

Natterjack Toad

DESCRIPTION

This charismatic little toad is characterised by the yellow stripe running along its back and its loud and distinctive mating call. The toad favours areas of closely grazed habitat in which it can actively pursue its diet of small invertebrates. The toad also favours small, shallow water bodies in which to breed.

As a result of these specialist requirements, Natterjack toads are rare and confined to the heaths and sandy coasts in the UK. In Scotland, they are at the edge of their European range, and are only found on the sand dunes and merse (saltmarshes) along the north coast of the Solway Firth.

They are protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, and across Europe under the Habitat Regulations, 2010. They are also classified as a Priority Species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

DISTRIBUTION MAP



THREATS

- Chytrid Fungus
- Sea Level Rise
- Deliberate filling in or destruction of ponds
- Changing/cessation of grazing management of terrestrial habitat
- Development and drainage of coastal sites
- Recreational pressure



ACTIONS REQUIRED

- **Improved Planning Processes** to take better account of toad presence during early stages of local authority plans and development.
- **Increased Protection of Remaining Habitats** to ensure areas aren't negatively affected by recreational pressure, tourism etc.
- **Increased Habitat Management** to create and restore both aquatic and terrestrial habitats.
- **Increased Survey & Monitoring** is vital to monitor population levels long-term so criteria targets can be reported against.

MSP SPECIES CHAMPION



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