

Leicestershire Amphibian and Reptile Network

Newsletter Number 6
January 2002

2002 Herps Meeting

The 2002 Herpetofauna Workers Meeting is taking place on February 8th (evening only) and 9th (full day) at Chester. The main themes this year are recording reptiles and amphibians, and exotic species. For full details of the programme, and a registration form, contact Froglife, Mansion House, 27-28 Market Place, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 8AY, tel. 01986-873733, fax 01986-874744.

Froglife

The national organisation Froglife (details above) is once again running its Froglife Friends scheme. Supporters receive regular literature as well as supporting its conservation work. Froglife's new website has recently gone on line at:

www.froglife.org

Froglife Advice Sheet 11 on "Surveying for Great Crested Newt Conservation" gives a clear explanation of the why, where, what and how of newt surveys.

Rainbows

On 9th September 2001, Rainbows Childrens Hospice organised their Wet, Wild and Wonderful event at Watermead Country park. LARN had a stall there, mainly promoting the "Snakes Alive" survey. There was a lot of interest shown and many people were able to give infor-

Most of these were of grass snakes, especially from sites along the Soar and Wreake valleys. However, there were also apparently good sightings of adder at Bradgate Park, common lizard at Hathern and Markfield and slow-worm at Woodhouse Eaves and Melton Mowbray.

Charnwood Wildlife

In early 2001, Charnwood Wildlife carried out amphibian surveys at Charnwood Water and Stonebow Washlands in Loughborough and Hoby Road, Thrussington. All three sites met the criteria for designation as SINC's (local wildlife sites) based on their amphibian populations.

Trust Nature Reserves

I am trying to compile information on the presence of amphibians and reptiles on Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust nature reserves. If you have any records from reserves, please let me know – contact tails the of de-at end the



Pondamonium

Leicestershire County Council has been developing its "Pondamonium" campaign with the production of further literature. As well as the basic pond survey form, there are also new leaflets on Pond Amphibians, Pond Plants, Pond Insects and Pond Visitors (birds, mammals, grass snakes, fish). These are available from Holly Hayes Environmental Resources Centre, 216 Birstall Road, Birstall, Leicester LE4 4DG.

Rare Reptiles

The Herpetological Conservation Trust carries out research and site management for the rarer British herpetofauna, including sand lizard and smooth snake. They are offering day visits to their reserves where these reptiles can be seen – in SE Dorset (13, 14, 27, 28 April, 11, 12 May) and SW Surrey (20, 21 April). If anyone is interested in attending on one of these dates, please let me know ASAP, and I will relay your interest on to HCT.

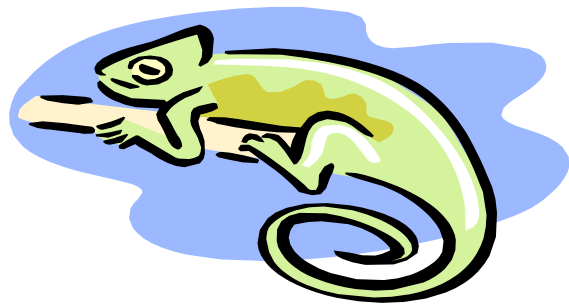
GC Newt Handbook

An excellent new publication has recently been produced by Froglife, with the support of a wide range of other bodies – the Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook. Illustrated in full colour and running to 55 pages, this has sections on great crested newt ecology, habitat management, legal protection and surveying techniques. It is extremely comprehensive and provides everything you ever wanted to know about looking for and looking after great crested newts! The publication can be viewed on the Froglife website, or you can obtain a copy by sending a large SAE

Burbage Open Day

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council are running their annual Countryside Open Day at Burbage Common on Sunday 19 May 2002. LARN has agreed to have a stall there, publicising the "Snakes Alive" survey, as was done at Watermead. If anyone is interested in lending a hand on the stall, for as much or as little of the day as you like, do please contact me.

Wet, Wild and Wonderful will again be running at Watermead in 2002, on 15 September, so expressions of interest in helping at that would also be welcome.



"Snakes Alive" is continuing to run, so any reptile records for the two counties would be gratefully received.

Apologies that this issue did not come out when it was intended to – it was due to be autumn 2001, but other things got in the way, so this will have to double up as an autumn/spring issue.

If you have any items for the next edition, later in the year, do let me know – please note my new telephone and email details.

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