

ARGSL Review of 2015

Work at Rixton Claypits

Rixton Claypits (near Warrington) is designated as a SSSI and SAC partly on the basis of its large and thriving great crested newt population. The terrestrial habitat is excellent for the species but there is scope to improve it still further by opening up some shaded ponds and removing trees to increase the diversity of the woodland structure. Rangers from Warrington Borough Council invited ARGSL to assist with this work which it has been pleased to do.

ARGSL has carried out three tasks at Rixton Claypits this year, two with the support of students from Bangor University Herpetological Society.



Students from Bangor University at Rixton Claypits.

Each of the tasks has involved the removal of trees to help achieve management objectives for the site. The students worked really hard on both tasks and were a massive help.



One of the Rixton ponds after a management task

Although Rixton is located in Cheshire, work there will remain a high priority for ARGSL as

it is one of the most important sites for great crested newts in the country. The Rangers have an excellent attitude to working with volunteers which means tasks are always well organised.

Habitat management weekends at Sefton and Talacre

In 2015 ARGSL held two weekend tasks to help manage coastal habitats for the sand lizard and natterjack toad. Work at Sefton took place in January, in partnership with North Merseyside ARG and the work at Talacre (North Wales) took place in December, again with support from Bangor University Herpetological Society.



A view of the Sefton dunes before and then after the task weekend in January 2015.



Your ARGSL Committee for 2015

Chair: David Orchard
Database Manager: Lee Brady
Treasurer: Denis Dowsell



Amphibian and Reptile Group
of South Lancashire

www.argsl.org.uk
argsl@btinternet.co.uk