



## **Delivering wildlife rich communities for future generations**

*Creating and managing sustainable amphibian and reptile  
habitats in partnership with housing developers*





## Foreword

*“I have been actively involved in the conservation of amphibians and reptiles for many years. In particular, my interest has been in making sure that the wildlife and the habitats these species need to survive are being properly taken care of and that the importance of nature for the community is recognised; this especially so where wildlife might be affected by development.*

*I have been heartened over the years to see the positive enhancement of natural areas by developers, who are increasingly being placed at the heart of protecting and enhancing native wildlife in North Wales.*

*Amphibian and Reptile Conservation is well positioned to help. ARC has a long history and proven track record in managing nature areas that support native reptiles and amphibian populations in addition to providing communities with enhanced local environments. It provides both the expert advice and practical management needed to create wildlife rich areas to benefit current and future generations.”*

**ARC Trustee, Philippa M Perry, MBE**

## Investing in a wilder future

Wales is home to a diverse range of wildlife, landscapes and natural resources. However, the State of Nature 2019 report identified the wildlife of Wales, along with the rest of the UK, continuing to decline. Contributing factors identified include agricultural and woodland management, pollution, urbanisation and climate change.

Housing development has certainly resulted in the loss and damage of much valuable habitat, but urbanisation does not have to result in the loss of biodiversity. A conservation response can work to benefit both wildlife and add value to communities, as reflected in Welsh Assembly policy.

A combination of avoiding sensitive areas, creation, enhancement, and management of wildlife habitats, can result in the improvement of habitat diversity and connectivity between the green spaces that exist within urban landscapes. When well planned, this can help boost biodiversity and also improve peoples' well-being. These gains are increasingly required to meet planning conditions or comply with protected species licensing needs. There is a sound business case for considering wildlife conservation at an early stage in any development proposal.

Developers that invest in the restoration, maintenance and enhancement of our natural world now have the opportunity not only to support homeowners, but also support Wales to realise major gains economically, socially and of course for our environment.

8% of species in Wales are threatened with extinction from Great Britain, 30% of species have decreased in distribution, and there is a 10% decline in average species distribution.

**Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**  
to carry out sustainable development to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales

**Environment (Wales) Act 2016**  
to support the sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity in Wales



## About us

**Amphibian & Reptile Conservation** manages 80 nature reserves nationally and takes forward a range of conservation initiatives, including implementing species recovery plans which include reintroducing populations, providing expert advice, running survey programmes and increasing public awareness.

We also contribute to the governmental biodiversity strategies across Great Britain and provide advocacy to promote biodiversity benefits, as new legislation and policy are developed.

In addition, we actively engage in consultant and landowner partnership working, finding new approaches for enhancing areas that are being developed – creating benefits for native amphibians and reptiles, developers and the communities they serve.



## Creating award winning environments

### White Lion

The White Lion reserve is a 0.8 hectare site managed and monitored by ARC, with both wildlife and people in mind. The White Lion nature reserve lies within “Heritage Park” - a Redrow 85 residential unit development in Flintshire.



The reserve is home to five UK native amphibian species along with mammals, birds and invertebrates including a rare species of mud snail. Our conservation work here has helped increase the existing local population of the strictly protected great crested newt, and wider amphibian assemblage in the area.

The North Wales nature reserve won the small-scale ‘Project of the Year’ 2019 at the biodiversity awards from the Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA).

Commended by the British Ecological Society, the project was acknowledged for its partnership approach, community focus, ecological output and legacy.



Events hosted by the ARC team are provided throughout the year for residents including guided walks, species surveys and pond-dipping sessions. These events provide the opportunity for the community to become more involved with their local surroundings and to learn about the wildlife in the area.

## How we can help

From planning to post-build, ARC can help deliver conservation management at nature reserves with an amphibian and reptile interest, including:

- Managing nature reserves, including taking on long-term management on behalf of developers
- Surveying sites for amphibian and reptile species
- Providing advice on avoiding, reducing and mitigating impacts
- Preparing and undertaking habitat creation and restoration plans
- Undertaking populations assessments, including long-term monitoring projects
- Working with local communities and public engagement



## Partner testimonials

### Tom Woodall

Access and Natural Environment Manager,  
Flintshire County Council

*“Working in partnership with ARC has been a true win-win experience, it’s been advantageous for both Flintshire and ARC, good for the community, and more importantly great for wildlife”*



### Paul Sinclair

Technical Director, Redrow Homes (NW)

*“Heritage Park was shaped by the natural environment that it was part of. Redrow, working with both TEP and ARC Trust, cultivated the development not only to help preserve, but to encourage wildlife habitats to flourish.”*



### Lee Greenhough

Principal Ecologist, TEP

*“As ecological consultants, we advise our clients on how to design and build new habitats for amphibians and reptiles, but unless there is long-term management know-how, the habitats will decline. ARC Trust offers detailed local knowledge and a highly-motivated team of wardens and volunteers, which is critical for long-term success”*





# Contact us

## Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

e: [enquiries@arc-trust.org](mailto:enquiries@arc-trust.org)

t: 01202 391319

[www.arc-trust.org](http://www.arc-trust.org)

Head office: 744 Christchurch Rd, Boscombe,  
Bournemouth, Dorset BH7 6BZ

Registered charity number England & Wales 1130188

Facebook: @ARCTrust

Twitter: @ARC\_Bytes

Instagram: @arc.trust.official

LinkedIn: #Amphibian-and-Reptile-Conservation

