

Report under The Conservation of Habitats and  
Species Regulations 2017 (as amended),  
Regulation 9A

**2019-2024**

Conservation status assessment for the species:

**S1213 - Common frog**

***(Rana temporaria)***

**England**



**For further information please contact:**

Natural England, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PX.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england>

JNCC, Quay House, 2 East Station Road, Fletton Quays, Peterborough, PE2 8YY.  
<https://jncc.gov.uk>

This report was produced by JNCC in collaboration with Natural England.

**This document should be cited as:**

Natural England and JNCC. (2026). Conservation status assessment for the species: S1213 Common frog (*Rana temporaria*).

This resource is published by Natural England under the [Open Government Licence v3.0](#) for public sector information. You are encouraged to use and reuse information subject to certain conditions. Note that some images, maps or tables may not be copyright Natural England; please check sources for conditions of re-use. © Natural England 2026.

The views and recommendations presented in this resource do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of JNCC.

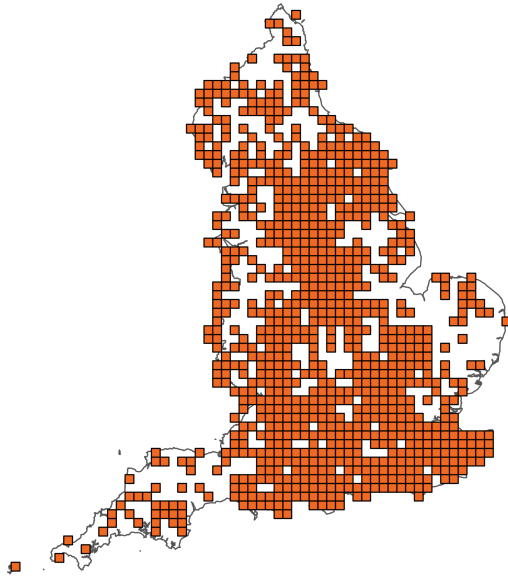
### **Important note - Please read**

- The information in this document represents the England Report under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), Regulation 9A, for the period 2019-2024.
- It is based on supporting information provided by Natural England, which is documented separately.
- The Habitats Regulations reporting 2019-2024 Approach Document provides details on how this supporting information contributed to the UK Report and the fields that were completed for each parameter.
- Maps showing the distribution and range of the species are included.
- Explanatory notes (where provided) are included at the end. These provide additional audit trail information to that included within the assessments. Further underpinning explanatory notes are available in the related country reports.
- Some of the reporting fields have been left blank because either: (i) there was insufficient information to complete the field; (ii) completion of the field was not obligatory; and/or (iii) the field was not relevant to this species (section 12 National Site Network coverage for Annex II species).

Further details on the approach to the Habitats Regulations Reporting 2019-2024 are available on the [JNCC website](#).

## Assessment Summary: Common frog

### Distribution Map



### Range Map



**Figure 1:** England distribution and range map for S1213 - Common frog (*Rana temporaria*). Coastline boundary derived from the Oil and Gas Authority's OGA and Lloyd's Register SNS Regional Geological Maps (Open Source). Open Government Licence v3 (OGL). Contains data © 2017 Oil and Gas Authority. The 10km grid square distribution map is based on available species records within the current reporting period.

**Table 1:** Table summarising the conservation status for S1213 - Common frog (*Rana temporaria*). Overall conservation status for species is based on assessments of range, population, habitat for the species, and future prospects.

### Overall Conservation Status (see section 11)

**Unfavourable-inadequate (U1)**

### Breakdown of Overall Conservation Status

**Range** (see section 5)

**Favourable (FV)**

**Population** (see section 6)

**Unfavourable-inadequate (U1)**

**Habitat for the species** (see section 7)

**Unfavourable-inadequate (U1)**

**Future prospects** (see section 10)

**Favourable (FV)**

## List of Sections

National Level .....	5
1. General information .....	5
2. Maps .....	5
3. Information related to Annex V Species .....	5
Biogeographical Level .....	7
4. Biogeographical and marine regions .....	7
5. Range .....	7
6. Population .....	9
7. Habitat for the species .....	11
8. Main pressures .....	12
9. Conservation measures .....	14
10. Future prospects .....	15
11. Conclusions .....	16
12. UK National Site Network (pSCIs, SCIs, SACs) coverage for Annex II species .....	17
13. Complementary information .....	18
14. References .....	19
Biogeographical and marine regions .....	19
Main pressures .....	19
15. Explanatory Notes .....	21

