



**Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the UK**

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Charity Number: 1165504

**Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 January 2024**

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## Reference and Administrative details

Charity Number: 1165504

Trustees:

Chris Monk (Chair)  
Frank Syratt (Treasurer)  
John Baker  
Nigel Hand  
Steve Langham  
Alice Pawlik  
Suzie Collinson  
Jeanette Hall  
Erik Paterson

Registered Office:

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Independent Examiner:

Sheila Parry FCCA  
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Banker:

The Cooperative Bank

Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the UK is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (no. 1165504) registered on 10 February 2016. Membership of the CIO is open to all local constituted volunteer groups whose principal objective is the conservation of native amphibians and reptiles and who, by applying for membership, have indicated their agreement to become a member and acceptance of the duty of members. ARG UK is governed by its Constitution Document following the Association model. The Charity Trustees present their annual report and the charity's financial statements for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

# **Trustees' Report for Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the UK from 1 February 2023 – 31 January 2024**

## **ARG UK's Objectives and Activities**

### **Mission**

Amphibian and Reptile Groups of UK (ARG UK) is committed to the conservation of native amphibians and reptiles and their natural environment by supporting the development of a network of independent volunteer amphibian and reptile groups (ARGs).

### **Charitable Objectives**

The charitable objects of Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the UK are:

- (1) the preservation, conservation and welfare of native amphibians, reptiles and their natural environment in the UK for the benefit of the public by promoting and supporting the development of a network of independent amphibian and reptile groups (ARGs) involved in the conservation of the herpetofauna of the British isles.
- (2) to promote education and research activities for the benefit of the public at large relevant to species and habitat conservation pertinent to native amphibian and reptile populations of the British Isles and to publish the useful results of such research for the public benefit.

### **Strategic themes and activities:**

There are currently three themes to ARG UK's work:

#### **1. Supporting the grass roots conservation of amphibians and reptiles:**

ARG UK's primary role is to support a network of 40 county-based volunteer amphibian and reptile groups (ARGs). Each group works with the species in its locality, and these provide the 'grass roots' of native herpetofauna conservation in the UK; undertaking survey and monitoring, practical conservation tasks, public events and outreach and liaising with stakeholders including local planning authorities, land owners, other conservation bodies, and the wider public. We also support other volunteer groups with an interest in our native herpetofauna in a more informal capacity.

#### **2. Representing the volunteer sector at the national level:**

We promote the position and views of the volunteer sector at national level and sit on a number of panels and forums. We also convene internal meetings in order to understand better the views of our volunteers, so that we can be more representative at national level.

#### **3. Public outreach and education:**

We promote positive messages about amphibians and reptiles with communities and the wider public, through direct engagement at events, seminars and training days; by working with other NGOs and land managers and the local/national media to develop an engaging and positive narrative; and by developing educational materials for pre-school and school-aged children.

### **Principles:**

Our guiding principles are:

- Everyone is welcome! We do not discriminate on the basis of age, gender, disability, ethnicity, belief, socio economic background or any other characteristic. We aim to be inclusive and proactively break down barriers, encouraging all members of society to become involved with wildlife conservation.
- We work through collaboration, using existing networks or by developing new groups and partnerships.
- We believe people learn most effectively from their peers and enable those we work with to take action within their own networks through mentoring and other forms of support.

### Public benefit

The Board of Trustees is satisfied that they have complied with the duty in section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission, and that the mission, aims and activities of ARG UK meets with these criteria.

### Key Achievements:

#### 1. Supporting the grass roots conservation of amphibians and reptiles:

ARG UK continues to support volunteers engaged in conservation activities, by providing a range of advice and support services. These include our series of Advice Notes, based on expert inputs from specialists from the volunteer groups and other organisations including wildlife NGOs, ecological consultants and statutory agencies. These can all be accessed from the ARG UK website, [www.arguk.org](http://www.arguk.org), and are also promoted via social media, including our various Facebook groups and Twitter account.

#### Conferences, meetings, training and outreach

We continued to support the annual Herpetofauna Workers Meeting in partnership with Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, which was held at the Venue Cymru in Llandudno, Wales, in February 2023. We were pleased to welcome nearly 200 delegates to an interesting and varied programme covering all aspects of amphibian and reptile conservation.

