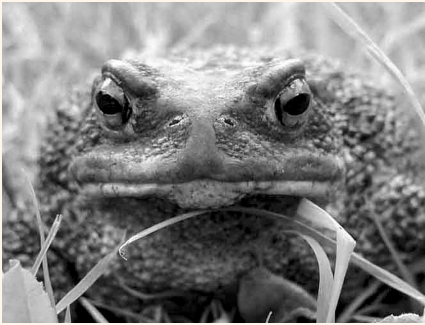


Common Toad



Scientific Name:
Bufo bufo

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 distances moved by toads during their annual spring migrations can be up to as much as 3 Kilometres and during the summer months, toads are found usually in small home ranges of approximately 2000 square metres, which may or may not be close to the breeding pond (ref. Langton, T.E.S & Beckett, C.L. 1995). The distances covered by toads during the spring migration make them vulnerable to motor traffic and human disturbance. The size of the home ranges means that populations are likely to be affected by local changes to habitats due to the factors listed above.

Current action

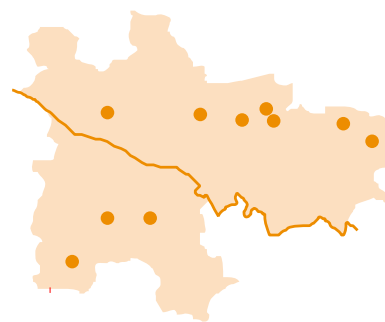
Common Toad receives no current action at present, although many of the sites where it has been recorded during the 1998 survey (GCC) are designated as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). The species has limited protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). The promotion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

Current status

The **Common Toad** is one of two toad species native to Britain. The species requires waterbodies for breeding and adjacent wetlands, grasslands, scrub or woodland for foraging and hibernation. The toads migrate to their breeding ponds in Spring to breed, often covering some distance and moving in large numbers, to do so. The adult toads spend the Spring, Summer and Autumn foraging on worms and other invertebrates before hibernating during the Winter.

The Common Toad is easily distinguished from the Common Frog by its drier, rougher skin and blunt nose, as well as its movement. The toad tends to crawl or walk compared to the faster jumping movement of the frog. The rarer Natterjack Toad is easily distinguished from the Common Toad by the yellow line down its back and by its preferred habitat (sand dunes and coastal areas). The Natterjack Toad is not found in the Glasgow area.

Distribution of Common Toad in Glasgow



The Common Toad is fairly common within the Glasgow City boundaries in suitable habitats. In a recent amphibian survey of Glasgow (Glasgow City Council, unpublished, 1998) Common Toads were found in 10 out of 60 sites surveyed.



Objectives and targets

The Common Toad 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 Toad.	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
Investigate feasibility of building road tunnels and erecting toad road signs at migration sites.	CARG	GCC-LS	2, 3, 4
Advisory			
Advise relevant landowners on the presence of significant populations of Common Toad 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 Toad 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, grasslands and woodlands 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@btopenworld.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)