

Hampshire Amphibian & Reptile Recording Network

Herpetofauna Report 2006 to 2016



Ruth Kernohan
May 2017

Introduction

There have been some changes with regards to how the network of herpetofauna workers and recorders collaborate over the last few years. Hampshire Amphibian and Reptile Group (HARG) was constituted in the early 1990's by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, with a focus on volunteer-led conservation activities. Over time, the activities of the group have changed and in order to reflect this HARG was deconstituted in 2016, and a more informal group, Hampshire Amphibian and Reptile Recording Network was created in its place. A key aim of HARRN remains to garner volunteer efforts to conserve Hampshire's amphibian and reptile species but the focus of activities has become supporting and encouraging surveys, and the gathering and dissemination of biological records in Hampshire.

With regard to species recording, it is important to note that biological records do not necessarily represent species distribution unless there is a systematic, randomised methodology to their collection. But, can be rather telling of recording activity, in the case of common species, often based around areas of higher human population or easier to reach areas. So you may see large areas where there have not been any records submitted for the last 10 years. If you recognise an area where you know there is a particular species presence or are interested to find out, this may be your opportunity to fill a square for presence by submitting your records for verification to the HARRN recorder via email or through the growing online route of Living Record (www.livingrecord.net). Once verified, your records will make their way to the local records centre (HBIC) where they can be accessed for many purposes, including research and planning.

The pattern of collection of records also often follows focussed recording projects. Currently the conservation charity Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (ARC) are running the New Forest Smooth Snake Survey which is gathering not just smooth snake but many other species records too <https://www.arc-trust.org/new-forest-smooth-snake-survey>. HARRN will be running the "Garden Amphibian and Reptile Hunt" over the late May bank holiday to encourage more people to get involved with recording, I hope you take part and look forward to receiving your records!

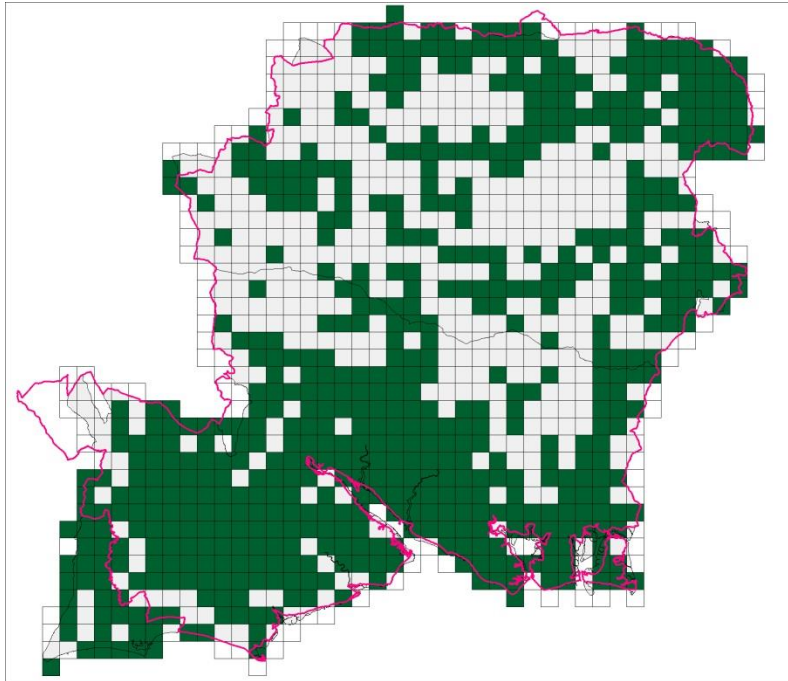
Ruth Kernohan

Hampshire County Amphibian and Reptile Recorder

Table of Contents

Amphibian and Reptile Records Overview	3
Amphibian Species Distribution Maps	5
Common frog (<i>Rana temporaria</i>).....	6
Common toad (<i>Bufo bufo</i>)	6
Natterjack toad (<i>Epidalea calamita</i>).....	7
Great crested newt (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>)	7
Smooth newt (<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i>)	8
Palmate newt (<i>Lissotriton helveticus</i>)	8
Reptile Species Distribution Maps	9
Common/Viviparous lizard (<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>).....	10
Sand lizard (<i>Lacerta agilis</i>)	10
Slow-worm (<i>Anguis fragilis</i>)	11
Adder (<i>Vipera berus</i>)	11
Grass snake (<i>Natrix natrix</i>).....	12
Smooth snake (<i>Coronella austriaca</i>)	12
Alien species	13
Pool frog (<i>Pelophylax lessonae</i>).....	13
Marsh frog (<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>).....	13
Edible frog (<i>Pelophylax kl. esculentus</i>)	13
Wall lizard (<i>Podarcis muralis</i>).....	13
Red-eared slider (<i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>)	13
European pond terrapin (<i>Emys orbicularis</i>).....	13
Green lizard (<i>Lacerta bilineata</i>)	13
Alpine newt (<i>Mesotriton alpestris</i>)	13
Recorders	14
Living Record details	18

