

## Reptiles and Amphibians

### Reptiles:

- are easily recognised by their dry, scaly skin.
- need warm sites to deposit their eggs or retain the eggs inside their body and give birth to live young.

### Amphibians:

- have moist skin and lack scales.
- need fresh water in which to spawn or deposit their eggs.

### Reptiles and amphibians:

- have variable temperatures and gain heat by basking in the sun.
- live close to the temperature of the air or water that surrounds them.
- play an important part in ecological communities and are valuable indicators of environmental change.



Common Toad, Nigel Clemons



## About Warwickshire Amphibian & Reptile Team (WART)

WART works in partnership with the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and is affiliated to the Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the UK (ARG-UK).

Data is collected throughout the county, recording species and numbers of amphibians and reptiles present and shared with the Warwickshire Biological Records Centre (WBRC).

A full programme of events is organised for members on herpetological issues, including workshops, informative talks, survey techniques and habitat management work.



Male Adder, Jan Clemons



# Warwickshire Amphibian & Reptile Team

Helping Native  
Amphibians and Reptiles  
in Warwickshire

[www.arguk.org](http://www.arguk.org)

Then go to local groups section for Warwickshire  
[www.facebook.com/groups/wartsoc](https://www.facebook.com/groups/wartsoc)

## Join the Warwickshire Amphibian and Reptile Team

Minimum membership donation £5 pa  
Please make cheques payable to WART

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

.....

Postcode:.....

Telephone:.....

Email:.....

The newsletter is only available by email.  
If you change your email address please  
let us know.

If you are under 18 please obtain  
signature of parent or guardian.

### Donations

I do not wish to be actively involved but  
would like to make a donation of £.....

Please send completed membership  
application with your donation to:

Jan Clemons

WART membership secretary

8 Carthusian Road

Coventry CV3 6HA

### In Decline

Numbers of reptiles and amphibians continue  
to decline. The threats facing them include:

- Habitat loss through urbanisation,  
intensive agriculture and degradation
- Pollution
- Persecution
- Changes in land management
- Ponds being filled in
- Important breeding sites being destroyed
- Build up of insecticides in their bodies  
which has a toxic effect and deprives  
them of their insect prey.

### In Warwickshire

Warwickshire has:

- 4 of Britain's 6 amphibian species - Common  
Frog, Common Toad, Smooth Newt and  
Great Crested Newt.
- 3 of Britain's 6 reptile species - Slow-worm,  
Grass Snake and Common Lizard.

WART's survey work is ongoing for finding  
Adder and Palmate Newt in the county.

Visit [www.arguk.org](http://www.arguk.org) & [www.facebook.com/  
groups/wartsoc](http://www.facebook.com/groups/wartsoc) for more information



Slow-worms, Nigel Clemons

### The Law

Since the introduction of the Wildlife  
and Countryside Act of 1981 all native  
species receive some degree of  
protection. In Warwickshire full  
protection applies to the great crested  
newt. It is illegal to kill, take or injure  
them or knowingly destroy or damage  
any place used by them for shelter or  
protection. A licence is needed to  
catch them.

The grass snake, adder, common lizard  
and slowworm are protected from  
killing, injuring or sale.

Least protection is given to the  
common frog, common toad and smooth  
newt.

### What can you do to help?

- Join WART using the form opposite.
- Tell us where you have seen amphibians  
and reptiles. Email:  
[recordswart@gmail.com](mailto:recordswart@gmail.com). Up to date  
records are urgently needed to enable us  
to find the current distributions in  
Warwickshire.
- Learn to identify the different species  
to help us map species distribution and  
population density. If you need any help  
please contact us.