

Common Frog



Scientific Name:
Rana temporaria

Current factors causing loss or decline

Loss or fragmentation of habitat, due to factors such as encroachment of housing and other developments, infilling of breeding ponds and pollution of suitable waterbodies, is likely to be the main contributor to any local decline in the species. There is no earlier survey with which to compare the recent survey so at present there is no data to indicate local losses. However nationally there are indications of declines. The frog disease 'Redleg' caused by *Ranavirus* continues to cause frog mortality in the south of the country but appears to be spreading north and east, where it may influence population declines in future.

The distances moved by frogs during their spring migrations are relatively small, possibly up to 500 metres to and from breeding ponds and it is thought that garden populations may be constantly resident within a few metres of ponds (ref. Langton, T.E.S & Beckett, C.L 1995). Therefore populations are likely to be greatly affected by local changes to habitat due to the factors listed above.

Current action

Common Frog receives no current action at present, although many of the sites where it has been recorded during the 1998 survey (GCC) are designated as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). The species has limited protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). The promotion of 'wetlands' and 'grasslands' conservation through the local Biodiversity Action Plan process will aid the conservation of the Common Frog.

Current status

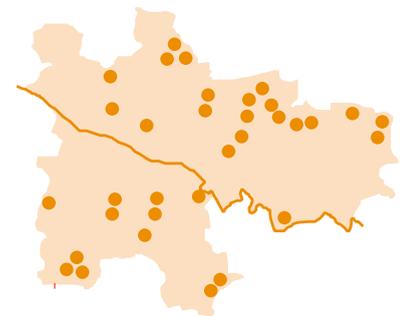
The **Common Frog** is the only frog species native to Britain. The species requires waterbodies for breeding and adjacent wetlands and grasslands for foraging and hibernation. Frogs enter their breeding ponds in Spring and spend the remaining seasons foraging for food before hibernating during the Winter.

The Common Frog is easily distinguished from the Common Toad by its damper, smoother skin and less blunt nose as well as its movement.

The frog has a faster, jumping movement compared to the 'walking' gait of the toad.

The Common Frog is fairly common within the Glasgow City boundaries in suitable wetland habitats. In a recent amphibian survey of Glasgow (Glasgow City Council, unpublished, 1998), Common Frogs were found in 33 out of 60 sites surveyed.

Distribution of Common Frog in Glasgow



Objectives and targets

The Common Frog is listed as 'common' in the biological audit of Glasgow, however as there are no historical surveys of Glasgow with which to compare recent surveys, it is unknown whether local populations are declining. A priority is therefore to complete a survey of the City of Glasgow for this species and to continue to monitor the known populations.

Objective 1: Establish current distribution and status of all populations.

Target 1: Survey all existing populations and search for new sites.

Objective 2: Maintain the current distribution and population sizes.

Target 2: Ensure no further loss or damage to the surviving populations.

Objective 3: Introduce appropriate habitat management to encourage viable populations.

Target 3: Assess current management factors at all known sites.

Objective 4: Increase population sizes and number of sites.

Target 4: Investigate feasibility of increasing known population sizes.

Proposed Action with Lead Authorities

Action	Lead	Delivery	Objective
Policy and Legislation			
Ensure Policy Planning Guidelines include adequate protection policies for water levels and quality.	CARG	GCC-DRS, SEPA, SNH	2, 3, 4
Site Safeguard and Management			
Encourage landowners, managers and users to implement sympathetic management at suitable sites.	CARG	CARG, FWAG, GCC-LS, GfC, SNH	2, 3, 4
Oppose, or suggest alternatives to, planning applications, that will cause damage to sites holding significantly large populations of Common Frog.	CARG	GCC-DRS, SNH	2, 3
Species Management and Protection			
Continue to implement sympathetic management regimes on presently managed sites, and introduce similar regimes on other sites where possible.	CARG	FWAG, GCC-LS(CG), GfC, SNH	2, 3, 4
Advisory			
Advise relevant landowners on the presence of significant populations of Common Frog and its conservation management.	CARG	CARG, FWAG, GCC-LS, GfC, SNH	2, 3, 4
Ensure information and guidance on conservation management is available.	CARG	CARG, FWAG, GCC-LS, GfC, SNH	2, 3, 4
Future Research and Monitoring			
Complete survey of Glasgow sites.	CARG	CARG, GCC-LS	1
Carry out surveys to estimate population sizes.	CARG	CARG, GCC-LS, SNH	1, 4
Involve public in a survey of private gardens.	CARG	CARG, GCC-LS	1, 4
Monitor known populations.	CARG	GCC-LS, CARG	1, 2, 3, 4
Communication and Publicity			
Promote Common Frog as an attractive local species to landowners and the public.	CARG	CARG, FWAG, GCC-LS(CRS), GfC, SNH	1, 2, 4
Links with other Action Plans			
Co-ordinate action with wetlands and grasslands Habitat Action Plans, and other amphibian Species Action Plans	CARG	ALL	1,2,3,4
Review the progress of this Action Plan by 2007.	CARG	ALL	1,2,3,4

CARG, c/o Kelvin Clyde Greenspace, 229 George Street, GLASGOW G2 1DU Tel: 0141-287 6084 Fax: 0141-287 9987 email: kc.greenspace@btoopenworld.com

Glasgow City Council: Development and Regeneration Services(GCC-DRS), Glasgow City Council: Land Services(Conservation Group) (GCC-LS(CG),

Glasgow City Council: Culture and Leisure Services (GCC-CLS), Glasgow City Council: Education Services (GCC-ES), Glasgow City Council: Land Services Countryside Ranger Service (GCC-LS(CRS)),

Scottish Ornithologists' Club (SOC), Greenspace for Communities(GfC), British Waterways (BW), Forestry Commission (FC), Farming Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG), The WISE Group (TWISE)

Glasgow Natural History Society (GNHS), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT).

Clyde Amphibian and Reptile Group (CARG), Butterfly Conservation (BC), Concern for Swifts (CIS)