## National Level

### 1. General information

1.1 Country	England
1.2 Species code	S1213
1.3 Species scientific name	<i>Rana temporaria</i>
1.4 Alternative species scientific name	
1.5 Common name	Common frog
Annex(es)	V

### 2. Maps

2.1 Sensitive species	No
2.2 Year or period	2019-2024
2.3 Distribution map	Yes
2.4 Distribution map; Method used	Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data

#### 2.5 Additional information

No additional information

### 3. Information related to Annex V Species

3.1 Is the species taken in the wild / exploited?	No
3.2 What measures have been taken?	
a) Regulations regarding access to property	No
b) Temporary or local prohibition on the taking of specimens in the wild and exploitation	No
c) Regulation of the periods and/or methods of taking specimens	No
d) Application of hunting and fishing rules which take account of the conservation of such populations	No

<b>e) Establishment of a system of licences for taking specimens or of quotas</b>	No
<b>f) Regulation of the purchase, sale, offering for sale, keeping for sale, or transport for sale of specimens</b>	No
<b>g) Breeding in captivity of animal species as well as artificial propagation of plant species</b>	No
<b>Other measures</b>	No

**Other measures description**

**3.3: Hunting bag or quantity taken in the wild for Mammals and Acipenseridae (Fish)**

**a) Unit**                      number of map 10x10 km grid cells

**Table 2:** Quantity taken from the wild during the reporting period (see 3.3a for units). For species with defined hunting seasons, Season 1 refers to 2018/2019 (autumn 2018 to spring 2019), and Season 6 to 2023/2024. For species without hunting seasons, data are reported by calendar year: Year 1 is 2019, and Year 6 is 2024.

	Season/ year 1	Season/ year 2	Season/ year 3	Season/ year 4	Season/ year 5	Season/ year 6
<b>b) Minimum</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>c) Maximum</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>d) Unknown</b>	No	No	No	No	No	No

**3.4: Hunting bag or quantity taken in the wild; Method used**                      Insufficient or no data available

**3.5: Additional information**

No additional information

## Biogeographical Level

### 4. Biogeographical and marine regions

4.1 Biogeographical or marine region where the species occurs ATL

#### 4.2 Sources of information

See section 14 References

### 5. Range

5.1 Surface area (km<sup>2</sup>) 128,126.87

5.2 Short-term trend; Period 2019-2024

5.3 Short-term trend; Direction Stable

5.4 Short-term trend;  
Magnitude

a) Estimated minimum

b) Estimated maximum

c) Pre-defined range

d) Unknown

e) Type of estimate

f) Rate of decrease

5.5 Short-term trend; Method used Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data

5.6 Long-term trend; Period

5.7 Long-term trend; Direction

5.8 Long-term trend;  
Magnitude

a) Minimum

b) Maximum

c) Rate of decrease

---

**5.9 Long-term trend; Method used**

**5.10 Favourable Reference Range (FRR)**

**a) Area (km<sup>2</sup>)**

---

**b) Pre-defined increment** Current range is between 2% and 10% smaller than the FRR

---

**c) Unknown** No

---

**d) Method used** Expert opinion

---

**e) Quality of information** moderate

**5.11 Change and reason for change in surface area of range**

**a) Change** No

---

**b) Genuine change**

---

**c) Improved knowledge or more accurate data**

---

**d) Different method**

---

**e) No information**

---

**f) Other reason**

---

**g) Main reason**

**5.12 Additional information**

The Article 17 Assessment for 2013-2018 (JNCC, 2019d) concluded the species range as stable (short term trend direction) for the time period 2007-2018. The common frog populations is also considered stable, based on limited data and expert opinion. Although it is evident that populations have been lost from the wider countryside due to reduction in traditional farm ponds, these are generally considered to have been offset, to some degree, by increasing use of garden ponds for breeding (Beebee et al., 2000; Inns, 2009; Foster et al., 2021). The Article 17 report (JNCC 2019d) states sufficiency and quality of occupied habitat is unknown due to insufficient/no data available, habitat extent may have reduced overall.