We were also delighted to be able to provide sponsorship for the 22nd European Congress of Herpetology, organised by the Societas Europaea Herpetologica (SEH) and a local organising committee, and hosted by the University of Wolverhampton in the West Midlands during September 2023. Welcoming enthusiastic herpetologists from a total of 27 nations across 4 continents, with 99 presentations and 52 posters, the meeting was also an opportunity to catch up with many of our students and ARG volunteers, and find out more about the various research projects they have been progressing in the previous year. ARG UK presented an update on 'Dragons in the Hills' which was warmly received by colleagues.

In addition to advice, ARG UK provides practical support to the ARGs through:

- a) Provision of an **umbrella insurance scheme**, at no cost, to affiliated ARGs. This provides public and employer liability for the groups, and enables them to attend public events, run training sessions, surveys and practical conservation tasks for volunteer members and the wider public.
- b) **100% fund** – the ARG UK small grants scheme provides affiliated ARGs with grants of up to £500 for practical conservation to benefit amphibian and reptiles. In 2023-24 we provided a total of £1,331.89 to five of our affiliated groups including: £100.49 for The Cairngorms affiliated group to purchase refugia for reptile surveys; £500 to Cent ARG to support purchase of amphibian survey equipment including torches, nets and PPE for the volunteers; £398.18 to Notts ARG to purchase a gazebo, banners and other materials for events; £237.30 to London ARG to purchase materials for amphibian and reptile surveys; and £95.92 to HIWARG to purchase materials for amphibian surveys. We would like to thank our corporate sponsor, Habitat Aid, and all of our individual donors for their generous support for this fund.
- c) Provision of **free mini-websites**, enabling small volunteer groups to get up and running at no cost.

- d) Support for **regional meetings** including the annual **Herpetofauna Workers Meeting**, which attracts over 200 delegates and is the main forum for the sector. The ARGs also organise smaller regional meetings, and ARG UK supports other organisations running herpetofauna themed events.
- e) Support and advice with fundraising, administration, training and governance, where requested.

## 2. Supporting national projects

We coordinated volunteer action for a number of projects of national significance:

**Make the Adder Count (MTAC)** – We continued to support the Make the Adder Count surveys in 2023-24, and are working closely with UK CEH to further interrogate this important, long-term data set on our native adder.

**Survey and monitoring** – The online herpetofauna recording portal, Record Pool in partnership with Amphibian & Reptile Conservation (ARC), continues to expand and function well with over 63,000 records from over 17,000 recorders right across the UK by the end of the 2023-24 year.

**National Disease monitoring** – We have continued to support the Garden Wildlife Health (GWH) Project ([www.gardenwildlifehealth.org](http://www.gardenwildlifehealth.org)), and our volunteers have been proactive in collecting information on amphibians and reptiles showing abnormalities. Our volunteers also provide a frontline resource for new pathogens, such as the deadly *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (Bsal), a fungal pathogen that has already caused mass die-offs in wild European fire salamanders (*Salamandra salamandra*) in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany and may pose a threat to our native newts. In partnership with the GWH project, Hampshire and Isle of Wight ARG (HIWARG), Buglife, and The Isle of Wight Reptilium, we have continued to investigate the feeding behaviours of a novel, non-native leech, *Batrachobdella algira*, that is showing an unusual feeding patterns on common frog (*Rana temporaria*) and common toad (*Bufo bufo*), with disease foci in South Devon and the Isle of Wight. Dr Angela Julian presented these findings at the First Global Amphibian and Reptile Disease Conference (GARD) hosted by the University of Knoxville in Tennessee in August 2022, and we are pleased to report that a peer reviewed scientific paper in collaboration with all of our project partners has been accepted for publication in The Herpetological Journal.

## 3. Amphibian and Reptile Group (ARG) Support

We support affiliated local ARG groups as needed with advice on setting up and governance and assistance for local conservation projects.

**ARGWEB** - We have developed a new system, specifically designed to support the volunteer ARGs, by providing a suite of online tools (apps) to enable groups to manage their members and other stakeholders including land managers and project partners in a GDPR compliant manner. ARGWEB also supports site-based amphibian and reptile surveys to allow for site monitoring, a toad patrol app, to enable patrollers to more easily collate amphibian numbers and patrollers' effort. By enabling site managers and other partners, including ARC and Froglife, to access data for their sites in real time, it also provides a tool for site management. By the end of January 2024, 30 of our county-based groups adopted ARGWEB portals, with nearly 2,500 users signed up to the system and over 750,000 observation records for amphibians and reptiles.

