

Warwickshire Amphibian & Reptile Team

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Affiliated to the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (Registered Charity Number 209200)
and Herpetofauna Groups of Britain & Ireland.

www.wartsoc.co.uk

WART NEWSLETTER: ISSUE No. 36 SUMMER 2004

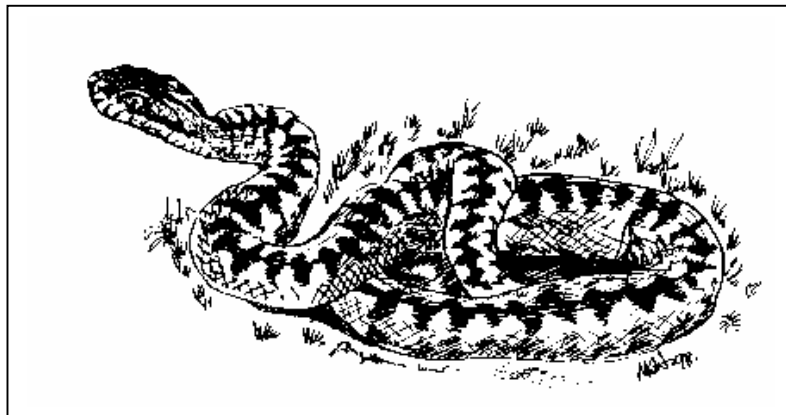
Forthcoming events

Baddersley Common lizards

A WART visit to Baddersley Common, near Atherstone, was postponed due to lack of interest, however a visit is intended to take place one weekend this coming September. Common lizards have been recorded at this relic heathland site in the north of the county. The aim of the visit is to look for hatchlings but will be very weather dependent, hence the need to be flexible on the actual date. If you are interested contact Jan for details.

Adder Special

WARWICKSHIRE ADDERS NEED YOUR HELP



What is the current status?

The adder has been recorded at only 3 sites in Warwickshire in the last 5 years but current survey may confirm one other, giving a total of 4 out of the original 18 since 1960. It is therefore considered to be of rare occurrence in the county although this may be due, in part, to a limited survey. Local unofficial sightings are commonplace but given that most turn out to be grass snakes, it is essential that these are validated and the correct identification carried out. A review of the status of adders at known adder sites is long overdue and anecdotal evidence would suggest a continued decline. A recent study for English Nature has indicated that the adder's national status is declining too.

What can we do to reverse the adder's decline?

A Species Action Plan (SAP) has been developed for the adder as part of the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Local Biodiversity Action Plan. Despite there not being any national plan for adders, its current status in the county is cause for concern. The plan went through several drafts following comments from the local conservation community including English Nature, County Ecologists and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. Below is an extract from the plan outlining the objectives and targets, together with a timetable.

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| A. Determine the current distribution and status of adders in Warwickshire. | by 2007 |
| B. Maintain the range, distribution and viability of existing adder populations. | ongoing |
| B. Monitor the management of these sites offering advice to landowners on best practice. | by 2008 |
| D. Introduce viable adder populations to two suitable sites | 2010 |

In order to meet these objectives and targets the adder SAP proposes local actions which for the majority WART will be taking the leading role. The adder survey, now in its second year has gained more momentum and we will have another three years according to the time frame. Targets B and C can also be met from the adder survey. The exciting but challenging target is D as it will take a lot of time and research to find 'two suitable sites'. If you would like to read the entire adder SAP plus more information on Biodiversity Action Plans for Warwickshire go to www.warwickshire.gov.uk and use the search facility.

How can WART members help?

If you would like to get involved with the survey and join our 12 strong survey team we would be delighted. With more surveyors there is a bigger chance of finding adders, especially if the populations are small. Please contact me if you would like to get involved, full training will be given. Alternatively you could support our **tin appeal**.

Sponsorship

One piece of good news is that Middlemarch Environmental, the consultancy arm of the Trust has sponsored us by providing and laying tins down at the fourth site which may support adders. They are also donating employee time to do the survey work. WART are very grateful for their contribution to the adder survey and would like to thank Middlemarch Directors Phil Fermor and David Smith for their support.

