

Dragon Finder

What is Dragon Finder and what are the main aims of the project?

Amphibians and reptiles from around the world are becoming extinct at an alarming rate. Currently 25% of amphibians and 20% of reptiles in Europe are either extinct or threatened with extinction. Accurate information on the distribution and numbers of amphibians and reptiles in the UK are



Photo credit: Sivi Sivanesan/Froglife

needed in order for us to conserve these important species, however this type of information is unavailable for much of Greater London. The aims of the Dragon Finder project are to increase our knowledge of amphibian and reptile populations within London and to increase public awareness of the amphibian and reptile extinction crisis. The information gathered will be submitted to GIGL (Greenspace Information for Greater London), which will then be used to manage and conserve existing amphibian and reptile populations, and create or restore habitats.

Froglife has received a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to develop the Dragon Finder project over the next eight months, and we will be submitting a funding application in February 2012. If the bid is successful the Dragon Finder project will run for five years, potentially starting in August 2012.



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Who is Dragon Finder aimed at and what will it do?



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The Dragon Finder project seeks to reach as many people as possible from as many different backgrounds as possible, and we will be working with a range of partners in order to achieve this. We will be organising several activities and events throughout the project to enable people to find out more about wildlife in London, and to raise the profile of amphibian and reptile conservation. In addition, we will train people in

amphibian and reptile identification and surveying, and habitat creation, restoration and management. Some of our activities will include: family fun days and workshops at swimming pools, museums and parks; exhibitions; creative sessions with school pupils; habitat and species management training days and workshops; and reminiscence/oral history recording projects. All of these activities will contribute towards an audio-visual living atlas, which will grow and develop as the project progresses. The atlas will document the work of Dragon Finder and display the data gathered throughout the project in innovative and informative ways.

How can you help?

Froglife are currently looking for project partners to help develop the Dragon Finder project, and we would love to hear from any individuals or organisations that have any comments or queries. For further information please contact Vicky Ogilvy (Victoria.Ogilvy@froglife.org).



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