

Frog, Toad and Newt Survey around Rochdale Borough and Surrounding Areas

The project took place over February and March 2017 when members of Rochdale Field Naturalists were asked to note the date that they first observed frogs, toads or newt spawn.

The aim of the survey was to record where the amphibians occurred and to note the time of spawning, and where possible to compare this with previous data held by the society.

Eighteen people sent in their sightings from 20 sites. The results are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Records for Frog, Toad and Newt Survey					
Taxon	Vernacular	Site	Grid Ref	Date	Stage
FROGS					
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	Garden Site Rochdale	SD896149	Feb-17	Adults
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	Garden Site Rochdale	SD883136	12-Mar-17	Adult
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	Healey Dell SBI	SD877157	9-Mar-17	Adults
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	Garden Site Royton	SD912070	Feb-17	Not recorded
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	Garden Site Heywood	SD845105	Feb-17	Not recorded
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	Garden Site Milnrow	SD926133	15-Feb-17	Not recorded
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	Garden Site Heywood	SD845105	Mar-17	Not recorded
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	Garden Site Rochdale	SD896149	Mar-17	Not recorded
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	Garden Site Rochdale	SD865132	Mar-17	Not recorded
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	Garden Site Milnrow	SD935128	Mar-17	Not recorded
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	Garden Site Rochdale	SD906115	9-Mar-17	Not recorded
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	Field to South of Gristlehurst Wood	SD847115	22-Feb-17	Spawn
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	Garden Site Heywood	SD845105	25-Feb-17	Spawn
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	Wardle	SD913170	8-Mar-17	Spawn
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	Garden Site Rochdale	SD883136	12-Mar-17	Spawn
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	Garden Site Milnrow	SD926133	13-Mar-17	Spawn
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	Garden Site Milnrow	SD935128	15-Mar-17	Spawn

Rana temporaria	Common Frog	Rochdale Canal Scowcroft Farm - Warland SBI	SD912126	16-Mar-17	Spawn
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	Tandle Hill Country Park SBI	SD903087	19-Mar-17	Spawn
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	Healey Dell SBI	SD877157	26-Mar-17	Spawn
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	Garden Site Todmorden	SD960247	31-Mar-17	Spawn
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	Garden Site Todmorden	SD960247	Mar-17	Spawn
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	Garden Site Rochdale	SD906115	Apr-17	Tadpole
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	Garden Site Rochdale	SD896149	2-Apr-17	Tadpole
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	Hollingworth Lake	SD944131	17-Apr	Tadpole
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	Healey Dell	SD877157	17-Apr	Tadpole
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	Garden Site Rochdale	SD896149	Feb-17	Adults
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	Garden Site Rochdale	SD883136	12-Mar-17	Adult
Rana temporaria	Common Frog	Healey Dell SBI	SD877157	9-Mar-17	Adults
TOADS					
Bufo bufo	Common Toad	Piethorne Valley	SD962128	30-Mar-17	Copulating pairs
Bufo bufo	Common Toad	Hollingworth Lake	SD944131	2017	
NEWTs					
Triturus vulgaris	Smooth Newt	Garden Site Milnrow	SD926133	29-Mar-17	Not recorded
Triturus vulgaris	Smooth Newt	Hollingworth Lake	SD944131		
(Lissotriton helveticus	Palmate	Hollingworth Lake	SD944131		
	Unknown	Garden site Heywood	SD865113		
	Unknown	Garden Site Rochdale	SD874150		
	Unknown	Garden Site Milnrow	SD935128	15-Mar-17	
	Unknown	Behind school Dearnley	SD927169		

*The records where the life stage of the amphibian is not recorded probably refer to spawn as this was what people were asked to note.

** Some records are from the same site.

The data collected is limited however it indicates that frogs are fairly common within the borough, toads are present and that at least two species of newts are still to be found.

The map shows the distribution of the Common Frog within the borough.

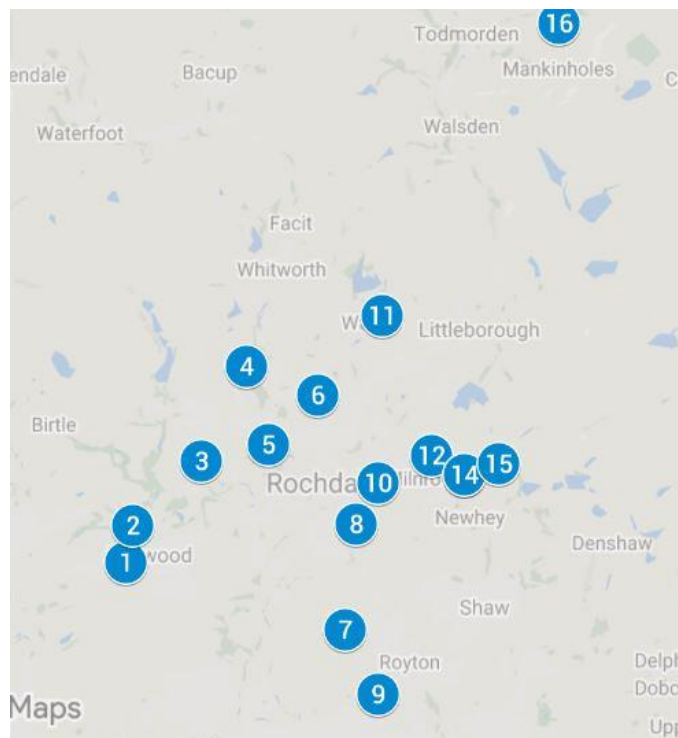


Table 2 shows the amphibian species recorded in 2016

Table 2	Frogs, Toads and Newts Recorded in Rochdale Borough in 2016
Taxon	Vernacular
Bufo bufo	Common Toad
Rana temporaria	Common Frog
Triturus cristatus	Warty Newt / Great Crested Newt
Triturus vulgaris	Smooth Newt

Comparing the results with those available for 2016 shows no recordings for the Crested Newt in 2017 but Palmate are noted as occurring at Hollingworth Lake pond. From such limited records this doesn't show that Crested Newts are no longer in the borough, simply that no one sent in their sightings of them.

The earliest record of frog spawn noted occurred on 22nd February 2016 near Gristlehurst wood, although the recording of 15th Feb at the Milnrow Garden site may be of spawn.

In the past we have had the earliest records of frog spawn as 20th February.

In the past toad spawn has been recorded on 8 April, although we have few records for toad spawn and none were noted in this survey. Similarly no records have been taken for any newt spawn.