



### NEONICOTINOID PESTICIDES BANNED

The European Union has voted to ban bee-harming neonicotinoid pesticides (neonics) on all crops grown outdoors. Now, if a crop is grown outdoors, neonics are totally off-limits. Our bees will be able to fly more freely through our countryside without the risk of these harmful chemicals.

Tristan Bantock is the Entomologist & national organiser of the shieldbugs & allies recording scheme and field meetings secretary for the LNHS (Ecology & Entomology section)

Inspired by other recording schemes, I has produced a draft shieldbug atlas to accompany the IUCN status review. This includes all recording scheme data as of 2014.

This is available on-line to download at:



[http://www.britishbugs.org.uk/Provisional\\_atlas\\_of\\_shieldbugs\\_and\\_allies\\_2018.pdf](http://www.britishbugs.org.uk/Provisional_atlas_of_shieldbugs_and_allies_2018.pdf)



### Spawn Survey 2018

Help collect data on the whereabouts of frog and toad spawn across the country by taking part in our PondNet Spawn Survey 2018!

If you have a local park or garden pond with evidence of breeding frogs and toads, or you spot some spawn while out on a walk, why not record your findings and contribute to our spawn survey?

From the beginning of February until the end of May this year, for the second year, they will be running their survey to collect important data on the location of breeding frogs and toads across the country. They are asking you to record both toad and frog spawn in your garden ponds, local community ponds, and any ponds you come across in your adventures in the countryside.

You can download the survey recording form, take a look at how to identify toad and frog spawn and learn how to find a grid reference for your survey pond.

### Arctic walrus spotted in North Ronaldsay and Sanday

The island of Sanday is one of the larger inhabited outer islands of Orkney, with a population of around 550. Rich in natural and man-made history, Sanday has a wealth of wildlife, heritage and archaeology.

This was increased this week by a rather unexpected visitor. Five years after the "once-in-a-lifetime" sighting of a walrus in Orkney, a second animal has been spotted there.

The mammal was first spotted by Lewis Hooper, a volunteer at North Ronaldsay bird observatory. He said it is not thought to be the same individual that was seen in March 2013, though it is the same species.



The walrus was photographed on the island of Sanday.

Sanday ranger Emma Neave-Webb, of Sanday Development Trust, said: "My job here is very much looking after the local - and not so local - wildlife. A wonderful job, made all the better by sightings like this."

### Ulidiidae flies

A relatively small family (20 British species) containing some very distinctive picture-winged flies, many of which can be identified in the field with the naked eye or a hand lens. Many of those picture-winged species actively wing-wave as they walk over foliage (e.g. *Herina* and *Seioptera*) or tree trunks and dead wood (*Homalocephala* and *Myennis*).

An on-line guide may be found at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/63075200@N07/collections/72157638181506875/>