

SARG Guide

Surrey Amphibian and Reptile Group



SARG Amphibian Surveyor's Guide ***Using SARGWEB***



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Contents

The SARG Amphibian Surveyor's Guide to SARGWEB	3
1. Introduction.....	3
2. Where and when to survey	3
3. Survey Direction on the SARG Amphibian Survey Web Pages	3
4. Conducting the Amphibian Survey.....	6
5. Reporting your Survey Results.....	6
6. Correcting Errors	9
7. Additional Help	9
8. Other Useful Guides for Amphibian Surveyors.....	9

The SARG Amphibian Surveyor's Guide to SARGWEB

1. Introduction

1.1. This guide describes the use of the online direction, guidance and reporting system used by SARG amphibian surveyors.

2. Where and when to survey

2.1. To deal with the *when* question first, you can survey any of the core survey ponds at any time of the year, and in any meteorological conditions. The data you collect (including negative records) will help to build our picture of amphibian activity and detectability. Of course you will only reliably see amphibians at certain times of the year, and in certain weather conditions, however; negative surveys are still very important to us.

2.2. At the time of writing, the SARG survey system comprises around 30 sites across Surrey. Surveyors can choose whichever pond they prefer to survey, but should be guided by the SARG amphibian survey web pages, so that we do not over-survey some sites, at the expense of others. Over survey can also cause damage to the habitat and undue disturbance to the animals.

3. Survey Direction on the SARG Amphibian Survey Web Pages

3.1. On any SARG web page (<http://surrey-arg.org.uk>), click on the *Members Area* tab on the menu bar. You will need to log on to the system, which will also check your membership status.

3.2. Once you have logged on, you will see your membership menu. If you are recorded as a SARG amphibian surveyor, you will see an *Amphibian Surveyors* icon. Click this to enter the *Amphibian Survey Menu*.



- 3.3. Your *Amphibian Surveyors Menu* will look different to the image below if you do not have a Great Crested Newt licence, or are not an accredited agent on the SARG GCN licence.

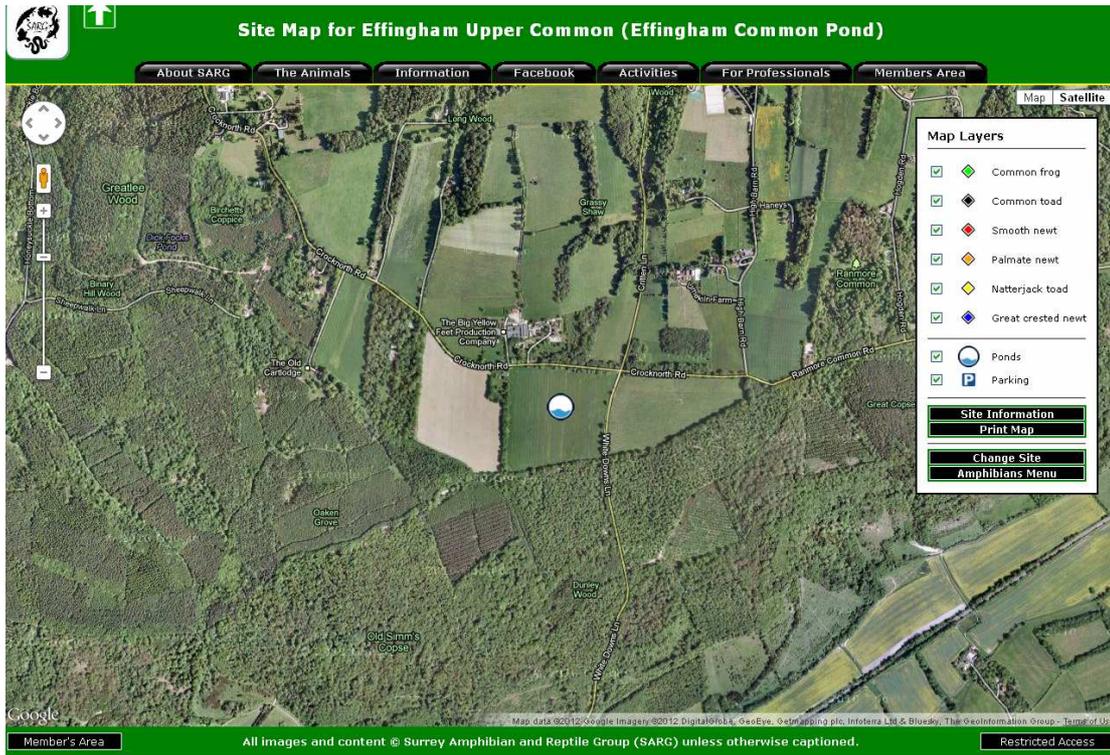


- 3.4. Click on the *Amphibian Survey Core Sites* icon.
- 3.5. You will see a list of amphibian survey sites, listed by County District. Site names in red have been heavily surveyed, and you should avoid surveying these sites if possible. Site names in green have been lightly surveyed, and please treat these sites as a priority.

