

Frogspawn report 2021

The Common Frog is monitored at Fryent Country Park by counting the clumps of frogspawn; this acting as an indicator of the number of adult pairs.

Twenty-nine ponds held water at the time of spawning and that figure includes the small pond at Preston Eastfield near to the Gaderbrook which was restored during the past year. However, water levels dropped in some ponds towards the end of March, leaving puddles only.

The last of the spawning appears to have been on or about 21st March, whereas some clumps were laid prior to 6th March.

Spawning was recorded in 14 ponds. A total of 2,285 clumps were counted. This is the second highest on record for Fryent Country Park, with the count of 2018 in comparison being of 2,800 clumps. There have been some recent dry springs and summers, which can reduce the water levels in some ponds before the froglets can emerge, so some reduction can be expected. Both figures are many times the total before the pond restoration projects commenced.

The surprise for 2021 was the quantity of spawn at Long Down Pond, where a total of 838 clumps were counted on 13th March 2021. Many of these clumps were however relatively small, perhaps suggesting young adults. Barn Hill Conservation Group have worked at Long Down Pond during some recent late summers and autumns to reduce the shade from growing trees, which may have been a factor in increasing the spawning.