



# ARG UK

## Herpetofauna Workers' Meeting 2009

Saturday 31 January to Sunday 1 February 2009

The Dunes Conference Complex, Pontin's Blackpool,  
Clifton Drive North, Lytham St. Annes, Lancashire FY8 2SX

### Saturday 31 January

#### Morning session. Chair: Tony Gent (The HCT)

- 10.00-10.30 Registration and coffee.  
10.30-10.35 Welcome address. Jan Clemons, ARG UK.  
10.35-11.00 *Occupancy modelling in amphibian surveys.* David Sewell (Durrell Institute of Conservation Ecology).  
11.00-11.25 *NARRS update.* John Wilkinson (The Herpetological Conservation Trust).  
11.25-11.50 *Caught in a trap.* Barry Kemp (Barry Kemp Conservation Ltd.) and Brian Banks (Swift Ecology).  
11.50-12.15 *Five years of the Herefordshire Ponds Project.* Will Watson (Herefordshire ART).  
12.15-12.35 *Million Ponds Project and 100% Fund.* David Orchard (The HCT/Pond Conservation).

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12.35-13.45 Lunch

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#### Afternoon session 1. Chair: Kathy Wormald (Froglife)

- 13.45-14.10 *Chytrid update.* Andrew Cunningham (Institute of Zoology).  
14.10-14.35 *Ranavirus in the common frog.* Amber Teacher (Institute of Zoology).  
14.35-15.00 *Raising the profile of reptiles in habitat management.* Jim Foster (Natural England).  
15.00-15.25 *The coolest lizard...thermal ecology of the slow-worm.* Neil Roberts (Liverpool John Moores University).

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15.25-15.55 Tea/Coffee

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#### Afternoon session 2. Chair: Jan Clemons (ARG UK)

- 15.55-16.20 *Changes to the planning system – IAPP and Local Development Frameworks.* Rachel Hardy (Eastleigh Borough Council).  
16.20-16.45 *Reptile mitigation - Conservation or death by thousand cuts?* Jon Cranfield (Herpetologic Ltd.)  
16.45-17.10 *So what about the other 132 British herp species?* Paul Edgar.

17.15-18.15 ARG UK AGM

#### Social evening

- 19.00 Evening meal  
20.30-21.30 International Amphibian Conservation. Andrew Gray (Manchester University).  
21.30 Bar

This conference has kindly been sponsored by:



## **Sunday 1 February Workshops**

09.30-11.00	Workshop/training session 1
11.00-11.30	<i>Tea/coffee</i>
11.30-12.45	Workshop/training session 2
12.45 -14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
14.00-15.30	Workshop/training session 3
15.30-15.45	Review of the weekend and close
15.45-16.00	<i>Coffee</i>

### **1. Using the media to further amphibian and reptile conservation (leaders: Jim Foster, Natural England and Julian Howard, Froglife)**

Public understanding of herps is strongly influenced by the media, and this can have a real impact on conservation. As ARG members, you may get involved in media work, as journalists often want comments from local specialists. This workshop will give some practical tips about both proactive and reactive media work, using real examples. The workshop will cover:

- setting objectives (e.g. changing attitudes; requesting sightings; attracting people to ARG events)
- drafting a press release for local media, and pitching your story
- dealing with radio, television, print and internet journalism
- responses to common media enquiries (e.g. adder bite; development and protected species; why conserve herps?)
- monitoring and evaluating responses.

### **2. Raising the profile of your ARG (leaders: Jan Clemons and Peter Leach, ARG UK)**

Is your ARG group recognised as an authority on amphibians and reptiles in your county? The theme of this workshop is how to achieve this status and be the 'one-stop shop' for matters herpetological in your region by sharing good practice and providing workable strategies so your group has its unique identity, source of income, effective participation and can engage positively with the public.

### **3. ARG engagement with BAP (leaders: Dorothy Wright and John Baker, The HCT)**

Biodiversity Action Planning guides conservation work. This workshop will examine how ARGs can engage with the BAP process.

### **4. Working towards best practice in reptile mitigation (leader: Chris Gleed-Owen)**

Standards of work within reptile mitigation projects are variable. This workshop will draw on shared experience to recommend best practice standards.

### **5. Pond creation (leaders: Pascale Nicolet, Rebecca Cleaver, David Orchard, Pond Conservation)**

A look at pond design and creation, with some emphasis on creating amphibian ponds which also deliver other biodiversity gains e.g. for invertebrates. An opportunity to share the experience, pass on information gathered in the last few years, and dispel the persistent pond myths that still pervade many pond schemes. The workshop will also launch a new pond creation toolkit.