

# Warwickshire Amphibian & Reptile Team

Brandon Marsh Nature Centre, Brandon Lane, Coventry CV3 3GW. Tel (02476) 302912 Fax (02476) 639556  
Affiliated to the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (Registered Charity Number 209200)  
and Herpetofauna Groups of Britain & Ireland.

[www.wartsoc.co.uk](http://www.wartsoc.co.uk)

## WART NEWSLETTER: ISSUE No. 40 SUMMER 2005

### In this issue

1. Editorial
2. WART News
3. HGBI West Midlands Regional Meeting
4. Directions to Lower Smite Farm
5. WART Contacts
6. HRBI Regional Meeting registration Details

### EDITORIAL

Due to the lack of a newsletter editor we apologise for this hastily put together one. The main forthcoming event is the regional meeting, and this will not only provide the opportunity to catch up on recent developments in the herpetological world but a chance to meet other workers in our west midlands region. We hope to see you there and ask you to fill in the attendance slip ASAP.

Jan & Nigel  
July 2005

### WART NEWS

#### **STOP PRESS**

- A proposed development at a disused brickworks supporting one of the largest great crested newt populations in the county is still being fought through the planning process
- A 'new' site supporting common lizards has been found in the north of the county

**REPTILE PROBLEM** – after 2 years of trying to get access to the railway embankments to monitor reptile populations at Kenilworth Common WART seemed to be getting nowhere. So who do you call?

**Answer** – the Network Rail Helpline on a Sunday evening.

**Outcome** – things moved fast. The helpline lady was very helpful and the next morning the Network Rail Environmental Specialist phoned and a site visit was arranged. We now have the site tinned and

initial results show good populations of slow worms and common lizards. Alas, the elusive Warwickshire adder has still yet to be found.

**MORE DIFFICULT AMPHIBIAN PROBLEM** – after many drafts the Great Crested Newt SAP is now online at [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/biodiversity](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/biodiversity). One of the targets involves re-surveying all records over ten years old which involves visiting 197 ponds. With only a few active WART members how can we reach this target?

**Answer** – by recruiting more surveyors.

**Outcome** – if anyone in the West Midlands reading this can spare a few evenings to visit a few ponds it's a good start. WART can provide training in identification and survey techniques and allocate some ponds to you. Please visit our website [www.wartsoc.co.uk](http://www.wartsoc.co.uk) for more details. It seems a shame that this is left up to volunteers, but as the politicians procrastinate populations are being lost to neglect, infilling, introduction of fish just to name a few reasons for their continuing decline.

**HGBI WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL MEETING**  
**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2005**

**Worcestershire Wildlife Trust**  
**Lower Smite Farm**  
**Hindlip**  
**Nr Worcester**

**Provisional Programme**

**10.00 Arrival- tea and coffee**

**10.30 Welcome**

**10.45 Ruth Carey - Developments and changes at Froglife**

**11.15 John Baker – Making the Adder Count**

**11.45 Chris Gleed-Owen – National Amphibian & Reptile Recording Scheme**

**12.15 Jim Foster – Bottle Trapping**

**12.45-13.45 Lunch (provided)**

**13.50 Chris Monk – Great Crested Newts in the Wider Landscape**

**14.20 Herpetofauna Conservation in Action (outdoor session\*)**

**15.20 Tea and Coffee**

**15.30 Group Reports and Updates followed by Discussion Session.**

**16.30 Meeting Ends**

**\*Please bring suitable clothing and footwear to cope with the British climate and walking on farmland!!**

## Directions to Lower Smite Farm

### **By car from the M5**

Leave the motorway at junction 6 and take the exit off the motorway island signed to Droitwich (A4538).