Guildford (Surrey)		
Site name	No. surveys in year	Last Surveyed
Effingham Upper Common (Effingham Common Pond)	0	Never Surveyed
Riverside Nature Reserve (Boardwalk Pond)	0	Never Surveyed
Riverside Nature Reserve (Watermeadow Pond)	0	Never Surveyed

Mole Valley (Surrey)		
Site name	No. surveys in year	Last Surveyed
Headley Heath (Brimmer Pond)	0	16 April 2011
Headley Heath (Aspen Pond)	0	03 April 2011
Headley Heath (Heath House Pond)	0	16 April 2011
Headley Heath (Bellamoss Pond)	0	16 April 2011
Headley Heath (Hopeful Pond)	0	16 April 2011
Headley Heath (Brown Pond)	0	16 April 2011
Leth Hill (Pasture Pond)	0	10 April 2011
Leth Hill (Landslip Pond)	0	10 April 2011
Ranmore Common (Roadside pond)	0	Never Surveyed

3.6. Click on the site name to see the site map.



3.7. The map shows pond locations, parking places and the known amphibian distributions for the site. You should always click on the *Site Information* button of the site map, to see whether there are any access restrictions or special sensitivities for the site.

Site Information: Headley Heath (Heath House Pond)

About SARG | The Animals | Information | Facebook | Activities | For Professionals | Members Area

Site Name: Headley Heath Site Key: 32
 Sub-site: Heath House Pond Site Owner: National Trust
 County: Surrey Site Manager: Mark Dawson
 Vice County: 17 Manager Contact: 01372375552 or 07770887674
 District: Mole Valley

Site Access: Site Sensitivities: Next to Heath House so be aware of shining torches which may disturb the residents. Survey Focus:

Site Information:

Amphibian species known to be present at Headley Heath (Heath House Pond)				
Species	Status	Number seen	Last sighting	Surveyor
Common frog:	Not Recorded	0	N/A	N/A
Common toad:	Not Recorded	0	N/A	N/A
Natterjack toad:	Not Recorded	0	N/A	N/A
Smooth newt:	Not Recorded	0	N/A	N/A
Palmate newt:	Not Recorded	0	N/A	N/A
Great crested newt:	Present	11	April 2014	Paul Whitehead

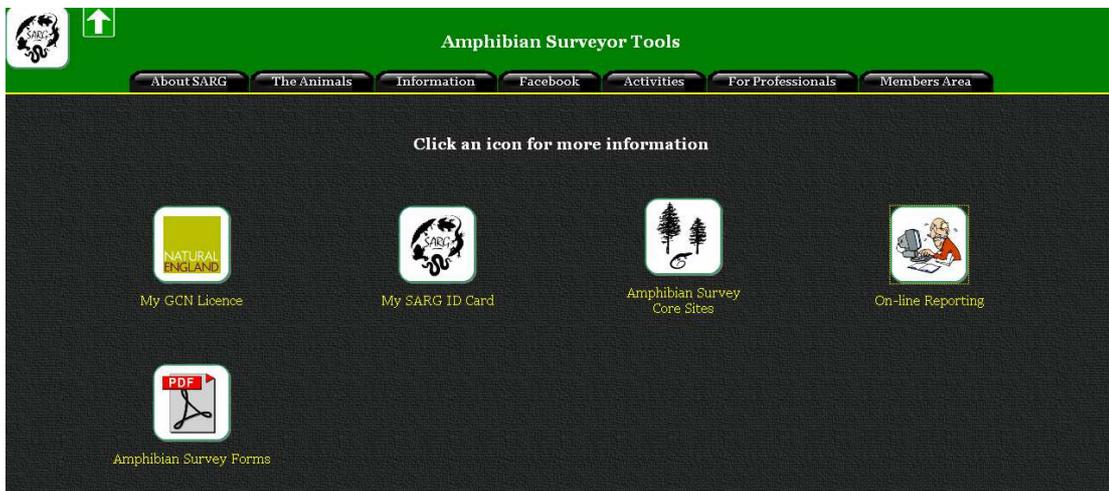
Member's Area All images and content © Surrey Amphibian and Reptile Group (SARG) unless otherwise captioned. Restricted Access

4. Conducting the Amphibian Survey

- 4.1. Guidance on how to conduct and record your survey can be found in the companion guide: *SARG Amphibian Surveyor's Guide, Conducting an Amphibian Survey*.

