

Would you like assistance with the management of ponds on your land?

A large proportion of rural ponds are heavily shaded which makes them poor amphibian breeding ponds. Ideally we would like to overcome this by creating entirely new ponds, leaving the old ones to develop as a habitat for other wildlife. On some sites there are good reasons why existing ponds should be managed, but the need for this should always be considered carefully.

If you would like advice or assistance with the management of your ponds, please contact us for more information.

What can't we do?

- We are unable to fund the cost of pond liners, so if we support the creation of a new pond it would need to hold water naturally for at least 8 months of the year.*
- We are unable to help with the creation or management of garden ponds. However, we may still be able to survey them for amphibians - please ask us for more details.*



To find out whether your site can receive a free amphibian or reptile survey or whether we can help with pond creation or management, please contact:

David Orchard

Chair of the Amphibian and Reptile Group of South Lancashire

Tel - **01204 529312** or **07817 373853**

email - **argsl@btinternet.com**

www.argsl.org.uk



Amphibian and Reptile Group
of **South Lancashire**

*working for the conservation of
amphibians and reptiles*



photo ©Andy Harmer

Pond Creation

Pond Management

Amphibian Surveys

Help available to landowners from

**The Amphibian and Reptile Group
of South Lancashire**



Who are we?

The Amphibian and Reptile Group of South Lancashire (ARGSL) is a voluntary group interested in the conservation of amphibians and reptiles.

What do we do?

Over the years, ARGSL has carried out numerous surveys for amphibians and reptiles and has organised pond creation and habitat management projects.

This year marks the start of our regional Amphibian and Reptile Discovery Project and as part of this initiative we would like to work with landowners in Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside. If you are a landowner in any of these areas with an interest in ponds and wildlife we would very much like to hear from you.

For more information on our activities, see our website at www.argsl.org.uk



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What's living in your pond?

The north west of England has many ponds but most of them have never been surveyed. Frequently there is a good local knowledge of where amphibians and reptiles can be found but this information normally doesn't get passed on. Consequently we have surprisingly little understanding about the distribution of species once thought of as common such as the frog, toad and smooth newt. These may be much less widespread than once thought, although we have little evidence either way.

Can we take a look at your ponds?

If you have ponds on your land please let us know as ARGSL would like to survey them. The more sites we have permission to visit, the more surveys can be completed and the more we will understand about the distribution of amphibians in the north west.

- *Surveys can be completed in as little as 30 minutes per pond.*
- *Our amphibian survey consists of one or two visits to a pond in spring which is normally enough to detect the species present.*
- *We will respect any requests to keep out of selected fields if they are 'out of bounds'.*
- *We will keep to agreed access routes to avoid damaging crops or fences.*

Unfortunately we cannot guarantee to visit your pond during the spring as this depends on the number of survey requests we receive, but we will be pleased to answer any queries you may have.

If you already know which amphibian species are found in your pond, please let us know about them by using our recording form (free to download from the ARGSL website). You can also e-mail us at argsl@btinternet.com to request a form.

Reptiles are particularly difficult to find, so if you suspect that you may have them on your land we would very much like to hear from you.

Unless your land is eligible for Higher Level Stewardship our survey results are unlikely to help you gain access to agri-environment funding. However, why let this stop you taking up our FREE survey offer?

Do you have space for ponds on your land?

ARGSL has some money, raised by membership subscriptions and donations, that has been earmarked for pond creation projects.

Over the last 4 years the group has organised and helped to fund the creation of 27 ponds. We are now looking for suitable locations to create more, so if you would like new ponds on your land please contact us for more information.

We can't respond to all enquiries with offers of funding, but if we are not able to cover the full cost of pond creation we may be able to contribute 50%. (Your land doesn't need to have public access or be in Higher Level Stewardship to receive our support.)

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