## 6. Population

6.1 Year or period 2019-2024

### 6.2 Population size (in reporting unit)

a) Unit number of map 1x1 km grid cells

b) Minimum

c) Maximum

d) Best single value 6,056

6.3 Type of estimate Minimum

6.4 Quality of extrapolation to reporting unit moderate

### 6.5 Additional population size (using population unit other than reporting unit)

a) Unit number of map 10x10 km grid cells

b) Minimum

c) Maximum

d) Best single value 1,100

e) Type of estimate

6.6 Population size; Method used Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data

6.7 Short-term trend; Period 2019-2024

6.8 Short-term trend; Direction Stable

6.9 Short-term trend; Magnitude

a) Estimated minimum

b) Estimated maximum

c) Pre-defined range

d) Unknown

e) Type of estimate

---

**f) Rate of decrease**

---

**6.10 Short-term trend; Method used**      Insufficient or no data available

---

**6.11 Long-term trend; Period**

---

**6.12 Long-term trend; Direction**

---

**6.13 Long-term trend; Magnitude**

---

**a) Minimum**

---

**b) Maximum**

---

**c) Confidence interval**

---

**d) Rate of decrease**

---

**6.14 Long-term trend; Method used**

---

**6.15 Favourable Reference Population (FRP)**

---

**ai) Population size**

---

**aii) Unit**

---

**b) Pre-defined increment**      Current population is less than 5% smaller than the FRP

---

**c) Unknown**      No

---

**d) Method used**      Expert opinion

---

**e) Quality of information**      moderate

---

**6.16 Change and reason for change in population size**

---

**a) Change**      No

---

**b) Genuine change**

---

**c) Improved knowledge or more accurate data**

---

**d) Different method**

---

**e) No information**

---

**f) Other reason**

---

**g) Main reason**

### **6.17 Additional information**

The Extent of Occurrence (EOO) for this species is judged to be around 185,000 km<sup>2</sup>, with a large populations size of at least tens of thousands of populations (Foster et al., 2021), with no evidence of substantial population declines or reduction in range.

**6.18 Age structure, mortality and reproduction deviation**      No deviation from normal

## **7. Habitat for the species**

### **7.1 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat (for long-term survival)**

**a) Is area of occupied habitat sufficient?**      Yes

---

**b) Is quality of occupied habitat sufficient?**      Unknown

---

**c) If No or Unknown, is there a sufficiently large area of unoccupied habitat of suitable quality?**      Yes

### **7.2 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat; Method used**

**a) Sufficiency of area of occupied habitat; Method used**      Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data

---

**b) Sufficiency of quality of occupied habitat; Method used**      Insufficient or no data available

---

**7.3 Short-term trend; Period**      2019-2024

---

**7.4 Short-term trend; Direction**      Stable

---

**7.5 Short-term trend; Method used**      Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data

**7.6 Long-term trend; Period**

---

## 7.7 Long-term trend; Direction

---

## 7.8 Long-term trend; Method used

## 7.9 Additional information

The Common Frog inhabits both lowland and upland habitats (up to c1000m altitude) and occupies a large range of different waterbodies and terrestrial habitats. The species breeds in a variety of diverse waterbodies; it is typically found in smaller ponds, including garden ponds, but also spawns in the shallower reaches of larger ponds and lakes. Terrestrial habitats include woodland, hedgerows, rough grassland, moorland, pasture, arable and gardens.

## 8. Main pressures

### 8.1 Characterisation of pressures

**Table 3:** Pressures affecting the species, including timing and importance/impact ranking. Pressures are defined as factors acting currently and/or during the reporting period (2019–2024). Rankings are: High (direct/immediate influence and/or large spatial extent) and Medium (moderate direct/immediate influence, mainly indirect and/or regional extent).

