MOLE VALLEY NATURAL HISTORY AUDIT

AMPHIBIANS, REPTILES and WETLANDS

Compiled by Julia Wycherley
Layout Ray Tantram.
Amphibians, Reptiles and Wetlands

Wetland communities are steadily disappearing from the countryside. With changes in farming practices during this century, we have lost two-thirds of the ponds that were once in Surrey. However, in most cases the historic pond site is still present; the loss is simply due to lack of management. In Mole Valley, the National Trust has an important initiative to restore ponds and wetland features on their sites. Encouragement to initiate pond restoration schemes under other ownership would be a valuable contribution. That said, it is important that any such restoration should be undertaken with care and the best possible advice. Clearing a pond in one act will lead to serious loss of wildlife value. A more gradual approach should be taken, giving due attention to the variety of communities present. It is not only open water that is important. Marshes and wetland flushes also provide very valuable habitats and again these are fast disappearing through neglect.

In the following, we have used the numbers of species of amphibians and the numbers of species of wetland plants found, as indicators of the health of ponds and wetlands. All ponds in a selection of well delineated areas have been recorded. Changes in the numbers of, and respective health of, these ponds provide the overall indication of health of habitats for amphibians. The records have been provided by Mrs. Julia Wycherley, The Surrey Amphibian and Reptile Group, 31 The Crossways, Merstham, Surrey.
MOLE VALLEY NATURAL HISTORY AUDIT

AMPHIBIANS, REPTILES and WETLANDS

Soil type: Sandy
Site: HEADLEY HEATH
Habitat: Heathland (Heather, gorse and some trees)
Ownership: National Trust

Target Species:
F - Frog  C - Common/Smooth Newt  G - Great Crested Newt
T - Toad  P - Palmate Newt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pond</th>
<th>Map Ref:</th>
<th>Species</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aspen Pond</td>
<td>TQ201533</td>
<td>F T C P G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bellamoss</td>
<td>TQ202536</td>
<td>F T C P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brimmer</td>
<td>TQ204541</td>
<td>F C G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>TQ201536</td>
<td>F T C P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heath House</td>
<td>TQ204541</td>
<td>F C P G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hopeful</td>
<td>TQ205532</td>
<td>F C G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church</td>
<td>TQ201533</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: When two ponds share the same map reference, only the first is marked on the
map.

Plants
Of 55 wetland species identified, the ponds have varied communities

Aspen 21 species
Belamoss 9
Brimmer 20
Brown 16
Church 15 (inc. garden var.)
Heath House 18
Hopeful 18

Damasonium alisma - the very rare Starfruit is also recorded.

Apium inundatum - Least Marshwort ("local and decreasing") is recorded.

Myriophyllum alterniflorum - Alternate-flowered Water-milfoil present & rare.

Slow-worms, Grassnakes and Adders (2) recorded.
MOLE VALLEY NATURAL HISTORY AUDIT

AMPHIBIANS, REPTILES and WETLANDS

Soil type: Wealden Clay
Site: HOLMWOOD COMMON
Habitat: Deciduous Woodland, some open grassland
Ownership: National Trust
### Target Species:

- **F** - Frog
- **C** - Common/Smooth Newt
- **G** - Great Crested Newt
- **T** - Toad
- **P** - Palmate Newt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pond</th>
<th>Map. Ref.</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Species</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Halls Spring</td>
<td>TQ169474</td>
<td>reasonable</td>
<td>F T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Church</td>
<td>TQ169472</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>F C P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Bonds Lane</td>
<td>TQ168463</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>F T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Mid Holmwood</td>
<td>TQ167460</td>
<td>lost</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Redlands Bank</td>
<td>TQ167458</td>
<td>Marsh</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Went</td>
<td>TQ180454</td>
<td>lost</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Eutree</td>
<td>TQ179455</td>
<td>overgrown</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Fourwents</td>
<td>TQ184454</td>
<td>heavily used</td>
<td>T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Temporary</td>
<td>TQ182456</td>
<td>overgrown</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Waterlands</td>
<td>TQ184457</td>
<td>shaded</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Brooklodge</td>
<td>TQ184459</td>
<td>polluted</td>
<td>F C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Blackbrook</td>
<td>TQ181468</td>
<td>lost</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*13. Gowan lodge</td>
<td>TQ172466</td>
<td>very good</td>
<td>F T C P G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Oak Tree</td>
<td>TQ180469</td>
<td>shaded</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Amphibians recorded.** Pond 13 is best with 5 amphibian spp. Very few ponds in Surrey have 5.

