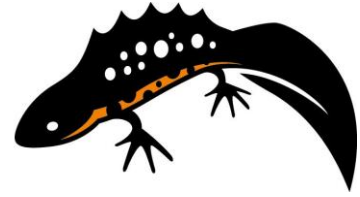


# amphibian and reptile conservation



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Volunteer News January 2012



Natterjack Toad – Chris Dresh

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Mailing List Tidy Up

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## Volunteering with ARC

A big thanks to all the volunteers that have joined us over the last 5 years of our Dorset Community Reserves project you have made a big contribution to our habitat management, scientific and public awareness work. As you can see from this newsletter we have many opportunities to get involved with our work from the winter tasks on site, surveying in such schemes as NAARS (see below) and on our nature reserves, in and around our offices etc.

For the rest of this winter our volunteers will be concentrating on Habitat Management work on our urban reserves following on from tasks from before Christmas. Volunteers play an important part in our practical work; going where our paid field team can't such as around sensitive areas like badger setts or helping to keep on top of such things as strawberry trees on St Catherine's Hill. Our volunteers also allow us to get involved with other species projects and groups like our recent task putting up Bat Boxes on Dunyeats with Dorset Bat Group.



Bat Boxes on Dunyeats – Jan Freeborn

Hopefully you can all find something to interest you in our varied volunteer opportunities and we would really like to see you all out on site or around the office, getting involved with our work to conserve our great reptiles and amphibians.

Please contact me if you would like to chat about all our volunteer activities and where you could get more involved – 07810770565 [richard.sharp@arc-trust.org](mailto:richard.sharp@arc-trust.org)

### Winter/Spring 2012 Volunteer Task Dates

Date	Site/Task	Meeting Point	Grid Ref
11/1/12	Ramsdown/ cutting birch regrowth	Cottage Access off Avon Causeway	SZ 133 974
18/1/12	Parley Common/ Small Pine	Lone Pine Drive	SZ 095 008
21/1/12	Town Common/ cutting birch scrub	Opposite Avon Causeway pub	SZ 137 968
25/1/12	Lions Hill/ pine removal along fence line	Field gate on Lions Hill Lane	SY 105 039
7/2/12	Ferndown Common/ gorse removal from badger sett	Wimborne Road Car Park	SU 065 006
15/2/12	St Catherine's Hill / cutting invasive strawberry tree regrowth	Gun Club Entrance St Catherine's Hill lane	SZ 147 951
25/2/12	Parley Common/ Small Pine	Lone Pine Drive	SZ 095 008
29/2/12	Dunyeats/ Birch removal outside grazing compartment	Gravel Hill Rd in layby north of Dunyeats roundabout	SZ 015 964
6/3/12	Ferndown Common/ Scrub removal on enclosure badger sett	By ponds on Pompeys Lane	SZ 064 997
17/3/12	Noon Hill/ Small pine	End of Noon Hill Road	SU 099 088
22/3/12	Ramsdown/ Birch regrowth by pond	Cottage Access off Avon Causeway	SZ 133 974
29/3/12	St. Catherine's Hill/ Strawberry trees or Bridle Way markers	Gun Club Entrance St Catherine's Hill lane	SZ 147 951

If you would like to join in with a task or get more details and directions to the sites please contact: **Richard Sharp on 01202 727983/ 07810 770565 or [Richard.sharp@arc-trust.org](mailto:Richard.sharp@arc-trust.org).**

All tools, equipment and **biscuits** provided. Wear suitable clothing and footwear and bring own lunch. **Tasks usually run from 10am until 3pm.**

## Heard about NARRS?

John W. Wilkinson

The National Amphibian and Reptile Recording Scheme Widespread Species Surveys (NARRS) began in 2007. The term “NARRS” is really an umbrella one, uniting Widespread Species Surveys with existing and novel efforts to record, monitor and report on Britain’s rare and alien herpetofauna. NARRS is the first scheme of its kind designed to produce robust, repeatable, baseline data on the status of amphibians and reptiles throughout Britain in a way that trends can be detected. Helping to direct conservation efforts across the UK

NARRS is coordinated by Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (ARC) in partnership with the Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the United Kingdom (ARG UK) and a host of other partners including Statutory Agencies. The scheme currently operates in Scotland, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man, Wales, England and Jersey.

Central to NARRS is the use of trained volunteers to collect the data. At annual training events, interested volunteers are trained in NARRS species identification, survey methodologies, bio-security, and health and safety, and given survey forms to fill in and other materials facilitating the completion of their survey/s (e.g. identification sheets). To date, more than 100 training events have been conducted across the British Isles, resulting in more than 1500 people being trained in robust methods of amphibian and reptile survey. Over 1800 people are currently signed up, via the NARRS website, as being interested in NARRS.

Each participating survey volunteer is allocated a random 1 km grid square within 5 km of their post code. The NARRS survey cycle runs over a six-year period (currently 2007 – 2012 inclusive) in order to fit in with EU reporting responsibilities and UK Biodiversity Action Plan BAP assessments, but this is also a realistic time-frame over which changes might occur and thus be detected. At the end of each survey cycle, the data can be analysed and the cycle begins again, the current, and first, NARRS survey cycle of 2007 – 2012 will be used to record the baseline against which all future NARRS cycles will be compared. For detailed survey protocols and full background information, please see [www.narrs.org.uk](http://www.narrs.org.uk)



Newt Surveying on Creech – Dorothy Driver

Please tear off and return so we can keep our records up to date, Thank You!

.....  
Name:

I would/would not like to stay on the mailing list (delete as appropriate)

Return to

Richard Sharp

ARC

655a Christchurch Rd, Bournemouth, BH1 4AP

Or email

[richard.sharp@arc-trust.org](mailto:richard.sharp@arc-trust.org)