Amphibian and Reptile Records Overview



Map 1. Amphibian and Reptile Records 2006 to 2016

This herpetofauna report focusses on records received during the period from 2006 to 2016. Map 1 is a summary of all records (positive and negative) dated within this period submitted to the HARRN vice county Recorder, displayed at a resolution of 2 km squares. Vice counties 11 and 12 are greyed out and the Hampshire County border is shown in pink.

The number of records submitted has increased dramatically with the increased use of technology to handle biological records as shown in Figure 1. In total 19,672 records were submitted between 2006 and 2016 (11 survey seasons). We are still receiving records for within this time period, so this is not a definitive record but gives a good indication of distribution and recorder effort.

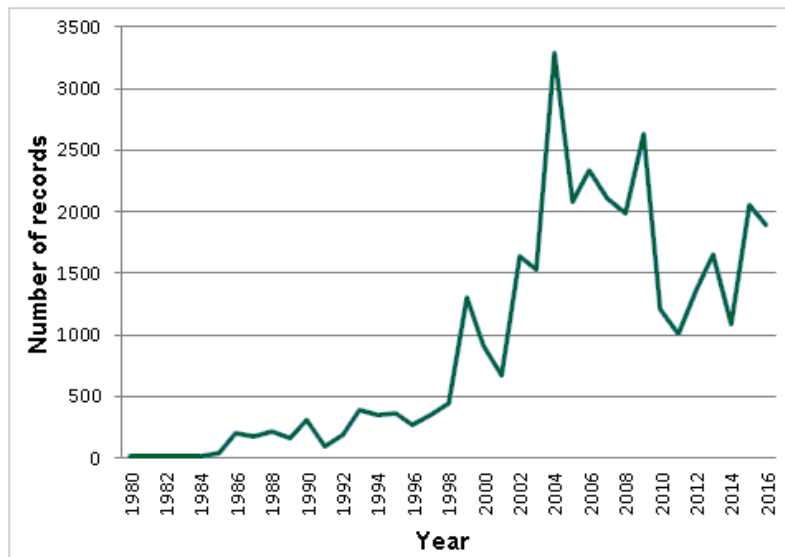
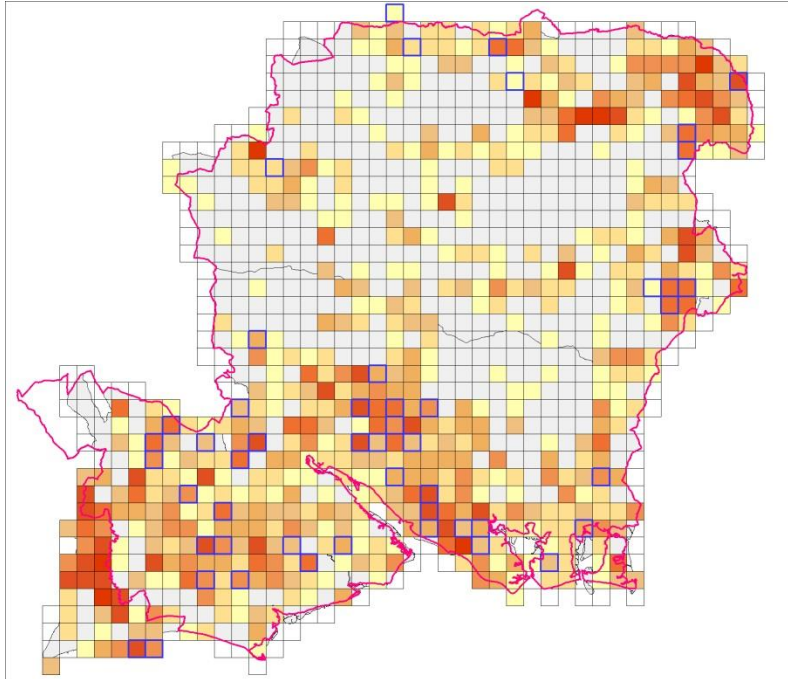