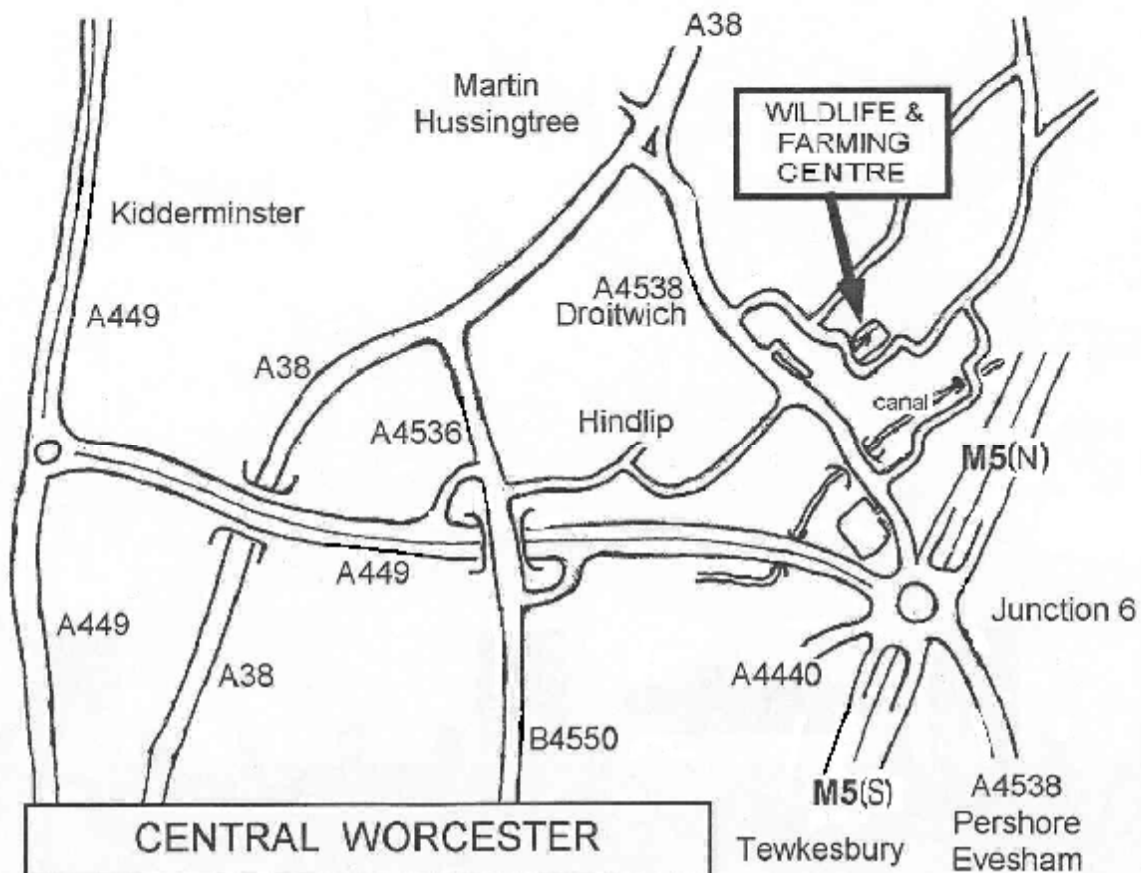
Keep on this road, passing the Worcester Rugby Club ground on the left. Carry on until you see the brown sign for Lower Smite Farm directing you to turn right.

Follow this lane for approx. 1/4 mile until you see the Trust's sign on the left. The visitor car park is immediately after this on the right.

### **Nearest railway station**

Droitwich Spa BR station in Droitwich is approx. 3 miles from Lower Smite Farm.

Both Worcester Foregate Street and Shrub Hill BR stations are around 6 miles from Lower Smite Farm. Public transport links are extremely limited from all stations - taxis are available from each.



## WART Contacts

Jan and Nigel Clemons, Chairman and Membership Secretary / IT Manager  
34 Montalt Road, Cheylesmore, Coventry, CV3 5LU.  
Tel 02476 506416  
e-mail [janclemons@wartsoc.co.uk](mailto:janclemons@wartsoc.co.uk) or [nigclemons@freenetname.co.uk](mailto:nigclemons@freenetname.co.uk)

Howard Eccles, Treasurer  
42 Moseley Road, Kenilworth CV8 2AQ  
Tel 01926 858378.

Illustrations by Nicola Angell.

Contributions for the newsletter should be sent to Nigel Clemons  
Copy deadline for next issue: 28<sup>th</sup> October 2005

“

---

### HGBI WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL MEETING REGISTRATION DETAILS 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2005

**Cost £7.50 per Delegate\*:**

**Please make cheques payable to Worcestershire Reptile and Amphibian Group and send your remittance to**

**Mike Sutton  
Treasurer  
WRAG  
Seasons  
Lenchwick  
Evesham  
Worcestershire  
WR11 4TG**

**\*Includes food and refreshments**

**Please tick box**      **Omnivorous**   
                                 **Vegetarian**   
                                 **Vegan**

**Please state any special dietary requirements**

Tel 01905 754919