

ARGSL Review of 2017

Habitat management at Rixton: the priority for ARGSL in 2017

Once again, habitat management at Rixton Claypits was the focus of ARGSL's activity in 2017. A record number of seven tasks were completed - the highest number of ARGSL task days completed in one year at a single site. Much of the work involved scrub clearance, but other work included the removal of vegetation from ponds, dredging of leaves from shallow pools and the digging of a pond by hand. ARGSL volunteers were joined by students from the Bangor University Herp Soc and The University of Salford's Roots and Shoots group. The tasks helped to implement a number of management objectives for the internationally important site. "We're really pleased with amount of work that's been done by the volunteers." said Mick Lees, head ranger for Rixton Claypits. "There's always work to do on a site like this and we really welcome this assistance from volunteers". ARGSL will undertake further tasks at Rixton, but hopes to spread its effort over more sites in 2018.



Volunteers at Rixton on October 15th 2017

Lancashire Atlas database continues to grow

Gathering records for the Lancashire Atlas database remains a key priority for the group. This continued during 2017 with data being collected from a number of sources, mainly surveys done by consultant ecologists. This included nearly 400 records compiled from NE gcn mitigation licence applications.

Your ARGSL Committee for 2018

Chair: David Orchard

Database Manager: Lee Brady

Treasurer: Lorna Bousfield

ARGSL to be re-named ARGL

At the ARGSL AGM in December 2017 it was agreed that the Amphibian and Reptile Group of South Lancashire should change its name to the Amphibian and Reptile Group of Lancashire. The abbreviation "ARGL" will avoid confusion with London ARG (LARG).

The name ARGSL was chosen in 2004 when the group was established. A key aim of the group was to carry out survey work in the Vice-County of South Lancashire, an area now covered by Merseyside, Greater Manchester and southern Lancashire. (The vice county system is a long established method used by many recording schemes as its boundaries do not change over time, unlike county boundaries.) Efforts have been made to establish ARGs in South Manchester and North Lancashire and although they were successful for a time, neither have survived. This left ARGSL covering both areas. Bearing in mind that a significant number of the group's members live in the vice county of West Lancashire (i.e. Lancashire north of the River Ribble) and that no other ARG covers this area, it was felt that the name change more accurately reflected the geographical coverage of the group.

ARGL will cover the same Vice-County recording areas as ARGSL, (ie South and West Lancashire) so the name change is effectively a re-branding exercise. Everything owned by ARGSL will now become the property of ARGL and the ARGSL website will be updated in the near future. The name ARGSL will not be obsolete however, as it will be retained with the aspiration of developing a sub-group focussed on activities in the Greater Manchester area. Unlike corporate rebranding exercises, members are encouraged to keep wearing their ARGSL t-shirts!



Amphibian and Reptile Group
of South Lancashire

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