## 4. Representing the volunteer sector at the national level:

To promote the position and views of the volunteer sector at national level we attend or sit on a number of project panels and forums these include: the herpetofauna specialist group, the Great Crested Newt Working Group, the Garden Wildlife Health Project Forum, the Adder Working Group and the Wildlife Gardening Forum. We liaise with other NGOs in the wildlife conservation sector, statutory agencies, local authority and private land managers and the relevant staff of the UK Government's national conservation organisations: Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, Northern Ireland Environment Agency and NatureScot. We also convene internal seminars and regional meetings in order to understand better the views of our volunteers so that we can be more representative at national level.

## 5. Public Outreach and Education:

**Adder Community Networking** – Building on approaches developed in Adders are Amazing! we are continuing to work with volunteers, land managers and local communities to conserve our native adder. In 2023-24 we ran two land manager adder networking days: the first on the Somerset Levels, led by the Reptile and Amphibian Group of Somerset (RAGs) in partnership with the RSPB, Somerset Wildlife Trust and Natural England; and a second on Cannock Chase, supported by Shropshire and Staffordshire ARG (SAS ARG), Forestry England, Cannock Chase Council and the Cannock Chase National Landscape Partnership. Following on from this we have co-developed a new project on Cannock Chase in partnership with the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, The Cannock Chase National Landscape Partnership, 17 local land managers with support from SAS ARG, Birmingham and Black Country ARG (BB&C ARG), Warwickshire Amphibian and Reptile Team (WART) and Nottinghamshire ARG (Notts ARG). In Phase 1 of the project we were lucky to secure funding from DEFRA's Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) scheme, to fund extensive volunteer survey effort across the Chase and validate the UKCEH adder habitat model.

**Dragons in the Hills** – 2023 represented the final year of activities for a major 3 year partnership project, 'Dragons in the Hills', based in Northern Ireland and supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund for Northern Ireland and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, which ended on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. Working with local partners from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, Ards and North Down Borough Council and The Herpetological Society of Ireland, as well as other stakeholders including the Ring of Gullion AONB, National Trust of Northern Ireland, NI ARG, Mourne Heritage Trust, Northern Ireland Water, An Tobar Wellness Centre, Bluebell Lane Glamping, Redbranch Bushcraft and other local land owners. In March 2023 we were able to complete all of the scheduled project activities and host a celebratory end of project event at Slieve Gullion Forest Park. led by the Chairperson of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and the Board of the National Lottery Heritage fund, welcoming 300 school children and many of our project partners from across the GEO Park for a fun-filled day of activities and awards. Researchers from the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) were also able to complete the evaluation with our project participants, demonstrating the impact of this project in engaging, transferring knowledge, and enabling communities to come together to learn more about their natural landscape. We will submit the outcomes from the evaluation process to a peer-reviewed journal in 2024-25.

**Ministry of Justice/HMPPS training and conservation programme 'Improving the well-being of offenders and their families by connecting them with the natural world'** – We continued to support the Ministry of Justice project, 'A pond in every prison' which aims to create a pond, or several ponds, in all 119 prisons in England and Wales. In 2023-24 we completed the second year of activities under the innovation project 'Improving the well-being of offenders and their families by connecting them with the natural world', funded by the HMPPS Grants Programme in partnership with the University of Central Lancashire. During 2023-24 we re-visited 14 prisons, expanded the learning from year 1 with a series of practical projects for the prisoners which included pond and habitat creation within the prison grounds, and survey and monitoring activities.