5. Reporting your Survey Results

- 5.1. The data you generate can only be used for the conservation benefit of the species if it is reported. By reporting your survey via the SARG web reporting system, we can automatically add data such as weather conditions, and use your information to improve our statistics and distribution maps. This added value is vital for land managers when drafting their site management plans. Without suitable habitat, we would have no wild amphibian species.
- 5.2. On the *Amphibian Surveyor's Menu*, click on the *On-line Reporting* icon.



- 5.3. Then select the *On-line Reporting (Formal survey - core sites)* icon.



- 5.4. This will bring you to the site details reporting page. The system should know who you are (as you are logged in), and you will need to select the site you surveyed from the pull-down list. You should also select the type of survey that was conducted. Using the icon next to the date entry, select the date that you surveyed the site. Enter your time *on* (the time you started the survey) and the time *off* (end of survey). These times are

important, as we need them to calculate the weather conditions, and to generate the survey effort statistics, which allow us to calculate observability of amphibian species at the site.

The screenshot shows the 'Amphibian Survey Reporting' interface. At the top, there is a green header with the SARG logo and navigation buttons: 'About SARG', 'The Animals', 'Information', 'Facebook', 'Activities', 'For Professionals', and 'Members Area'. Below the header, the title 'Step 1 - Enter Survey Description' is displayed. A sub-header explains the form's purpose: 'This form is for reporting results from formal amphibian surveys at core sites only. For visual sightings at other sites use the [Sightings Report Form](#).' The form contains several input fields: 'Name of Surveyor:' (Steve Langham), 'Email of Surveyor:' (steve@surrey-arg.org.uk), 'Name of Site:' (a dropdown menu showing 'Ranmore Common'), 'Name of Pond/Subsite:' (a dropdown menu showing 'Roadside pond'), and 'Type of Survey:' (a dropdown menu with options: 'Toad Crossing', 'Daylight Visual', 'Torchlight', 'Bottle Trap', 'Netting'). There are also fields for 'Date of Survey:' and 'Start time of Survey:' (with a note '(24hr Local) Eg 10:15'). A 'Submit Details' button is highlighted in green, and a 'Cancel' button is in red.

5.5. Click on the *Submit Details* button to progress to the page where sightings (and negative records) can be recorded.

5.6. On the *Step 2* screen, fill in any of the white boxes that were relevant for your survey.

The screenshot shows the 'Amphibian Survey Report' interface. At the top, there is a green header with the SARG logo and navigation buttons: 'About SARG', 'The Animals', 'Information', 'Facebook', 'Activities', 'For Professionals', and 'Members Area'. Below the header, the title 'Step 2 - Enter numbers of amphibians observed in the appropriate cell' is displayed. A sub-header explains the form's purpose: 'Records from the Torchlight survey of Ranmore Common (Roadside pond) by Steve Langham (steve@surrey-arg.org.uk) on 14 April 2012 between 22:00 and 23:00'. The form contains a table with columns for 'Species', 'Adults' (subdivided into 'Male', 'Female', 'Unknown'), 'Juveniles', 'Larvae', 'Eggs*', 'Corpses', and 'Total'. The table is filled with data for various species. Below the table, there is a 'Survey Comments (optional):' field. A note at the bottom states: '*For toad spawn, enter estimated length of string in metres. For frog spawn enter estimated area of spawn in square metres. One frog spawn clump ≈ 0.01m².' At the bottom, there are three buttons: 'Back' (grey), 'Submit Sightings' (green), and 'Cancel' (red).

Species	Adults			Juveniles	Larvae	Eggs*	Corpses	Total
	Male	Female	Unknown					
Common toad			5					5
Natterjack toad								
Great crested newt	1	1						2
Smooth newt	3							3
Palmate newt								
Unidentified newt			4					4
Common frog								
Water frog								
Unidentified frog/toad								
Survey Comments (optional):								

- 5.7. When you have completed entering your animal sightings, click on the green *Submit Sightings* button to move on to the *Step 3* screen, where you can add additional survey details.

The screenshot shows the 'Amphibian Survey Report' page with a green header and a dark grey main area. The title is 'Amphibian Survey Report'. Below the header are navigation tabs: 'About SARG', 'The Animals', 'Information', 'Facebook', 'Activities', 'For Professionals', and 'Members Area'. The main content area is titled 'Additional Survey Details' and contains the following information:

Records from the Torchlight survey of Fanmore Common (Roadside pond)
by Steve Langham (steve@surrey-arg.org.uk) on 14 April 2012 between 22:00 and 23:00

Water turbidity
How clear was the water (if applicable)?