Figure 1. Biological records according to year

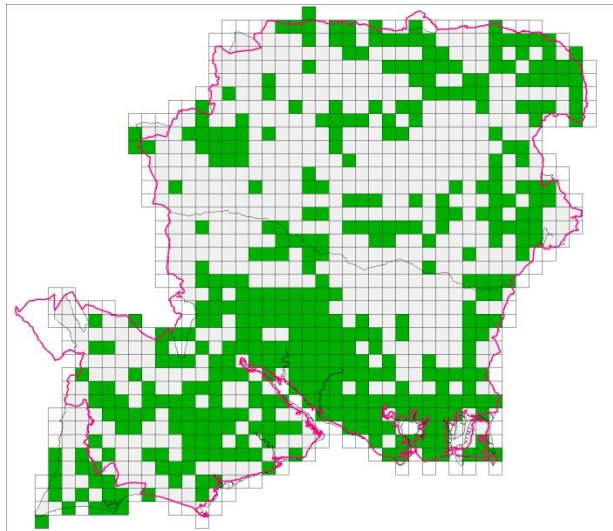


Map 2. Coincidence of records per 2km square. Darkening colour indicates increased density of records.

Recording is not even across the two vice counties and there is a huge variation in the density of records per 2km square. In Map 2, 55% (602) of the total squares have had records submitted for them between 2006 and 2016. There is a peak of 723 records in one 2km square, but most (over 50%) of the squares with presence, have 6 records or fewer associated with them. There were 571 negative records in a total of 49 squares. Presence of a negative record is indicated here by a blue outline.

Squares with few or no records show where future survey effort could be focused to ensure representative coverage of the whole county. The following pages have maps of individual species' records, where species were recorded as present between 2006 and 2016 inclusive.

Amphibian Species Distribution Maps



Map 3. Distribution of positive records for all native amphibian species in Hampshire 2006 to 2016

There were 6218 positive records of native amphibians submitted for between 2006 and 2016. As shown in Figure 2, the highest number of these was for common frog *Rana temporaria*. Although the second highest number of records was for great crested newts *Triturus cristatus*, this is likely to be due to targeted protected species surveys and associated licence returns rather than a high species presence.

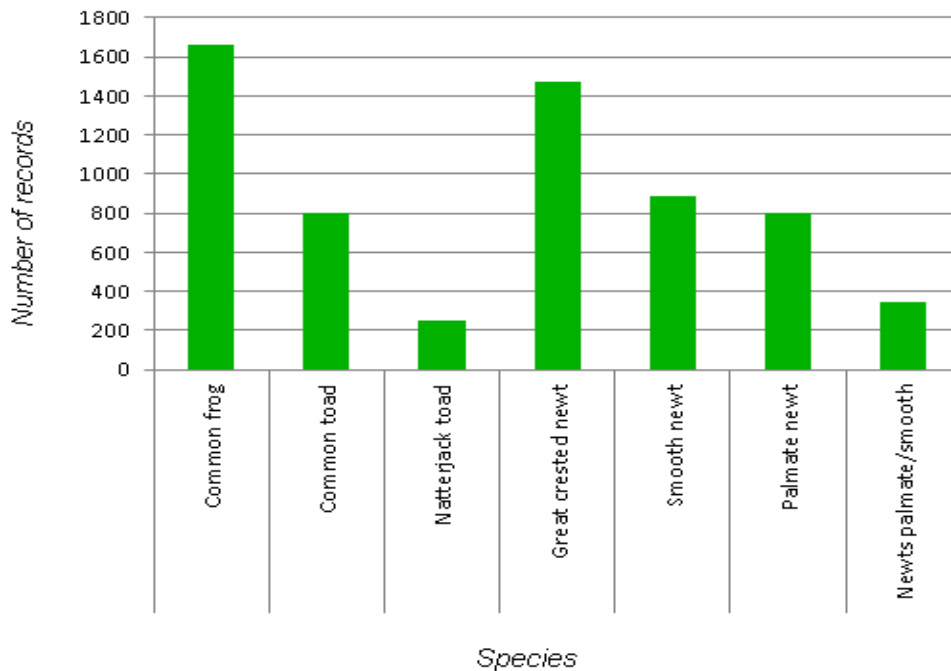
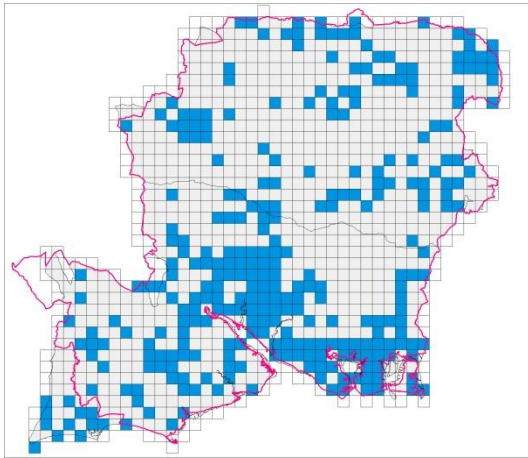