**Scottish National Adder Survey for NatureScot** – Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) originally commissioned an investigation in 1992-94 into the status and distribution of the adder (*Vipera berus*) in Scotland. A key part of this comprised a questionnaire sent to 1,972 farms which were randomly selected from each 10 km OS grid square across Scotland and the inner isles, to find out more about reptile status in these locations; and a field survey of 17 sites distributed across Scotland anecdotally said to be 'good' for reptiles. In 2022-24, ARG UK and Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (ARC) were commissioned to repeat the questionnaire and survey to determine whether there has been a significant shift in the baseline established thirty years ago. ARG UK coordinated the physical survey part of the project, and secured permission to visit 16 sites. During 2023-24, volunteer surveyors completed 103 site visits, supported by two spring volunteer and ranger training days. All three widespread Scottish reptiles were recorded, notably the adder, common lizard, and slow-worm, as well as common frog, common toad and small newts, but sadly no sighting of the rarest native Scottish terrestrial reptile, the grass snake.

## Publications from 2023-24

Carpenter, P., & Julian, A. (2021). An axanthic common frog *Rana temporaria* from Great Britain. Herpetological Bulletin, 158, 40.

Julian, A. M., Langham, S. J., Cooper-Bohannon, R., Raynor, R., Whatley, C., Foster, J., & McKinnell, J. (2024). An overview of the Scottish National Adder Survey 2022-24. Glasgow Naturalist (online 2024), 28 (Part 2).

Kelly, S. J., Kelly, J. S., Gardner, E., Baker, J., Monk, C., & Julian, A. (2023). Improving attitudes towards adders (*Vipera berus*) and nature connectedness in primary-age group children. People and Nature, 5(6), 1908-1921.

Robbemont, J., van Veldhuijzen, S., Allain, S. J., Ambu, J., Boyle, R., Canestrelli, D., ... & Wielstra, B. (2023). An extended mtDNA phylogeography for the alpine newt illuminates the provenance of introduced populations. Amphibia-Reptilia, 44(3), 347-361.

Turner, R. K., Griffiths, R. A., Wilkinson, J. W., Julian, A. M., Toms, M. P., & Isaac, N. J. (2023). Diversity, fragmentation, and connectivity across the UK amphibian and reptile data management landscape. Biodiversity and Conservation, 32(1), 37-64.

## Future Plans and Next Steps

We will continue to support the ARGs by providing advice and support; representation at the national level; regional and national meetings and by developing, or participating in projects or schemes they can adapt to local use. Other areas where ARGs have asked for support are with fundraising; toad patrolling; and public outreach. Above all, the volunteer groups value being connected, and knowing they are part of a bigger picture, working together to conserve our native amphibians and reptiles. We will also provide continued administrative support to the groups with provision of the free mini-websites, along with the recording and monitoring tools contained within Record Pool and ARGWEB.

We will continue to expand our major conservation campaign for adders, in partnership with other NGOs. We will reinforce a narrative highlighting the vulnerability of this iconic native reptile through local and national media, and continue to collect records across the UK to establish baseline distribution data. A part of this programme will include running additional land manager adder networking days, in different parts of the country to reach as many land owners and land managers as possible; as well as regional and national meetings. We will also continue to work alongside other NGOs and the Environment LINK to ensure that environmental protections for all amphibians and reptiles remain in place, and legislation continues to protect these species.

More generally, we aim to increase the engagement of the local groups with widespread species surveys (all species), and by allowing for better communication between surveyors working towards common standards monitoring. We will continue to support projects and partnerships that deliver conservation gains for all native species of herpetofauna, and develop opportunities for our volunteers to engage in wider conservation projects, as well as local outreach and conservation.

Specific projects that we will be engaging with in the coming 2024-25 year include: the Cannock Chase Adder Project. We will also complete the final project activities and evaluation of impact of the National Lottery Heritage Funded 'Dragons in the Hills' and will aim to disseminate its findings in peer reviewed journals and at international conferences. All of these projects have a common 'citizen science' approach, and additional funding bids in 2024-25 will seek to support this outreach and knowledge exchange, and build on the learning from all of these projects as well as 'Adders are Amazing!', to engage a greater number and diversity of the wider public in amphibian and reptile conservation activities.

And finally, we will aim to continue to run innovative online and in person seminars and workshops focussing on key aspects and discussions that affect reptile and amphibian conservation, and broaden our social media, expanding our portfolio from FaceBook and Twitter into Instagram and other platforms that are widespread, especially with a younger demographic.

## **Financial Report for Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the UK for the period from 1 February 2023 - 31 January 2024.**

### **Financial Review:**

#### **Review of Results:**

We have raised a total of £66,572 since February 2023 (against income of £33,864 in 2022-23), with expenditure of £64,872 (against expenditure of £79,094 in 2022-23). Detailed breakdowns are at the end of this document.