We are also making progress with gaining access to the railway embankments at Kenilworth Common. This has been a slow process, not helped by the fact that the company we were originally dealing with (Amey Rail) were taken over by Network Rail. At the time of writing Network Rail are going to supply 25 refugia and an employee will be trained to carry out the survey. To train an adder surveyor to go onto Network Rail land would cost anything up to £1000! Training an employee is the easier and cheaper option. Photographs will be used for validation and identification purposes. WART would like to thank Network Rail Offtrack Managers Mark Quince and Chris Smith for their help and support.

Jan Clemons.

WART TINS APPEAL

No, we don't want your baked bean tins but we do need your help to provide our adder survey team with enough refugia to cover suspected adder sites more effectively. Reptiles use the refugia to thermoregulate and within a certain weather 'window' there is a strong possibility of finding them under the tins.



Ideally, we need corrugated galvanised steel sheets (approximately 0.5 m²). The cost of buying the steel and getting the sheets cut costs £5.00 per tin. To cover all the post-60 adder sites we need a bare minimum of 100 tins. This means Wart have to fund raise £500!

Even old rusty ones could be used so please fill in the form on the last page and send it off to our treasurer straight away. The adder needs your help.



Membership Reminder

Have you paid? If not, this may be the last newsletter you will receive which would be a shame. Membership is still only £3.50 per household, but if you like you can donate more for our tins appeal! Remember its only £5 a tin so please support Warwickshire's adders and the work of WART

Central England Reptile Rescue

CERR deals with daily calls for help and advice from the general public, veterinary surgeries, welfare groups, emergency services and government agencies. As well as its work with exotic reptiles, CERR's service has expanded to include many more species, most notably birds of prey. CERR relies upon public donation to continue its work. It has now been reported that more reptiles are being kept as pets, than dogs so we need these organisations. CERR can be contacted on 01527 69372 or by email Reptile_Rescue@bigfoot.com

Newts by email

Remember that if you would like the WART newsletter to be e-mailed to you rather than posted, please contact Nigel. This saves WART postage and therefore contributes to surveying activities and conservation.

The WART Committee

Chair	Jan Clemons
Vice-Chair	Jonathon Easton
Secretary	Andi Wolf
Membership Secretary	Nigel Clemons
Treasurer	Howard Eccles
Newsletter Editor	Helen Mayne
Insurance and Training Officer	Lee Miles
Ordinary members	Jane O'Dell, Serena Eccles, David Cole, Louise Slack (co-opted)

Contacts

Jan and Nigel Clemons, Chairman and Membership Secretary / Database Manager,
34 Montalt Road, Cheylesmore, Coventry, CV3 5LU. Tel 024 7650 6416

Email janclemons@wartsoc.co.uk or nigelclemons@freenetname.co.uk

Howard Eccles, Treasurer, 42 Moseley Road, Kenilworth CV8 2AQ.

Tel 01926 858378.

Helen Mayne, Newsletter Editor, 90 Arthur Street, Kenilworth, CV8 2HG.

Tel 01926 513073 Email helen-mayne@tiscali.co.uk

Andi Wolf, Secretary, 104 Cedars Avenue, Coundon, Coventry, CV6 1DN.

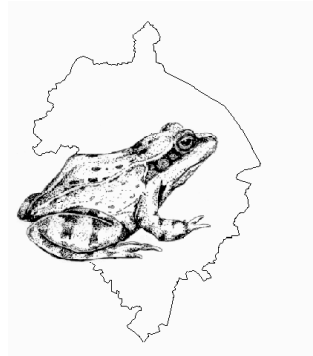
Tel 024 7627 3771 Email Andi.wolf@virgin.net

Contributions for the newsletter should be sent to Helen Mayne.
Copy deadline for next issue: 31st November 2004.

FINALLY

For those sharp eyed members out there – yes, we have skipped the Spring issue and called this the Summer issue due to a variety of reasons such as sitting exams, surveying etc.

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WART TINS APPEAL

Name _____

Telephone no _____

Email address _____

Yes / No I can help support adder survey work in Warwickshire

I can help in the following ways:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Donation (please make cheques payable to WART) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I have tins that WART can use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I am interested in training to join the survey team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I am/know a friendly builder that can cut the steel sheets |

Please send this form and any donation to the WART Treasurer, Howard Eccles
42 Moseley Road, Kenilworth CV8 2AQ