Pressure	Timing	Ranking
PA04: Removal of small landscape features for agricultural land parcel consolidation (hedges, stone walls, rushes, open ditches, springs, solitary trees, etc.)	Ongoing	High (H)
PK01: Mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial)	Ongoing	High (H)
PL05: Modification of hydrological flow (mixed or unknown drivers)	Ongoing	High (H)
PM07: Natural processes without direct or indirect influence from human activities or climate change	Ongoing	High (H)
PI04: Plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests	Ongoing	High (H)
PF01: Conversion from other land uses to built-up areas	Ongoing	Medium (M)

PK03: Mixed source air pollution, air-borne pollutants	Ongoing	Medium (M)
PJ01: Temperature changes and extremes due to climate change	Ongoing	Medium (M)
PJ10: Change of habitat location, size, and / or quality due to climate change	Ongoing	Medium (M)

## 8.2 Sources of information

See section 14 References

## 8.3 Additional information

PA04: It is now clear that climatic conditions in the UK and elsewhere have changed as a result of human activities. There is strong evidence that further change will take place and that the projected scale and rate of climate change as well as how change interacts with other environmental pressures, will have significant implications for the natural environment. Some habitats are particularly vulnerable to climate change, particularly wetlands due to the increased frequency and extent of drought and flooding, coastal habitats from sea-level rise, heathland from wildfire and montane habitats due to warming. Climate change is likely to have significant influences on the UK population of Common Frog. At the northern edge of its range, advancing spring conditions may encourage an earlier emergence from hibernation and extend the breeding period, potentially increasing recruitment and juvenile dispersal opportunities (Dervo and others 2016). Hotter and drier summers are also likely to have an adverse effect on populations, reducing the availability of suitable aquatic habitats and invertebrate prey due to the increased frequency of periodic drying events (Préau and others 2020). This could seriously impact recruitment levels if breeding ponds dry out before metamorphosis. Disease risks, such as that caused by the chytrid fungus *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*, may also change with shifts in temperature (Pounds et al and others 2006). Landscape-scale wetland restoration, the reduction of over-abstraction, increasing connectivity between wetlands by creating new pools and increasing pond depth and diversity should all help build resilience.

PK01: Being widespread, there are many threats, primarily including habitat loss and fragmentation through development. Natural succession also leads to ponds becoming unsuitable for breeding, due to silting up and/or becoming over shaded by trees. The

loss of ponds in the wider countryside have been ameliorated to some extent by the species being able to take advantage of garden ponds, but genetic effects on isolated populations, particularly in urban areas, is a matter of concern. Introduction of fish can cause declines through predation of eggs and larvae. Pesticides may pose a threat directly through toxicity or indirectly via effects on prey and water quality. Eutrophication, especially through increased nitrogen deposition, may be increasing the rate of decline in breeding sites.

## 9. Conservation measures

### 9.1: Status of measures

<b>a) Are measures needed?</b>	Yes
<b>b) Indicate the status of measures</b>	Measures identified and taken
<b>9.2 Main purpose of the measures taken</b>	Maintain the current range, population and/or habitat for the species
<b>9.3 Location of the measures taken</b>	Both inside and outside National Site Network
<b>9.4 Response to measures</b>	Medium-term results (within the next two reporting periods, 2025–2036)

### 9.5 List of main conservation measures

**Table 4:** Key conservation measures addressing current pressures and/or anticipated threats during the next two reporting periods (2025–2036). Measures are ranked by importance/impact: High (direct/immediate influence and/or large spatial extent) and Medium (moderate direct/immediate influence, mainly indirect and/or regional extent).

Conservation measure	Ranking
MA02: Restore small landscape features on agricultural land	Medium (M)
MK01: Reduce impact of mixed source pollution	High (H)
MA10: Reduce/eliminate point or diffuse source pollution to surface or ground waters (including marine) from agricultural activities	High (H)
MK02: Reduce impact of multi-purpose hydrological changes	High (H)
MM01: Management of habitats (others than agriculture and forest) to slow, stop or reverse natural processes that occur without direct or indirect influence from human activities or climate change	Medium (M)

MA09: Manage the use of natural and synthetic fertilisers as well as chemicals in agricultural for plant and animal production	High (H)
MF01: Managing the impacts of converting land for construction and development of infrastructure	Medium (M)
MJ02: Implement climate change adaptation measures	High (H)
MM04: Other measures related to natural processes	Medium (M)

## 9.6 Additional information

Although it is evident populations have been lost from the wider countryside due to reductions in traditional farm ponds, these are generally considered to have been offset, to some degree, by increasing use of garden ponds for breeding (Beebee et al., 2000; Inns, 2009; Foster et al., 2021). The creation and ongoing management of habitat, mainly ponds, is the main conservation measure required. The main mechanisms for improving habitat extent and quality are agricultural and forestry regulation. Reductions in use of fertilisers and chemicals would improve habitat quality. Impacts through development could be further minimised and mitigated by improvements to land use planning. Further controls and awareness on invasive species would be valuable. Surveillance for disease outbreaks should be increased to identify the introduction of important new pathogens. These conservation measures have been undertaken and should continue in the future to maintain and improve populations.