Best ponds for wetland plant species:

1. Halls Spring - 21 spp.
2. Church - 17
3. Bonds Lane - 23
4. Redlands Bank - 16
5. Fourwents - 20
6. Waterlands - 20
7. Marsh Thistle - 19 (TQ184455)

**Also Grass Snake reported.**
MOLE VALLEY NATURAL HISTORY AUDIT

AMPHIBIANS, REPTILES and WETLANDS

Soil type: Sandy
Site: LEITH HILL
Habitat: Heathland, some mixed coniferous/deciduous woodland
Ownership: National Trust
1. Valley Flush  TQ169474
   - Common Lizard
   - plants - sphagnum sp.

2. Broadmoor wetland flush  TQ141446
   - Seepage areas - rare mosses and liverworts
   * needs special study
   - Pellia epiphylla
   - Trichocolea tomentella - v. rare and only one previous record of this liverwort in Surrey.
   - Frogs
   - Grass snakes

3. Hill Pond  TQ130426
   - F P  Edible Frog (R. esculenta)
   Good for grasshoppers in surrounding area. Needs special survey.

4. Pasture Pond  TQ132425

5. Plantation Pond  TQ129423
   - Large wetland area in need of management.

6. Field Pond  TQ135420
   - Very poor water condition, needs management.

Mole Valley Agenda 21, Nature Conservation Sub-Group
MOLE VALLEY NATURAL HISTORY AUDIT

AMPHIBIANS, REPTILES and WETLANDS

Soil type: London Clay
Site: BOOKHAM COMMONS
Habitat: Mixed deciduous woodland, open grassland

Target Species:
F - Frog  C - Common/Smooth Newt  G - Great Crested Newt
T - Toad  P - Palmate Newt

22 ponds and wetland flushes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pond</th>
<th>Map ref.</th>
<th>Species</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Sheepbell</td>
<td>TQ13235694</td>
<td>F C P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Kelsey</td>
<td>TQ127571</td>
<td>C P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Crater</td>
<td>TQ123564</td>
<td>F C P G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Penny Royal</td>
<td>TQ130559</td>
<td>C P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Bayfield</td>
<td>TQ123558</td>
<td>C P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Upper Eastern</td>
<td>TQ131563</td>
<td>F T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Lower Eastern</td>
<td>TQ130562</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Eastern Hollow</td>
<td>TQ12855620</td>
<td>T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Western Hollow</td>
<td>TQ127562</td>
<td>T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Hanleys</td>
<td>TQ126562</td>
<td>T</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Also recorded: Grass snakes, Adders.

A total of 23 wetland areas identified. Contain areas of wet marsh - rare in Surrey.

Plant communities. Best for plant communities are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sheepbell</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>TQ13235694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelseys</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>TQ127571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penny Royal/Commonside</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>TQ130559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bayfield</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>TQ123558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Eastern (12)</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>TQ131563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flush 12-13</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>TQ131563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Eastern (13)</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>TQ130562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flush 13-14</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>TQ129562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Hollow (14)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>TQ12855620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Hollow (15)</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>TQ127562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flush 15-16</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>TQ12715625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flush W of 16</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>TQ12605620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manor Marsh</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>TQ125560</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Newdigate**

TQ215422 G T F C
Also: Italian Crested Newt, Alpine Newt

In addition, Edible-Pool, green frog complex (Rana esculenta - Rana lessonae)
*R. esculenta & R. lessonae*
Also recorded in many ponds in Capel - Brockham area. Associated spread via tributaries of Be????brook to River Mole. Reporting requested as we are monitoring spread. Expect Dorking northwards in 1996, 1997. Have reached Salfords, Horley, Gatwick!

**The Drift, East Horsley**

Major Toad crossing
Frogs
Common Newt
Great Crested Newt

- also Effingham Common Road needs a Toad sign.

**Ashtead Park**

Great Crested Newts at ponds
TQ192584 1995
TQ194586 1995
### Reptiles

**Vipera berus** (*Adder*)
- Outdowns? Effingham, TQ108519, 1988
  - Ranmore Common, TQ142503, 1989
  - Nower Wood N.R., TQ190545, 1990
  - Leatherhead, TQ174535, 1988

**Natrix natrix** (*Grass snake*)
- Newdigate Brickpits, TQ205425, 1983
  - Ashtead Common, TQ183608, 1989
  - Outdowns Effingham, TQ108529
  - Nower Wood, TQ190549, 1989

**Lacerta vivipera** (*Common Lizard*)
- Ashtead Common, TQ178600, 1991
  - Ranmore Common, TQ142504, 1991
  - Holmwood Common, TQ1645, 1987
  - Headley, TQ205538, 1984
  - Outdowns, Effingham, TQ108519, 1988
  - Westcott
    - TQ132497
    - TQ133498
    - TQ127494
    - TQ130484

**Anguis fragilis** (*Slow worm*)
- Leatherhead, TQ174535, 1990
  - Outdowns, Effingham, TQ108519, 1988
  - Ashtead Allotments, TQ182575, 1995-97