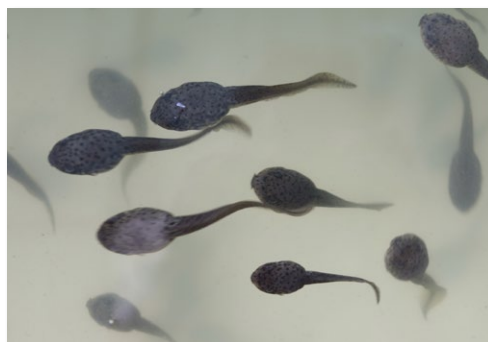


Wetland spotter sheet

Amphibians

Amphibians are incredibly important wetlands animals.

They act as both predator and prey, eating pest insects and invertebrates like slugs and snails, as well as providing vital food for birds and other animals like otters, badgers and even hedgehogs.



Tadpoles



- Toad and frog tadpoles look different.
- Toad tadpoles are all black, and hatch from long strings
- Frog tadpoles are golden and speckled, and hatch from clumps

Size: ?mm



Common frog

Rana temporaria



- Smooth, slippery body
- Tend to hop along
- Eats slugs, snails and invertebrates
- They have dark patches on their back and legs
- Can be found in most water bodies

Size: 80-130mm



Common toad

Bufo bufo



- Eats slugs, snails and invertebrates
- Broad, squat body with warty, drier skin
- Crawl rather than hop
- Migrate long distances to breed

Size: 120mm



Great Crested Newt

Triturus cristatus



- If you find one of these, don't pond dip – they're uncommon and protected
- Males have long wavy crest and silver stripe in tail during breeding season May – July
- Almost black in colour with spotted flanks and a striking, orange belly

Size: 150mm



Smooth newt

Lissotriton vulgaris



- Our commonest newt
- Males have long wavy crest and silver stripe in tail during breeding season from May - July
- Females lay a single egg folded into a submerged leaf
- Eats tadpoles, molluscs and invertebrates

Size: 100mm



Palmate newt

Lissotriton helveticus



- Looks very similar to the smooth newt, but prefers shallower ponds on acidic soils
- Pale or lightly patterned belly with no spots on throat
- Webbed feet gives it the name palmate
- Absent from much of central England

Size: 90mm