

From: [Susan Stangroom](#)
To: [Metrowest1](#)
Cc: [Roger Willmot](#); [Emma Schofield](#); [James Willcock](#); [Steven Penaluna](#); [Lucy Nicholson](#); [James McCarthy](#)
Subject: 2020-12-02 - Metrowest 1-Our ref: reference:PORT-SP067* Supplementary information to inform responses to Ex Q1 Bio 1.2(i),(ii)- Common Toad Lodway
Date: 02 December 2020 15:26:48
Attachments: [Pill Cycle path data.docx](#)
[Sites near Pill cycleway.png](#)

Dear Sir,

Further to the North Somerset Council responses to Q1, additional information has now been received to further inform the response provided, in relation to the PINS query relating to migrating areas and populations of the Section 41 species, Common Toad (rail track, Lodway and Pill). See email response below from Sheila Gundry, Froglife (the charity that collects data from registered toad crossings). The Froglife assessment is that the migrating toad population indicated by the seasonal migration at the identified Pill cycleway crossing site is of regional importance.

In addition, information from Peter Stanley, a Pill toad patrol volunteer (which was provided to North Somerset Council in relation to a request for toad warning signs) but used to inform the North Somerset Council response) provides a further clarification of where the toads are migrating from and to (i.e. from the wintering habitats to the breeding pond) and that habitat on the rail track and at Lodway Farm fields is indicated as comprising wintering (terrestrial) habitat. This information is cited for convenience:

- 'The breeding pond is ST51779 76360.
- The wintering site is primarily the rail track, Lodway Farm fields and the back gardens of Avon Road, Severn Road, Monmouth rd., the Breaches, Church Road, Beechwood road and beyond, some toads seen crossing the Lodway on way so coming from significant distance.'

Regards,

Susan Stangroom

Natural Environment Officer

Working days: Monday, Wednesday and alternate Thursdays

From: Sheila Gundry <Sheila.Gundry@froglife.org>

Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 5:12 PM

To: Susan Stangroom <susan.stangroom@n-somerset.gov.uk>

Cc: Emma Schofield <Emma.Schofield@n-somerset.gov.uk>; Ashlea Mawby <Ashlea.Mawby@froglife.org>

Subject: RE: Query by Planning Inspectorate regarding toad issue at Lodway Farm, North Somerset and a potentially registered toad crossing at Pill



Dear Susan

The toad migration at Pill Cycle path is a registered site, and we have data since 2010 – see attached.

The main grid reference is ST5200076300. The grid reference range is ST520763-516762.

This year, in 2020, 1046 live toads were recorded, so it is a regionally important site. Toad patrolling ended on 13 March which suggests that the lockdown did not affected data collection (as with many sites this year).

We have notes in 2010 that toads and newts were falling into drains on the cycle path, then the

Highways Agency put in some tarmac pillows in 2011 which were very effective. There were still some issues with gully pot mortality after this: in 2012, 48 of the toads and 16 smooth newts were helped out of gully pots. There has been a lot of media interest at this site via Bristol Zoo. We have no data for the Lodway Farm site. This does not mean that there are no amphibians at this site; it could be that it is an independent site that does not send in the data to us. I don't think it is a site that we have under a different name. The nearby sites are attached. The key to the sites on the attached map is:

B Kingsweston – inactive

C Abbots Pool – active

D Fennel Road – active

E Westbury on Trym – inactive

F Clifton Wood Street – inactive

The lack of nearby sites and the number of inactive sites (usually because the amphibians have died out) is a concern for us and it is therefore important that the amphibians at Pill cycle way and Lodway Farm are protected. One or more Wildlife Tunnels may be needed under new MetroWest route.

I will forward your email to Andy Ryder who is the manager for the Amphibian and Reptile group in that area. I could also pass on your request to the Pill Cycle Way patrol manager if that would be helpful – they may have more local knowledge. I am happy to check the Lodway Farm site myself when the migration begins in February, if you still need information by then (I live in Bath).

Information of the process for registering a site is here: <http://www.froglife.org/what-we-do/toads-on-roads/register-a-toad-crossing/>. I can confirm that Froglife is the organisation that registers sites nationally, and we do provide insurance for volunteers at registered sites.

Kind regards

Sheila

Sheila Gundry

Operations Manager

Tel: [REDACTED]

www.froglife.org

From: Susan Stangroom [<mailto:susan.stangroom@n-somerset.gov.uk>]

Sent: 16 November 2020 15:06

To: INFO <INFO@Froglife616.onmicrosoft.com>

Cc: Emma Schofield <Emma.Schofield@n-somerset.gov.uk>

Subject: Query by Planning Inspectorate regarding toad issue at Lodway Farm, North Somerset and a potentially registered toad crossing at Pill

Importance: High

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am currently responding to the first round of questions for the Planning Inspectorate assessment of the MetroWest project, which will involve the reopening of a railway line that has been closed since the 1960s.. The Inspector's questions relate to what may be known about the toad migration at Lodway Farm, North Somerset – e.g. numbers of toads, and any other legally protected species such as great crested newt. Where they may be migrating to and from etc. The Inspector has also requested information regarding the toad migration patrol at Pill, which is involved with rescuing toads from a cycleway. It would be appreciated if you could advise if this migration route is registered with you and

any further details of how it is organised and to clarify the role of Froglife in registering, acquisition of data and provision of advice/insurance.

Many thanks.

Kind regards,

Susan Stangroom

Natural Environment Officer

Working days: Monday, Wednesday and alternate Thursdays

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Pill Cycle path

Year	Toads Helped	Toads Lost	Frogs Helped	Frogs Lost	Smooth/Palmate Helped	Smooth/Palmate Lost	GCN Helped	GCN Lost	Total N Help	Total N Dead
2010	36	3								
2011	490	9								
2012	905	16	1						62	
2013	1766	9							126	
2014	449	7	1						33	
2015	1270	27	4	3					52	
2016	695	18	4						39	
2017	677		12		21				21	
2020	1046	6	2		25	3			25	



Easter Compton

Chittinging

M49

M5

Patchway

Hallen

Blaise Castle Estate

Southmead Hospital

Filton

AVONMOUTH

M5

B

E
WESTBURY
ON TRYM

H

D

X

SHIREHAMPTON

Portishead

Sheepway

Pill

Portbury

Martcombe Rd

Portway

Gloucester Rd

ST WERBUR

MONTPELIER

ST PAUL'S

dano

Clapton-in-Gordano

C

Lower Failand

CLIFTON

Clifton
Suspension Bridge

F

Bristol

REDCLIFFE

HOTWELLS

Ashton
Court Estate

A370

Wraxall

Failand

A370

A38

Nailsea

Long Ashton

Bath

West

Flax Bourton

A370

Hartcliffe Way

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