## 10. Future prospects

### 10.1a Future trends of parameters

<b>ai) Range</b>	Overall stable
------------------	----------------

<b>bi) Population</b>	Overall stable
-----------------------	----------------

<b>ci) Habitat for the species</b>	Overall stable
------------------------------------	----------------

### 10.1b Future prospects of parameters

<b>aii) Range</b>	Good
-------------------	------

<b>bii) Population</b>	Good
------------------------	------

<b>cii) Habitat for the species</b>	Unknown
-------------------------------------	---------

## 10.2 Additional information

A range of threats exist for this widespread species; habitat loss and fragmentation through development remain key issues. Ponds becoming unsuitable for breeding due to senescence, through silting up or becoming overshadowed by trees and scrub, the introduction of fish which prey on the eggs and tadpoles are all significant threats. Use of (generally) smaller breeding ponds than historically may prove to have interactions with warmer spring/summer temperatures in that ponds drying out (or drying earlier than usual) could reduce successful metamorphosis.

## 11. Conclusions

<b>11.1 Range</b>	Favourable (FV)
<b>11.2 Population</b>	Unfavourable-inadequate (U1)
<b>11.3 Habitat for the species</b>	Unfavourable-inadequate (U1)
<b>11.4 Future prospects</b>	Favourable (FV)
<b>11.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status</b>	Unfavourable-inadequate (U1)
<b>11.6 Overall trend in Conservation Status</b>	Stable

### 11.7 Change and reason for change in conservation status

This field is not reported as the period 2019-2024 marks the first instance in which conservation status has been assessed at the national level, meaning no comparisons to previous reports can be drawn.

### 11.7 Change and reason for change in conservation status trend

This field is not reported as the period 2019-2024 marks the first instance in which conservation status has been assessed at the national level, meaning no comparisons to previous reports can be drawn.

### 11.8 Additional information

The creation and ongoing management of habitat, mainly ponds, is the main conservation measure required. The main mechanisms for improving habitat extent and quality are agricultural and forestry regulation. Reductions in use of fertilisers and

chemicals would improve habitat quality. Impacts through development could be further minimised and mitigated by improvements to land use planning. Further controls and awareness on invasive species would be valuable. Surveillance for disease outbreaks should be increased to identify the introduction of important new pathogens.

## **12. UK National Site Network (pSCIs, SCIs, SACs) coverage for Annex II species**

### **12.1 Population size inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network**

#### **a) Unit**

---

#### **b) Minimum**

---

#### **c) Maximum**

---

#### **d) Best single value**

---

### **12.2 Type of estimate**

---

### **12.3 Population size inside the network; Method used**

### **12.4 Short-term trend of population size within the network; Direction**

---

### **12.5 Short-term trend of population size within the network; Method used**

---

### **12.6 Short-term trend of habitat for the species inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network; Direction**

---

### **12.7 Short-term trend of habitat for the species inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network; Method used**

### **12.8 Additional information**

No additional information

## **13. Complementary information**

### **13.1 Justification of percentage thresholds for trends**

No justification information

### **13.2 Trans-boundary assessment**

No trans-boundary assessment information

### **13.2 Other relevant information**

No other relevant information

## 14. References

### Biogeographical and marine regions

#### 4.2 Sources of information

Beebee, T.J.C. & Griffiths, R.A. (2000). Amphibians and Reptiles. A Natural History of the British Herpetofauna. The New Naturalist Library, HarperCollins, London.

Swan, M.J.S. & Oldham, R.S. (1993). Herptile sites Volume 1: National Amphibian Survey final report. English Nature Research Reports No 38, Peterborough.

Inns, H. (2009). Britain's Reptiles and Amphibians. WILDGuides.

Foster, J., Driver, D., Ward, R. & Wilkinson, J. (2021). IUCN Red List assessment of amphibians and reptiles at Great Britain and country scale. Report to Natural England. ARC report, ARC, Bouremouth.