#### **Reserves Policy:**

The Trustees of ARG UK have agreed to maintain unrestricted reserves to meet the requirements of ARG UK's working capital and to meet any temporary shortfall in funds or cover unexpected expenditure to enable ARG UK to fulfil its charitable objectives. Working capital is defined as the equivalent of 6 months' unrestricted expenditure.

The Board of Trustees reviews the Reserves Policy and amount of reserves required annually as part of the budget setting process. The unrestricted reserves at the end of this period were £26,548 (compared with £36,568 of unrestricted reserves in 2022-23) and comply with this policy.

Restricted reserves represent unspent monies received from donors who have specified conditions as to their use on agreed projects. These funds are fully covered by matched assets.

The Board of Trustees considers that reserves as held at year end are sufficient for operating the organisation and therefore continues to adopt a going concern basis in preparing the accounts.

#### **Risk Management:**

The Board of Trustees has assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those relating to the operations, finances, reputation and business of ARG UK. The likelihood and impact of material risks are reviewed by the Board on an annual basis at Trustee meetings. The Coordinator updates and assesses the risk management matrix, and has a duty to report any significant changes to trustees.

### **Structure, governance and management**

ARG UK is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (no. 1165504) registered on 10 February 2016 with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. Membership of the CIO is open to all local constituted volunteer groups whose principal objective is the conservation of native amphibians and reptiles and who, by applying for membership, have indicated their agreement to become a member and acceptance of the duty of members. ARG UK is governed by its Constitution which follows the Association model. All members of the organisation and Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Constitution. There must be at least four and no more than 11 charity trustees. If the number falls below this minimum, the remaining trustee or trustees may act only to call a meeting of the charity trustees, or appoint a new charity trustee. The charity trustees may not appoint any charity trustee if as a result the number of charity trustees would exceed the maximum.

All trustees were subject to re-election at the first AGM of the organisation, and then subject to retirement by rotation. The charity trustees to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or reappointment. If any trustees were last appointed or reappointed on the same day those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot. The vacancies so arising may be filled by the decision of the members at the annual general meeting; any vacancies not filled at the annual general meeting may be filled. The members or the charity trustees may at any time decide to appoint a new charity trustee, whether in place of a charity trustee who has retired or been removed, or as an additional charity trustee, provided that the limit on the number of charity trustees would not as a result be exceeded. Charitable Trustees may exercise all the powers of the organisation subject to the Charity's Act 2011 and the Constitution.



Board appointments are based on the need of the Board of Trustees as a whole to have the skills and experience to agree ARG UK's strategy and policies and monitor their implementation. Every charity trustee must be a natural person. Trustees are recruited from a wide range of backgrounds, but must be approved by majority vote by the members at the annual general meeting. The Honorary Officer of the Association is the Chairperson. An honorary Treasurer and Vice Chairperson may also be elected by the trustees. The Trustees are listed on page 2.

Membership of the CIO is open to all local constituted volunteer groups whose principal objective is the conservation of native amphibians and reptiles and who, by applying for membership, have indicated their agreement to become a member and acceptance of the duty of a member. An organisation or a corporate body that is a member of the CIO may, in accordance with its usual decision-making process, authorise a person to act as its representative at any general meeting of the CIO.

It is the duty of each member of the CIO to exercise his or her powers as a member of the CIO in the way he or she decides in good faith would be most likely to further the purposes of the CIO. Membership of the CIO cannot be transferred to anyone else except in the case of an individual representing an organisation which is not incorporated, whose membership may be transferred by the unincorporated organisation to a new representative.

Subject to the following provisions, the quorum for general meetings shall be the greater of 5% of members or three members. An organisation represented by a person present at the meeting, is counted as being present in person.

The Board of Trustees appoint the Coordinator to manage the day-to-day operations of the organisation and to ensure statutory reporting requirements are fulfilled. The Coordinator is assisted by a small team of volunteers. ARG UK appreciates the extensive support it receives from volunteers without which it would not be possible to carry out such a varied and extensive programme.

