

<b>Council meeting:</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	<b>Agenda item:</b>	24/038.c
<b>Agenda item:</b>	Frog survey		

We have been contacted by a researcher at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh working a on project assessing the health of the common frog (*Rana temporaria*) across the UK. The project is funded by the Natural Environment Research Council, and they are working in collaboration with the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, the Freshwater Habitat Trust (through their priority ponds network), Froglife, and Nature’s Calendar.

They hoped to include variety of ponds/ephemeral waters across a range of different habitats, affected by different kinds of land use, to investigate what is driving declines in the health of these vital ecosystems. The pond at Potten End was identified via the NBN Gateway, where observations of frogs have been recorded by the public and they sought permission to sample from the site throughout the project.

Sampling involves collecting water samples, which would entail removing 3 x 500ml water from the pond, as well as approx. 70ml of sediment from the edge of the pond. They would also record any observations of frogspawn, and if spawn is present they would like to take a small amount to compare with the water samples we are taking.

Later in the year, we would like to return and collect a small number of tadpoles, again to compare with water samples, but also to evaluate overall health and development.

On the understanding that we would be able to see the results of their work permission was granted and they were put in touch with the ‘frog watch’ team.