SARG Amphibian Surveyor's Guide
Using SARGWEB

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Contents

The SARG Amphibian Surveyor's Guide to SARGWEB

1. Introduction

1.1.   This guide describes the use of the online direction, guidance and reporting system used by SARG amphibian surveyors.

2. Where and when to survey

2.1.   To deal with the *when* question first, you can survey any of the core survey ponds at any time of the year, and in any meteorological conditions. The data you collect (including negative records) will help to build our picture of amphibian activity and detectability. Of course you will only reliably see amphibians at certain times of the year, and in certain weather conditions, however; negative surveys are still very important to us.

2.2.   At the time of writing, the SARG survey system comprises around 30 sites across Surrey. Surveyors can choose whichever pond they prefer to survey, but should be guided by the SARG amphibian survey web pages, so that we do not over-survey some sites, at the expense of others. Over survey can also cause damage to the habitat and undue disturbance to the animals.

3. Survey Direction on the SARG Amphibian Survey Web Pages

3.1.   On any SARG web page (http://surrey-arg.org.uk), click on the *Members Area* tab on the menu bar. You will need to log on to the system, which will also check your membership status.

3.2.   Once you have logged on, you will see your membership menu. If you are recorded as a SARG amphibian surveyor, you will see an *Amphibian Surveyors* icon. Click this to enter the *Amphibian Survey Menu*.
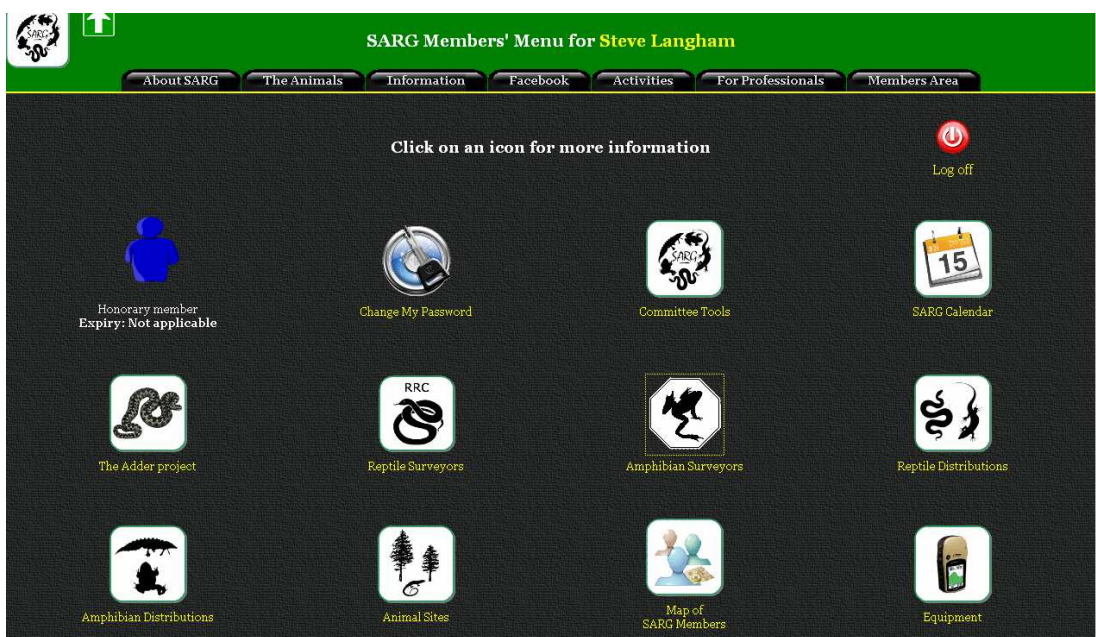
3.3. Your *Amphibian Surveyors Menu* will look different to the image below if you do not have a Great Crested Newt licence, or are not an accredited agent on the SARG GCN licence.
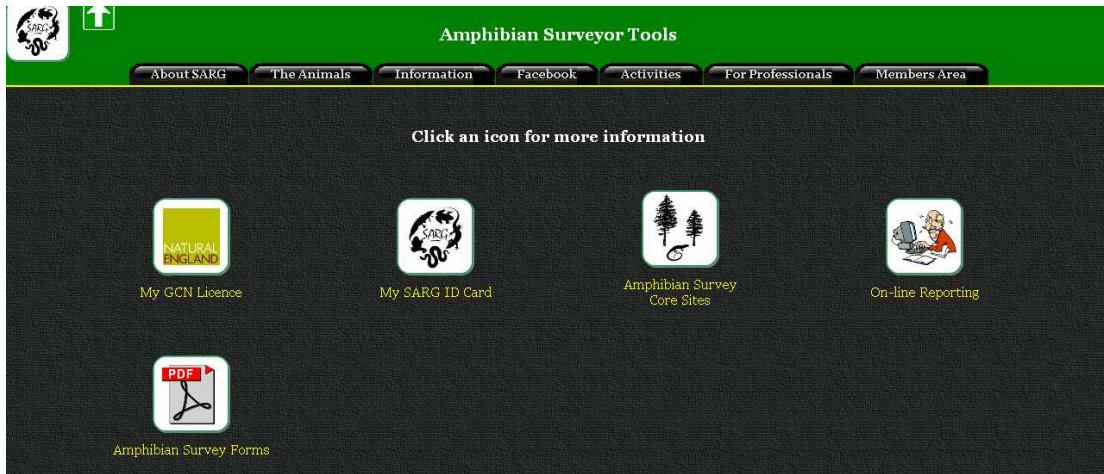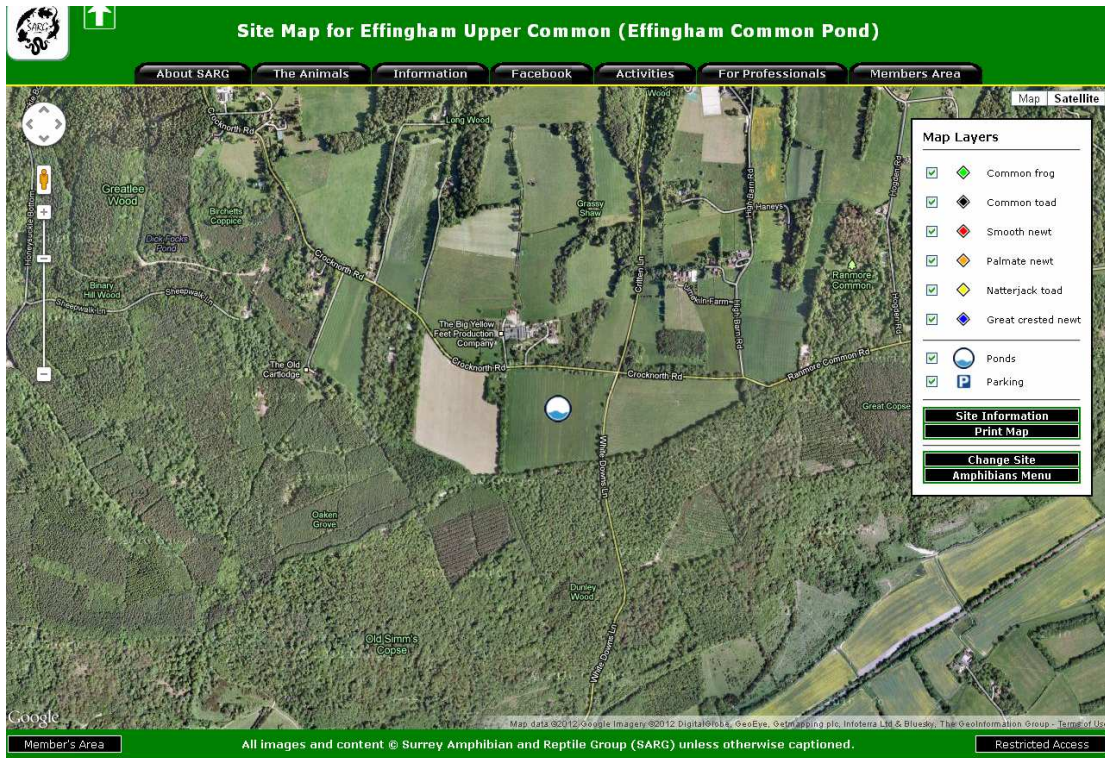

