DESCRIPTION

These endearing amphibians are characterised by their dry, warty skin and their grumpy expression. Unlike frogs, toads prefer crawling to hopping and spend a large proportion of their life away from ponds. They grow up to 12cm body length and range in colour from brick red to greeny brown. They lay strings of spawn, opposed to clumps like frogs, and prefer much larger pools and lochs in which to breed.

The Common Toad is widely distributed throughout Britain, however, data from a number of sources indicates that Common Toad populations are in decline. In Scotland, Common Toads are found throughout the mainland and some islands, such as Orkney, have introduced populations. The Common Toad is classified as a Priority Species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

DISTRIBUTION MAP

THREATS

- Development & agricultural intensification
- Deliberate filling in or destruction of ponds
- Habitat fragmentation
- Disruption of breeding migration routes and direct mortality on roads
- Road drainage systems, i.e. gully pots
- Pond loss through natural succession

ACTIONS REQUIRED

- Improved Planning Processes to better recognise habitat and management needs of Common Toads at the wider landscape scale.
- Further research to investigate recent large population declines which have been determined in this species
- Increased Survey & Monitoring should be conducted and resourced to improve survey data on this species.

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