



Amphibians and Reptiles of Scotland: current research and future challenges

University of Glasgow, Graham Kerr Building,
Saturday 9th June 2018

Arrival time 9.00am, start 9.30am, close 4.30pm.

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University
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Speakers	Talks	Time
Roger Downie University of Glasgow, GNHS, Clyde ARG, Froglife	Opening and welcome; messages from MSP species champions	09.30-09.35
Chair: Roger Downie		
Silviu Petrovan University of Cambridge Froglife	Using an evidence-based approach to improve the understanding and effectiveness of road mitigation schemes for amphibians and reptiles Roads fragment habitats and endanger wildlife across the globe. We review multiple projects undertaken in Scotland and England since 2013. We discuss the results using an evidence-based approach to highlight success stories, knowledge gaps and areas of concern, related to species ecology and chemical pollution.	09.35-10.05
Nigel Hand Central Ecology	The vanishing viper: using radiotelemetry to unlock the secret life of the adder We pioneered the use of telemetry in the UK to better understand adder spatial ecology, often revealing unexpected results and allowing management plans to be better targeted.	10.05-10.25
Lynsey Harper University of Hull	Enhancing understanding of great crested newt habitat and environmental influences in Scotland Threatened by industrial development, Scotland's largest great crested newt population was relocated to Gartcosh Nature Reserve, North Lanarkshire, in Scotland's first ex-situ conservation-based translocation. We report on changes in Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) post-translocation, and viability of this index. We also report on abiotic determinants of this Scottish population and provide guidance for future conservation management.	10.25-10.35
David O'Brien Highland Biological Recording Group	SuDS and amphibians - are constructed wetlands really benefitting nature and people? Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) have potential as amphibian habitats, as part of habitat networks and as places where urban people can experience nature. Our eight-year study suggests ways to improve the design and management of SuDS for people and nature, making access to high quality ponds available to all social groups.	10.35-10.50
Chloe Rossi & Iain Hill University of Glasgow	Under-road tunnel mitigation at Frankfield Loch, Glasgow This study assessed the efficacy of three amphibian tunnels in a recently developed area at Frankfield Loch, Stepps, Glasgow. In 2016 and 2015 an assessment was conducted on the success of wildlife passage through these tunnels using video recordings. The results can contribute in showing the significance of mitigation measures.	10.50-11.00
Matthew Witt University of Exeter	Waifs and strays or seasonally resident? Marine turtles in the British Isles Although not typically considered part of British biodiversity, marine turtles have appeared in records of fauna around our coastal seas for hundreds of years. In this talk we will investigate patterns of sightings and strandings of this taxon demonstrating their regular occurrence, highlighting these animals are indeed part of our maritime natural heritage.	11.00-11.20
COFFEE BREAK		11.20-11.40
Chair: Chris McInerny		
Rick Hodges Kent ARG	Long-term monitoring for adders Long-term monitoring of adders offers prospects for understanding the impacts of habitat management and climate change, as well as providing life-history details. An approach to long-term monitoring will be presented, as work in progress, based on experiences gained on a chalk grassland reserve.	11.40-11.55
Pete Minting ARC	Great crested newt detectives; citizen science, education and DNA technology An innovative, Scotland-wide project. Volunteers were trained in amphibian identification and surveying and provided with eDNA sampling kits to test for the presence of great crested newts in ponds. Children also took part, in education sessions at schools and by entering a competition to help create a new, free publication called <i>Amazing Animals, Brilliant Science; how DNA technology is helping to save Scotland's wildlife</i>	11.55-12.10
James Stead & Louise Smith Froglife	Froglife in Scotland Froglife's Scottish projects to protect and conserve amphibians and reptiles include the Scottish Dragon Finder Project, a 4.5 year project, beginning in 2014, bringing together practical conservation, educational activities and data collection, and the Glasgow Green Pathways, working with vulnerable and disadvantaged young people on practical activities to improve local greenspaces for wildlife.	12.10-12.25
Chris Cathrine Caledonian Conservation	A novel approach to reptile mitigation in peatland habitats for an underground power line development in Kintyre Caledonian Conservation Ltd was contracted by Renewable Energy Systems Ltd to undertake ecological mitigation for an underground power line in Kintyre, to connect Freasdail Wind Farm to the National Grid. The site crossed 10 km of remote peatland occupied by reptiles. Mitigation approaches will be discussed in detail, as well as results	12.25-12.40
LUNCH BREAK		12.40-13.45

Chair: Deborah McNeill		
Erik Paterson & Ryan Bird University of Glasgow Clyde ARG	Amphibians and water quality in East Kilbride We will present the results of long-term citizen science amphibian monitoring study in East Kilbride. Results will be related to recent work examining water quality determinants of amphibian species presence and abundance within a variety of pond types around the town.	13.45-14.00
Chris McInerney University of Glasgow GNHS, BRISC, Clyde ARG	The study and conservation of adders in Scotland Adders remain widespread and reasonably common in parts of Scotland, but there remains much work to conserve and protect the species. This talk describes two conservation projects that have revealed information about adder biology in Scotland and how the species can live alongside humans and human development.	14.00-14.15
Kathleen McMillan Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park	A study of the reptile populations at the Greenock Cut and management plan Since 2013 we have surveyed reptile species and populations present at the Greenock Cut. We describe the creation of a habitat management plan to ensure the long-term presence of these animals at the site.	14.15-14.25
Rob Raynor Scottish Natural Heritage	An amphibian and reptile strategy for Scotland: talk followed by discussion A strategic approach to Scottish Herpetological conservation is presented, describing the threats and opportunities, the reasons why action is urgent and the challenges we need to meet for their conservation. The strategy recognises that a partnership approach between the relevant organisations is required if we are to achieve our objectives.	14.25-15.25
COFFEE BREAK		15.25-15.40
Chair: Roger Downie		
Andrew Cunningham Institute of Zoology	Infectious disease threats to amphibian conservation Only since the discovery of amphibian chytridiomycosis has infectious disease been considered a threat to amphibian conservation. While a growing number of infectious diseases of amphibians are recognised, only a small number threaten populations or species; however their mitigation is more difficult than for other threats such as habitat loss.	15.40-16.10
CONFERENCE CLOSE		16.10-16.30

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