Figure 2. Numbers of native amphibian records submitted for between 2006 and 2016 according to species

Common frog (*Rana temporaria*)

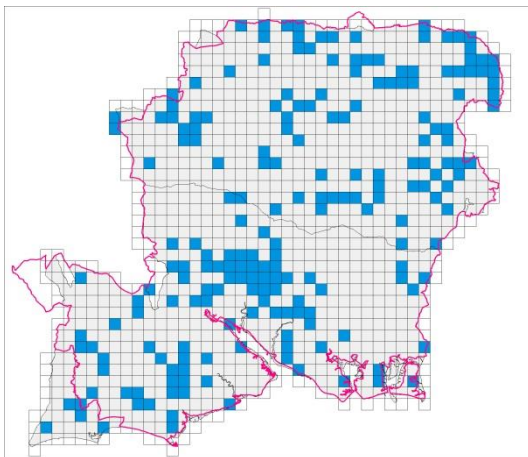


Map 4. Common frog records 2006 to 2016

The common frog is well distributed within the two vice-counties. There were 1658 positive records for common frog within the 2km squares indicated to have presence in Map 4. They were recorded in a mixture of life stages, most of the records being from the breeding time of year when they are at their most conspicuous.

It should be remembered never to transplant spawn between ponds, not least due to the risk of transferring aquatic diseases.

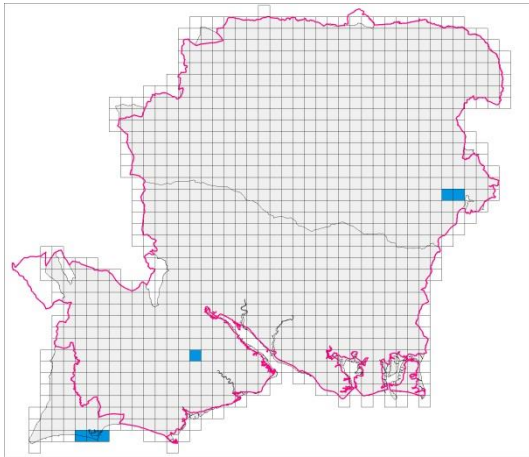
Common toad (*Bufo bufo*)



Map 5. Common toad records 2006 to 2016

There were 799 positive records between 2006 and 2016 from the areas of presence indicated in Map 5.

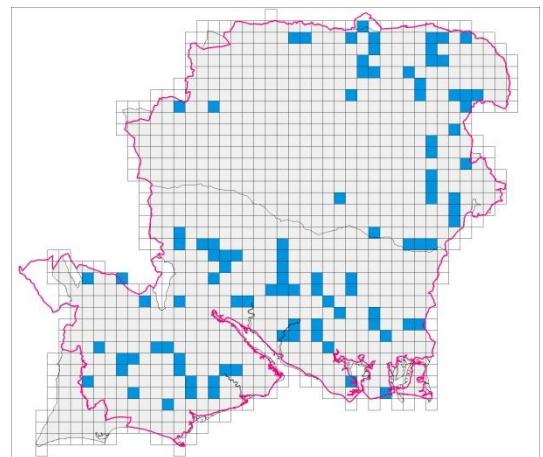
Natterjack toad (*Epidalea calamita*)



Map 6. Natterjack toad presence 2006 to 2016

There were 252 records for natterjack toads between 2006 and 2016 from the areas shown in Map 6. There is only one additional presence record in the New Forest, which is outside of the core areas of Hengistbury Head and Woolmer Forest where ARC continues to coordinate recording for this protected species. This may prove to be an erroneous record, through location or misidentification.

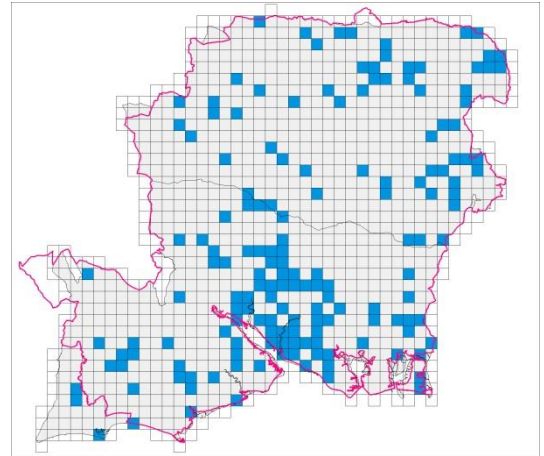
Great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*)



Map 7. Great crested newt presence 2006 to 2016

A total 1475 great crested newt records for between 2006 and 2016 were submitted for the locations shown in Map 7. In recent years, the main source of records has been as a result of an increase in the number of records submitted as part of a licence agreement.