DUNFORD, R.W. and BERRY, P. M. 2012. Climate change modelling of English amphibians and reptiles: Report to the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust (ARC-Trust). Environmental Change Institute, Oxford.

JNCC (2019d). European Community Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC) Fourth Report by the United Kingdom under Article 17 on the implementation of the Directive from January 2013 to December 2018, Conservation status assessment for the species: S1213- Common frog (*Rana temporaria*) UNITED KINGDOM. JNCC.

NA

Joint Nature Conservation Committee. 2019. Fourth Report by the United Kingdom under Article 17 on the implementation of the Habitats Directive from January 2013 to December 2018.

### Main pressures

#### 8.2 Sources of information

PA04: Dervo, B.K., Bærum, K.M., Skurdal, J. and J. Museth. Effects of temperature and precipitation on breeding migrations of amphibian species in southeastern Norway . Scientifica Volume 2016, Article ID 3174316, 8 pages

PK01: Alan Pounds, J., Bustamante, M., Coloma, L. et al. Widespread amphibian extinctions from epidemic disease driven by global warming. Nature 439, 161–167 (2006). <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature04246>

PL05: Préau, C., Grandjean, F., Sellier, Y. et al. Habitat patches for newts in the face of climate change: local scale assessment combining niche modelling and graph theory. Sci Rep 10, 3570 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-60479-4>

PM07: Dervo, B.K., Bærum, K.M., Skurdal, J. and J. Museth. Effects of temperature and precipitation on breeding migrations of amphibian species in southeastern Norway . Scientifica Volume 2016, Article ID 3174316, 8 pages

PI04: Foster, J., Driver, D., Ward, R. & Wilkinson, J. (2021). IUCN Red List assessment of amphibians and reptiles at Great Britain and country scale. Report to Natural England. ARC report. ARC, Bournemouth.

## 15. Explanatory Notes

Field label	Note
2.5: Additional information	The common frog is widespread throughout Great Britain (Swan et al., 1993; Beebee et al., 2000; Inns, 2009; Foster et al., 2021). The species was evaluated as Least Concern in the IUCN Red List assessment for Great Britain (Foster et al., 2021) as it does not meet the strict criteria to fulfill any of the threatened categories. The Extent of Occurrence (EOO) for this species is judged to be around 300,000km <sup>2</sup> , with a large population size and no evidence of substantial population declines or reduction in range.
2.2: Year or Period	Pre-2013 records have been used as survey effort between 2013 -2018 was insufficient and available data are not robust. A 36 year reporting period was used for the 2007 and 2013 Article 17 report - similarly, a 36 year period (1982-2018) has also been used for this reporting round.
2.4: Distribution map; Method used	The records used to calculate current range in England have been collated from a wide range of sources and most are not from comprehensive surveys (records from ARC Trust, Record Pool and NBN datasets).
6.1: Year or Period	Pre-2013 records have been used as survey effort between 2013 -2018 was insufficient and available data are not robust. A 36 year reporting period was used for the 2007 and 2013 Article 17 report - similarly, a 36 year period (1982-2018) has also been used for this reporting round.
6.2: Population size	This is a minimum value, based on the number of 1km squares for which there are records within the 36 year period. Survey effort is incomplete and not robust. Also applies to section 6.5.
6.8: Short-term trend; Direction	Short term trend is based on expert opinion only. Previous 10km estimates were 1375 (in 2013) and 2149 (in 2007). There are some local ongoing spawn count surveys which indicate population rises in recent years, such as in the New Forest, Norfolk and Devon.

7.1: Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat	The quality of common frog habitat in England is unknown. PondNet report some declines in HSI quality due to fish introductions and proximity of development both direct and adjacent to new developments.
7.4: Short-term trend; Direction	There is not enough data on common frog habitat to estimate trends
8.1: Characterisation of pressures	The key pressures and threats to the species are associated with the loss of or reduction in terrestrial and aquatic habitat, such as pond loss or pollution. In England, climate change will adversely impact the species with currently occupied parts of the country becoming unsuitable (Dunford & Berry, 2012). Disease, particularly ranavirus, is a present threat to common frog populations and disease dynamics may change in the future e.g. as a result of climate change.
6.9: Short-term trend; Magnitude	There is no evidence of substantial population declines or reduction in range.