3.4. Click on the *Amphibian Survey Core Sites* icon.

3.5. You will see a list of amphibian survey sites, listed by County District. Site names in red have been heavily surveyed, and you should avoid surveying these sites if possible. Site names in green have been lightly surveyed, and please treat these sites as a priority.

3.6.   Click on the site name to see the site map.

3.7.   The map shows pond locations, parking places and the known amphibian distributions for the site. You should always click on the *Site Information* button of the site map, to see whether there are any access restrictions or special sensitivities for the site.

4. Conducting the Amphibian Survey

4.1. Guidance on how to conduct and record your survey can be found in the companion guide: *SARG Amphibian Surveyor's Guide, Conducting an Amphibian Survey*.

5. Reporting your Survey Results

5.1. The data you generate can only be used for the conservation benefit of the species if it is reported. By reporting your survey via the SARG web reporting system, we can automatically add data such as weather conditions, and use your information to improve our statistics and distribution maps. This added value is vital for land managers when drafting their site management plans. Without suitable habitat, we would have no wild amphibian species.

5.2. On the *Amphibian Surveyor's Menu*, click on the *On-line Reporting* icon.
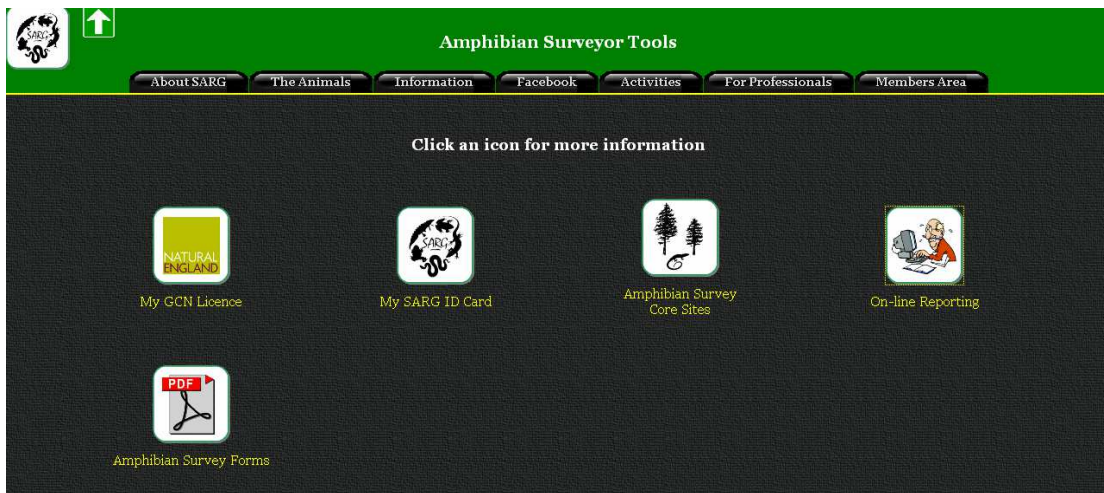
5.3. Then select the *On-line Reporting (Formal survey - core sites)* icon.

5.4. This will bring you to the site details reporting page. The system should know who you are (as you are logged in), and you will need to select the site you surveyed from the pull-down list. You should also select the type of survey that was conducted. Using the icon next to the date entry, select the date that you surveyed the site. Enter your time *on* (the time you started the survey) and the time *off* (end of survey). These times are

important, as we need them to calculate the weather conditions, and to generate the survey effort statistics, which allow us to calculate observability of amphibian species at the site.

5.5. Click on the *Submit Details* button to progress to the page where sightings (and negative records) can be recorded.

5.6. On the *Step 2* screen, fill in any of the white boxes that were relevant for your survey.

5.7.　When you have completed entering your animal sightings, click on the green *Submit Sightings* button to move on to the *Step 3* screen, where you can add additional survey details.

5.8.　When complete, click on the green *Submit Details* button. The website will now process your data and add additional data, such as the weather conditions. This may take a few seconds to complete.
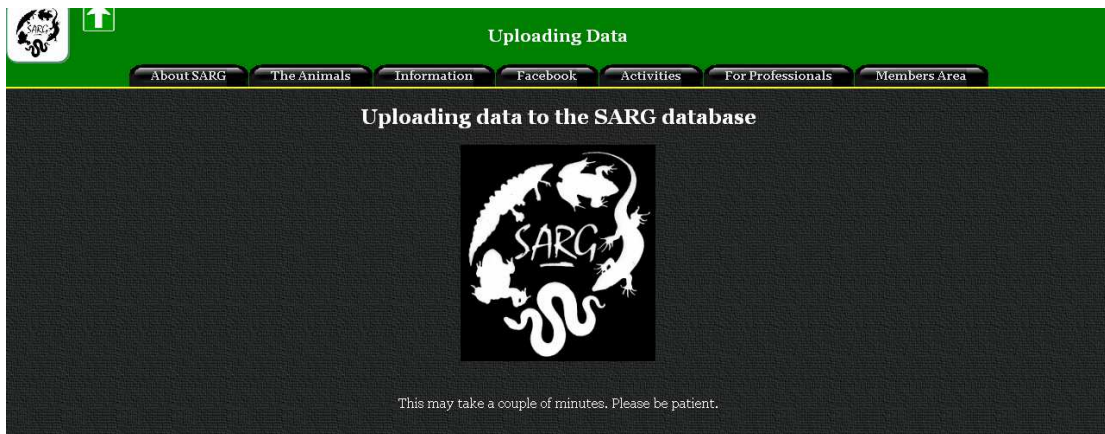
5.9. You will then be shown the final report table. This table will also be emailed to you at your registered email address (as shown on the report table).

6. Correcting Errors

6.1. If you note any errors on your survey submission, please let the SARG Amphibians Officer (Danial) know by email (danial@surrey-arg.org.uk).

7. Additional Help

7.1. If you require any additional help with the use of the website for amphibian surveyors, please contact either Steve (steve@surrey-arg.org.uk) or Danial (danial@surrey-arg.org.uk).

8. Other Useful Guides for Amphibian Surveyors

❑ SARG GPS User's Guide

❑ SARG Guide to Conducting an Amphibian Survey

Downloadable at:
http://www.surrey-arg.org.uk/SARG/07000-Publications/SARGdocsMenu.asp?DocType=Guides