

# ARGL Review of 2018

## Rixton Claypits: Job Done!

For over five years ARGL volunteers have taken part in work to help implement the management plan for Rixton Claypits. Rixton Claypits (near Warrington) is designated as both an internationally recognised SAC (Special Area of Conservation) and nationally important SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest), due in part to its large and thriving great crested newt population. Most of the tasks have involved the removal of birch and willow scrub to reduce the shading of ponds and to enhance habitat diversity. Other tasks have included the removal of vegetation from shallow pools. All this work has made the site even better for amphibians and pond invertebrates.

For some of these events ARGL volunteers have been joined by those from Bangor University Herpetological Society and together a huge amount has been achieved. So much so, that almost all of the essential work has been done and the Rangers are unable to provide the groups with any more habitat management tasks. Mick Lees, the head Ranger at Rixton Claypits, said "Volunteers from ARGL have helped us complete a huge amount of work and we couldn't have done it without them. It's been a great help to have the support of volunteers who are committed to conservation and keen to work hard."

ARGL will keep in touch with the Rangers at Rixton Claypits and be ready to return when they are needed again.



**February 2018:** ARGL volunteers were joined by Bangor University Herp Soc for another habitat management task at Rixton Claypits.

## ARGL highlights of 2018

- Habitat management for great crested newts at Rixton Claypits.
- Participation in the Lancashire Wildlife Trust "Wildlife Recording Showcase".
- Amphibian survey training in Bury.



**December 2018; before and after:** ARGL completed the final management task at Rixton Claypits by clearing trees and scrub from an area where a new pond will be excavated.



## Your ARGL Committee in 2018

Chair: David Orchard

Database Manager: Lee Brady

Treasurer: Lorna Bousfield

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