- N/a
- Crystal clear
- Can see the bottom > 1m from edge
- Can see the bottom < 1m from edge
- Cannot see the bottom

Other species observed

- Fish present
- Waterfowl present
- Invertebrates present

Proportion of edge surveyed
How much of the pond edge was surveyed (if applicable)?

- N/a
- Less than half
- About half
- More than half
- All

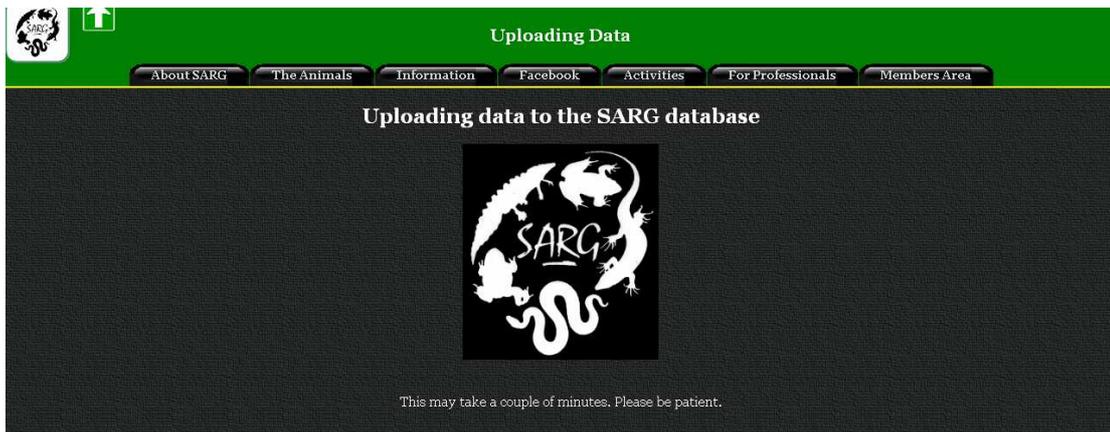
Species fields:

- Fish species:
- Waterfowl species:
- Invertebrates species:

At the bottom of the form are two buttons: a green 'Submit Details' button and a red 'Cancel' button.

Footer: Members Area | All images and content © Surrey Amphibian and Reptile Group (SARG) unless otherwise captioned. | Restricted Access

- 5.8. When complete, click on the green *Submit Details* button. The website will now process your data and add additional data, such as the weather conditions. This may take a few seconds to complete.



- 5.9. You will then be shown the final report table. This table will also be emailed to you at your registered email address (as shown on the report table).

Amphibian Survey - Record Archiving

About SARG | The Animals | Information | Facebook | Activities | For Professionals | Members Area

Survey Records Submission

Records from the Torchlight survey of Ranmore Common (Roadside pond)
by Steve Langham (steve@surrey-arg.org.uk) on 14 April 2012 between 22:00 and 23:00

Survey Results

Site name and location: Ranmore Common (Roadside pond) OSGB local grid reference: TQ1391550402

Amphibian Species	Adults			Juveniles	Larvae	Eggs	Corpses	Total
	Male	Female	Unknown					
Common toad			5					5
Natterjack toad								0
Great crested newt	1	1						2
Smooth newt	3							3
Palmate newt								0
Unidentified newt			4					4
Common frog								0
Water frog								0
Unidentified frog/toad								0

Comments

Other Species	Presence	Identified species
Fish	Not observed	
Invertebrates	Present	Dragonfly larvae, Great diving beetle
Waterfowl	Present	Mallard pair

Survey Conditions

Record card: SARG/77/127/2012041422:00 Water clarity: Turbid Proportion of edge surveyed: Less than half

6. Correcting Errors

- 6.1. If you note any errors on your survey submission, please let the SARG Amphibians Officer (Danial) know by email (danial@surrey-arg.org.uk).

7. Additional Help

- 7.1. If you require any additional help with the use of the website for amphibian surveyors, please contact either Steve (steve@surrey-arg.org.uk) or Danial (danial@surrey-arg.org.uk).

8. Other Useful Guides for Amphibian Surveyors

- SARG GPS User's Guide
- SARG Guide to Conducting an Amphibian Survey

Downloadable at:

<http://www.surrey-arg.org.uk/SARG/07000-Publications/SARGdocsMenu.asp?DocType=Guides>