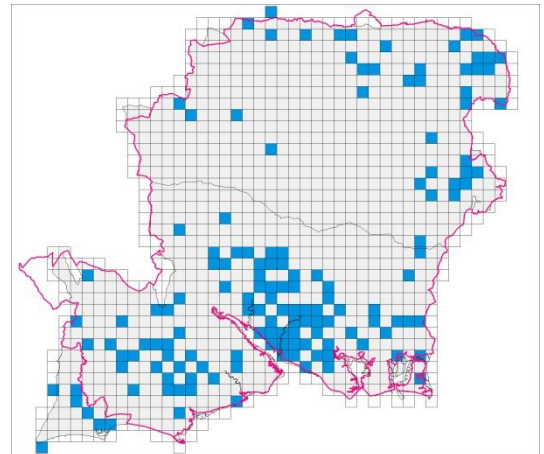
Smooth newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*)



Map 8. Smooth newt presence 2006 to 2016

There were 890 positive records for smooth newt between 2006 and 2016. The increase in records may be a side effect of increased returns when submitting great crested newt records.

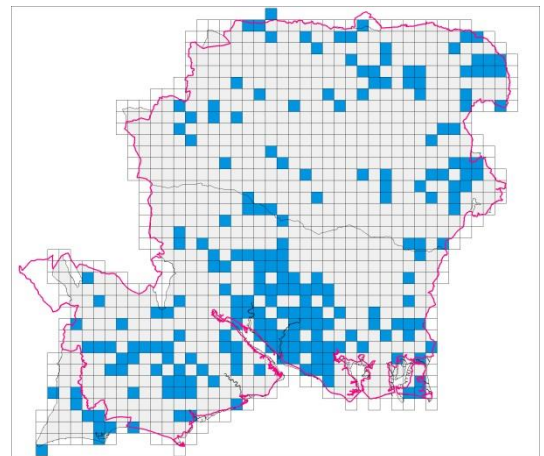
Palmate newt (*Lissotriton helveticus*)



Map 9. Palmate newt presence 2006 to 2016

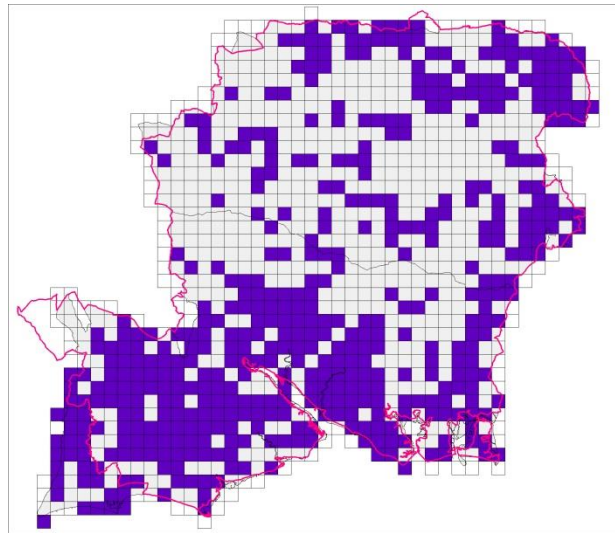
There were 797 records of palmate newt between 2006 and 2016

Unless in the hand, it is difficult to distinguish between females of smooth and palmate newts. There are additionally 346 records for small newts. Map 10 shows the combined presence for smooth, palmate and other small newt records



Map 10 Newt palmate / smooth presence 2006 to 2016

Reptile Species Distribution Maps



Map 11. Distribution of positive records for all native reptile species in Hampshire from 2006 to 2016 inclusive

There were 12,387 positive records for native reptiles submitted for between 2006 and 2016, shown in Map 11. By far the most records were submitted for slow-worm *Anguis fragilis*.

