.org.uk



Still want more?



Species training and
hands on conservation



Research



Public engagement

Peter Gillatt 2019



Amphibian
surveys



Habitat management

Peter Gillatt 2020

Rescues

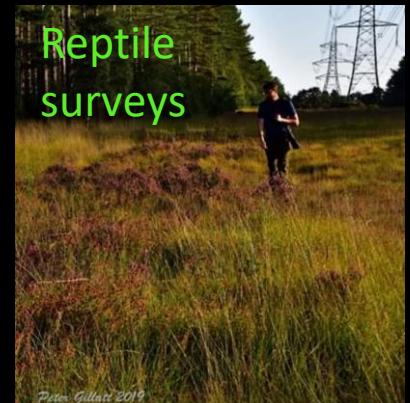


Peter Gillatt 2020

Toad Patrols



Survey training



Reptile
surveys

Peter Gillatt 2019

Member surveys 2021 and beyond

We have big plans for amphibian and pond surveys starting this Spring.



- Training opportunities for beginners and intermediate
- Rollout of new survey protocols
- Surveys suitable for new and experienced surveyors
- GCN Surveys
- Water frog and other non-native species surveys
- Events centred around Turtle Tally 2021 (Hadlow College)

If members are interested in getting involved with the above, contact us via the usual channels and watch out for more training in the next few weeks.



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We hope to see you soon!

