



Common toad

Bufo bufo



Description:

The common toad varies in size with males reaching up to 8cm and females approximately 13cm. During the breeding season males are easily identified by the presence of nuptial pads rough porous pads that facilitate reproduction during amplexus situated on the inside 2 front digits. Females are generally larger than males especially during breeding season when full of eggs. Common toads come in a variety of colours such as mottled brown and beige to olive to chocolate brown. Juveniles after metamorphosis are black with gold specks lasting 3-6 months, adult colours then begin to show through. Some juveniles and sub-adults can be coloured with terracotta patches giving them a small brick like appearance. Common toads can be identified by the paratoid glands situated behind the eye which frogs do not have. Activity times are from mid-February through to late October. Common toads spend little time in the water and are usually encountered in gardens under logs and rocks. They are creatures of habit and will stay in the same place for long periods and usually return annually.

National status: UK Priority Species

Local status: Common in many built up areas a frequent garden visitor and allotment inhabitant.

Associated habitats: Open woodland, Grassland, Farmland, Wetland, Built up urban gardens and Brownfield sites.

Key sites: Barnwell East LNR, Cambridge City Crematorium, Cherry Hinton Brook CiWS, Madingley, Oakington Airfield, Regatta Court, Shudy Camps, Stow Cum Quy Fen SSSI.

Suggested actions to benefit this species:

- Increased surveys to understand more about the abundance of the species and its distribution in Cambridgeshire. (Submit sightings to <http://www.cperc.org.uk>)
- More people taking part with [toads on roads](#) especially during the first migration.
- Toad ladders for gully pots in areas with high migration numbers.
- Building of breeding ponds and connectivity of associated habitats.

Sources of further information:

<http://www.froglife.org/amphibians-and-reptiles/common-toad-2/>
<http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/species/toad>