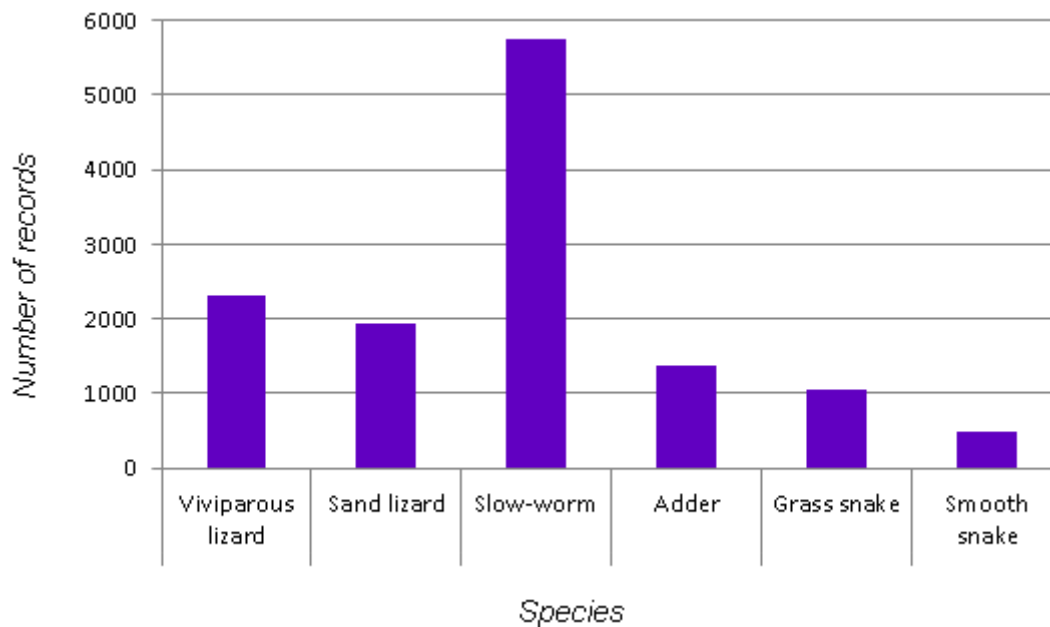
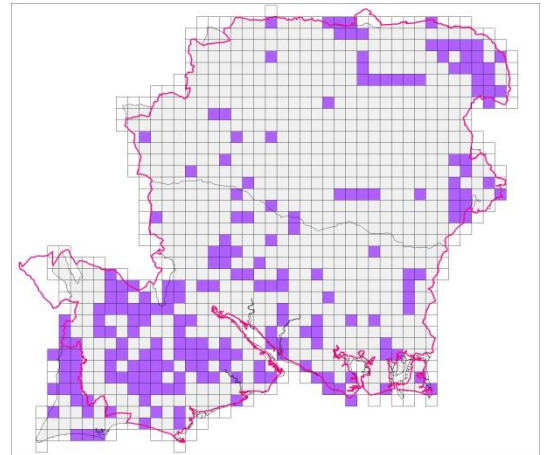


Figure 3. Numbers of native reptile records submitted 2006 to 2016 according to species

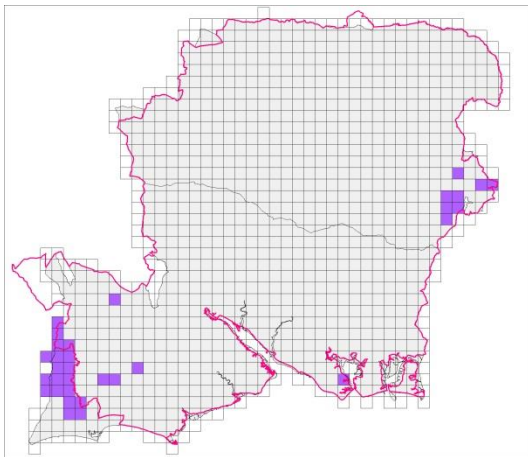
Common/Viviparous lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*)



Map 12. Common Lizard presence 2006 to 2016

There were 2297 records for common lizard, many as part of structured survey programmes. They are well spread throughout the two vice counties as shown in Map 12.

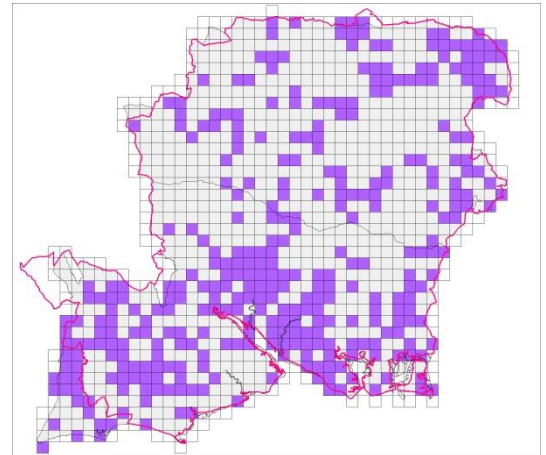
Sand lizard (*Lacerta agilis*)



Map 13. Sand lizard presence 2006 to 2016

There are 1926 records for between 2006 and 2016, mostly resulting from systematic structured surveying. The western section of this Map 13 falls outside Hampshire, but is within vice-county 11. As such, many of these records would not have been included within previous summary reports as the majority of records are from Dorset. There is a single record for Gosport for 2009 which is likely to prove erroneous.

