

# Leicestershire Amphibian and Reptile Network

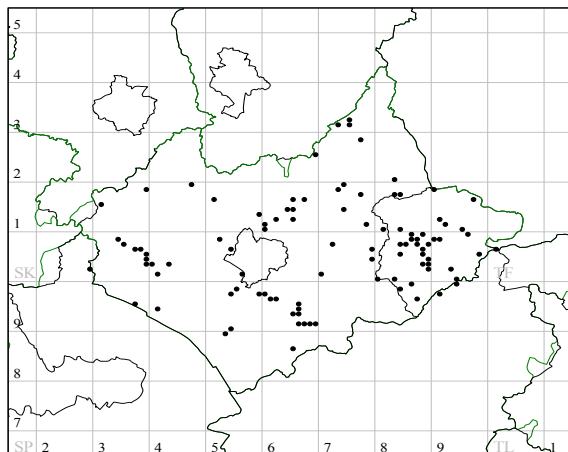
Newsletter Number 9  
December 2004

## More Reptile Maps

The last LARN Newsletter Number 8 gave distribution maps for the two lizard species, generated by Mapmate. Here are the equivalent maps for the two local snakes.

The grass snake (below) is much the most common reptile in Leicestershire and Rutland. It is a wetland species, frequently found along rivers and canals. In this map, it is easy to spot the routes of the Ashby Canal, Grand Union Canal and the River Wreake, as well as a cluster of records around Rutland Water.

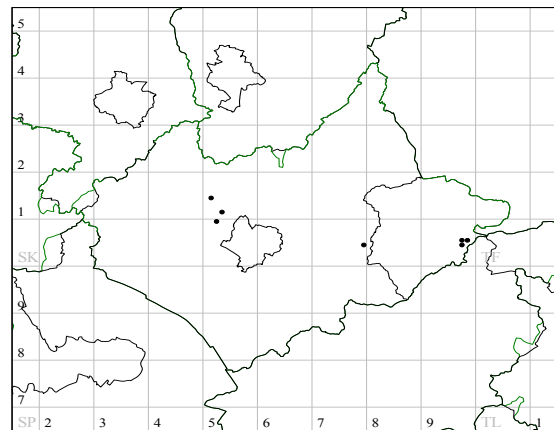
Grass Snake (*Natrix natrix*)



In contrast, the adder (top of the next column) now seems restricted to three populations – around Bradgate, at Launde Abbey and at Ketton Quarry.

“Snakes Alive” is still running, so keep sending reptile records in.

Adder (*Vipera berus*)



## Dates for the Diary

The Community Heritage Initiative, based at Holly Hayes, is organising a great crested newt survey training day on Saturday 19 March, at Burbage Common. You will need to book to get on this – contact Rebecca Cleaver on 0116-267-1377 or email [chi@leics.gov.uk](mailto:chi@leics.gov.uk). There may be a second GCN event, but no details yet.

Andrew Heaton is giving a talk on reptiles and recording them in Leicestershire and Rutland, at Holly Hayes on the evening of Tuesday 12 April, 7.30 pm.

On 23 April next year, there is to be a pond wildlife event at Beacon Hill Country Park featuring amphibians (at our only site for palmate newt) and invertebrates. Again, details from Holly Hayes.

On 5 and 6 February 2005, the Amphibian and Reptile Workers National Meeting will take place at Keele University - details on [www.froglife.org](http://www.froglife.org).

## Froglife

Froglife has relocated to: White Lodge,  
London Road, Peterborough PE7 0LG  
Phone 01733-558844  
Email [info@froglife.org](mailto:info@froglife.org)

## Police Help

Neil Hughes is the Leicestershire Police Force Wildlife Officer. If you have any concerns over breaches of the law in respect of amphibians or reptiles, Neil is happy to take the issue up. Contact him on 01665-568864, or email [neil@nhughes2.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:neil@nhughes2.fsnet.co.uk).

## Frogs and Friends

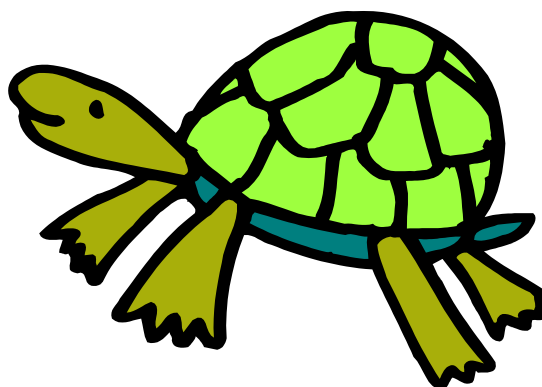
“Frogs and Friends” is an excellent new publication, subtitled “The distribution and conservation of amphibians and reptiles in Nottinghamshire“. Not just an atlas, it does have maps of all the species, but also poems, cartoons, photographs and plenty of biological facts. Available at £7.50 from Wollaton Hall, it points the way for other counties.

## School News

The discovery of great crested newts in a pond will not hold up the redevelopment of Castle Rock High School in Coalville, as the pond is outside the development area. Conversely, at Great Dalby Primary School, great crested newts have prevented the replacement of mobiles with a permanent building. Now, though, the school want to look after the newts by managing the pond.

## Terrapins

There are recent records of terrapin species both on the Ashby Canal near Sutton Cheney and at Eye Brook Reservoir. These, probably red-eared terrapins, are presumably former pets released when the Ninja Turtles craze ran its course. There are concerns about their predation on other aquatic life. If you know of any other sightings, please let me know.



## National Recording Scheme

There are outline proposals for a national herpetofauna recording scheme, making use of local volunteers. This might be run on a cycle, with different species targeted every year. There is still much thinking to be done about this – watch this space, you may be needed!

## Newts on the Farm

“Great crested newts on your farm” is a leaflet originally produced in Suffolk, but giving information on GCNs valuable for farmers anywhere. It is available from the English Nature website, [www.english-nature.org.uk](http://www.english-nature.org.uk).

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