

## **Notable reptile and amphibian species found in the Avalon Marshes**

Native **amphibian** species recorded across the landscape include:

- European protected Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*)
- Palmate Newt (*Triturus helveticus*)
- Smooth or Common Newt (*Triturus vulgaris*)
- Common Toad (*Bufo bufo*)
- Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*)

There is also a well established population of the non-native Marsh Frog (*Rana ridibunda*) on the Shapwick Heath and Ham Wall National Nature Reserves. The marsh frog was deliberately introduced to the UK during the 1950's and has by far been the most successful introduction, choosing breeding sites such as dykes and ditches not generally chosen by our native amphibians. The Marsh Frog provides an extra source of prey for various bird, fish and mammal species. At present the impact that this species has had on native amphibians on the reserves is unknown with populations of native species remaining high.

**Reptiles** present include strong populations of:

- Slow Worm (*Anguis fragilis*)
- Grass Snake (*Natrix natrix*) with the many ditches, lakes and rivers providing prime habitat for this species.
- European Adder (*Vipera berus*) is also found on a number of sites including Westhay Moor and Shapwick Heath NNR as is the:
- Common Lizard (*Lacerta vivipara*) on locations such as the remnant mire habitat at Ashcott Plot.