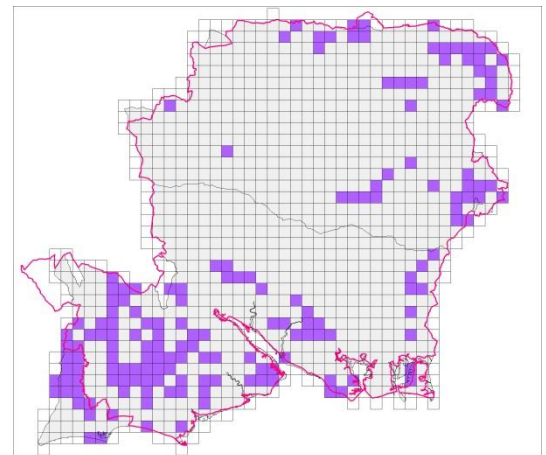
Slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*)



Map 14. Slow-worm presence 2006 to 2016

There were 5713 positive records for slow-worm for between 2006 and 2016. Slow worms are likely to be the most frequently encountered reptile as they are often found in gardens, leading to the widespread distribution of records across the county as shown in Map 14.

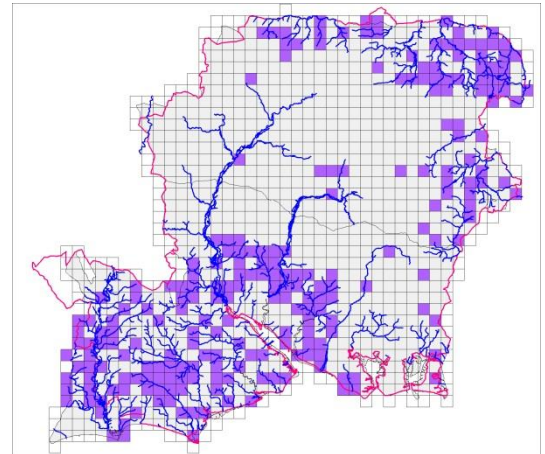
Adder (*Vipera berus*)



Map 15. Adder presence 2006 to 2016

1361 records for adder were submitted for the years 2006 to 2016. As shown in Map 15, records are strongly associated with the heathlands of Hampshire.

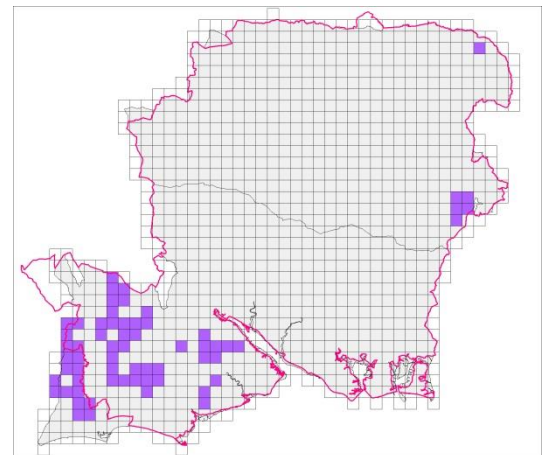
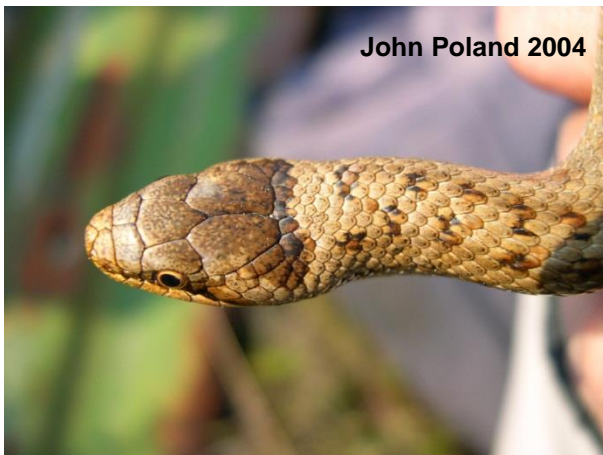
Grass snake (*Natrix natrix*)



Map 16. Grass snake presence 2006 to 2016

There were 1059 grass snake records submitted for the years 2006 to 2016. Grass snakes are strongly associated with wetland habitats. This association can be seen in Map 16 where the 2km presence and main water courses are represented together.

