

Toad Survey Report 2024

2024 was a disappointing year for recorded toad numbers. In 2023 toads were recorded from 38 locations, with 12 of these records being sent by members of the general public. In 2024 toad records were received from 21 locations but only 4 of these records were sent by members of the general public. The others were generated by idverde staff and sub-group members. There was evidence of breeding in 16 ponds. Within Bromley's Local Nature Reserves, 1 pond in High Elms Country Park, 1 in Jubilee Country Park, 4 at Keston and 5 in Scadbury Park reported evidence of breeding but despite the wet winter numbers of toads recorded in both Scadbury Park and Jubilee Country Park were much lower than in 2023.

On a more positive note, surveys of the Hawkwood Estate recorded a breeding pond not previously confirmed and the presence of toads including sub-adults and adults under refugia in various different parts of the estate. Refugia on St Paul's Cray Common also recorded toads at various stages of maturity.

A total of about 97 locations including 37 breeding ponds have now been recorded in the London Borough of Bromley since the survey began in 2017. For a list of areas where toads have been recorded in LBB see overleaf. There remains a lack of records in some more urban areas e.g. Beckenham, Langley Park, Eden Park, Elmers End, Penge, St. Paul's Cray, St. Mary Cray, parts of Orpington and Biggin Hill. There is a need to better publicise the ongoing survey and encourage more people to submit records in 2025. Records from previously recorded ponds would be very valuable as well as those new to us as it would be good to know whether all the ponds previously recorded as breeding ponds are still supporting Common Toad.

All records received are sent to the local records centre, Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL) and Kent Reptile and Amphibian Group (KRAG).

The toad factsheet and report for 2024 will be available on the biodiversity page of Bromley Friends Forum website <https://www.bromleyfriendsforum.org> under, 'Useful documents' together with mapped records from 2017-2021. The results for 2022, 2023 and 2024 have not been mapped. If anyone is interested in becoming involved with the surveys, especially anyone skilled in ArcGIS, CSV files of 2024 records can be supplied with a view to producing further maps as these make it very easy to see distribution patterns.

Bromley Biodiversity Partnership Actions for 2025:

- Improve publicity of toad survey throughout the borough.
- Maintain and enhance LBB toad population including through the promotion of actions in the Toad Species Action Plan at <https://www.bromley.gov.uk/planning-policy/bromley-biodiversity-species-action-plan-toad>
- Send records to the Planning Department so that if a major development is planned in an area currently used by toads, consideration can be given to the installation of a pond suitable for these animals as part of mitigation/Biodiversity Net Gain.
- Send records to GiGL & KRAG

If you know anyone who lives in one of the hard-to- reach areas listed above, please ask them to look out for toads as it is important to fill in some of the blank spaces. Posters promoting the Toad Survey are available on the biodiversity page of Bromley Friends Forum website under posters. Please share the information on social media if you can.

Judith John, Bromley Biodiversity Partnership Species & Habitats Sub-group
March 2025

List of areas where Toads have been recorded in LBB since 2017

Belmont Lane Allotments
Between Beckenham Place Park and Kelsey Park
Bromley Hill Cemetery (gardens around)
Brook Lane Community Garden
Bull Lane Allotments
Chinbrook Meadow Allotments
Chislehurst
Coney Hall
Covet Wood area
Crofton Woods area
Crystal Palace Park
Cupola Wood area
Green St. Green
Hall's Farm Allotments
Hawkwood Estate (National Trust)
High Broom Wood area
High Elms
Hoblingwell
Hollydale
Holwood
Jubilee Country Park
Kemnal Road area
Kent House Road (between allotments & Cator Park)
Keston Common
Langley Park Golf Course & School area
Lower Chesham Allotments
Madeira Avenue
Nash Farm area
Newstead Avenue
Norman Park area
Padmall Wood
Parkfield Recreation Ground
Petts Wood
Pine Walk Allotments
St Paul's Cray Common
Scadbury Park
Spring Park
Sundridge Park
The Chenies
The Knoll, Beckenham
West Wickham