Smooth snake (*Coronella austriaca*)

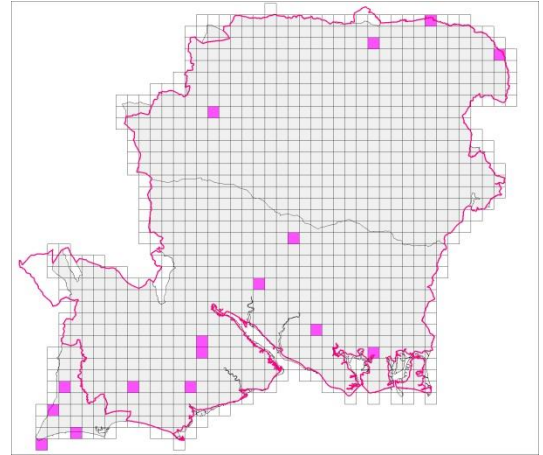


Map 17. Smooth snake presence 2006 to 2016

There were 481 smooth snake records submitted for between 2006 and 2016. There is an ongoing smooth snake survey project in the New Forest run by Amphibian and Reptile Conservation which is informing its distribution within the forest in a structured manner, as well as generating many other incidental biological records.

Alien species

There were 34 records of non-native species in the ten year period between 2006 to 2016 as shown in Map 18.



Map 18. Alien species of amphibian and reptile 2006 to 2016

Pool frog (*Pelophylax lessonae*)

There was one pool frog record in this ten year period. Originally native to the UK, although there has been one official re-introduction to a site in East Anglia, all other populations are as a result of deliberate release or escapes.

Marsh frog (*Pelophylax ridibundus*)

There were three marsh frog records from 2 neighbouring 2km squares at Shatterford Bottom in the New Forest.

Edible frog (*Pelophylax kl. esculentus*)

A hybrid between pool frog and marsh frog. There was just one edible frog record in this ten year period.

Wall lizard (*Podarcis muralis*)

There were 12 wall lizard records submitted, all from Boscombe and Bournemouth cliffs.

Red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*)

There were six red eared slider records for between 2006 and 2016.

European pond terrapin (*Emys orbicularis*)

There were three European pond terrapin records.

Green lizard (*Lacerta bilineata*)

There were seven records for green lizard on the Boscombe cliffs.

Alpine newt (*Mesotriton alpestris*)

There was one verified alpine newt record. This record is alarming as it is a known carrier for the amphibian chytrid fungus *Bd Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*

<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/factsheet/downloadFactsheet.cfm?speciesId=2215>

Recorders

Thank you to all the recorders and contributors below (plus any I've missed off the list), without whose assistance our understanding of the amphibians and reptiles of Hampshire would be considerably poorer.

If you have an amphibian or reptile record you would like to submit, please e-mail it to: HARGRecorder@hwt.org.uk; Or post it to: Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane, Curdridge, Southampton, Hampshire SO32 2DP

Alternatively enter your record onto Living Record (details on the penultimate page) and your record will also be verified before becoming part of the County and National databases.

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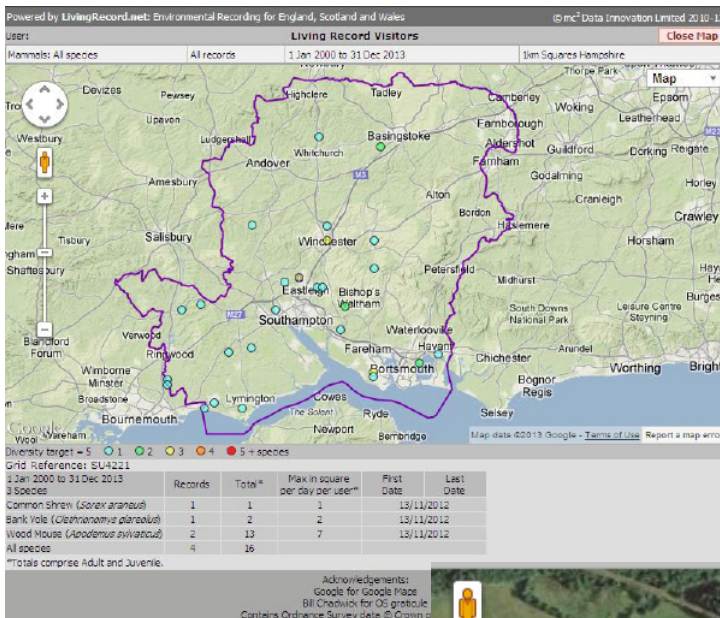
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The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) are promoting a new online system for regular recorders. The online system means that you can add all your species records in one place instead of filling in separate excel spreadsheets for each group, hopefully saving you time and allowing you to see your records easily on a map. You can view your own records as well as shared distribution maps and downloaded your records as an excel spreadsheet. The Trust reserves are also mapped so you can record sightings on our reserves. All records will still be verified by the county recorder before being sent to HBIC.



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Acknowledgements

This report is produced directly from and as a result of the recording effort of all those who have reported their observations. These verified records are now all part of the county data base available for analysis via our Local Records Centre, Hampshire Biological Records Centre (HBIC), and beyond to the National databases.

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