### **Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Board of Trustees to prepare accounts for financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law) which give a true and fair view of ARG UK's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing accounts giving a true and fair view, the Board of Trustees should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently,
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- Follow applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts,
- Prepare the accounts on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that ARG UK will continue in operation,

The Trustees are responsible for the keeping of accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of ARG UK. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of ARG UK and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees



Chris Monk, Chair (appointed February 2016)

## **Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Amphibian and Reptile Groups of UK, CIO (Charity number: 1165504)**

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 January 2024, which are set out on pages 11 to 17.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's gross income is between £25,000 and £500,000, and the charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), but that an independent examination is required. I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) 2019 SORP
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

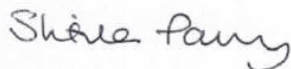
### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements set out in the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Sheila Parry FCCA

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19 Paradise St,  
Oxford, OX1 1LD

Date: 26 July 2024

**Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure) for ARG UK, Charity number: 1165504 for the year ended 31 January 2024**

		Unrestricted funds £	2024 Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Unrestricted funds £	2023 Restricted funds £	Total funds £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>	Note						
Donations and legacies	2	4,830	7,820	12,650	4,837	1,000	5,837
Charitable activities	3	40,472	13,450	53,922	20,135	7,892	28,027
<b>Total</b>		<b>45,302</b>	<b>21,270</b>	<b>66,572</b>	<b>24,972</b>	<b>8,892</b>	<b>33,864</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Raising funds	4	2,717	-	2,717	2,407	-	2,407
Charitable activities	5	52,605	9,550	62,155	43,310	33,378	76,688
<b>Total</b>		<b>55,322</b>	<b>9,550</b>	<b>64,872</b>	<b>45,717</b>	<b>33,378</b>	<b>79,094</b>
<b>Net income / expenditure</b>		<b>- 10,020</b>	<b>11,720</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>- 20,745</b>	<b>- 24,485</b>	<b>- 45,230</b>
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>- 10,020</b>	<b>11,720</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>- 20,745</b>	<b>- 24,485</b>	<b>- 45,230</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Total funds brought forward		36,568	9,438	46,006	57,313	33,923	91,236
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>26,548</b>	<b>21,158</b>	<b>47,706</b>	<b>36,568</b>	<b>9,438</b>	<b>46,006</b>

## Balance Sheet ARG UK, Charity number: 1165504 as at 31 January 2024

		2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
	Notes				
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible Assets	8		-		-
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	9	4,135		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		44,518		47,214	
		<u>48,653</u>		<u>47,214</u>	
<b>CREDITORS:</b> Amounts falling due within one year	10	- 947		- 1,209	
		<u></u>		<u></u>	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			47,706		46,005
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<u>47,706</u>		<u>46,005</u>
<b>INCOME FUNDS</b>					
General funds	14		26,548		36,568
Restricted funds	14		21,158		9,438
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<u>47,706</u>		<u>46,006</u>

ARG UK is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO): which is a charity registered as a body corporate under Part 11 of the Charities Act 2011. This status confers a duty to file accounts and the trustees' annual report online with the Charity Commission. Because charitable income is between £25,000 and £500,000, there is no requirement for an audit, but there is a requirement for an independent examination.

For the financial year ended 31 January 2024, ARG UK constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by SORP (FRS 102): and follows the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which have been prepared in accordance with revised Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2019). The trustees consider there are no material uncertainties about the trusts ability to continue as a going concern.

Approved by the Board on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2024, and signed on its behalf by:



Chris Monk, Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 13 to 17 form an integral part of these financial statements.

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 January 2024

### 1) Accounting policies

#### Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2019).

#### Fund accounting policy

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Further details of each fund are disclosed in notes 13 and 14.

#### Income

Income including donations, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Income from tax reclaims are included in the statement of financial activities at the same time as the gift to which they relate. Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis. Income from charitable activities includes income recognised as earned (as the related goods or services are provided) under contract.

#### Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

#### The cost of fundraising

This represents the costs of inducing others to make gifts or donations to the charity.

#### Pensions accounting policy

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme with NEST. The pension cost represents the amount of contributions payable to the scheme in one year.

#### Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

#### Fixed assets

Individual assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £500.

#### Depreciation

Depreciation on tangible fixed assets is calculated to write down the cost in equal instalments over their expected useful lives.

#### Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged in the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 January 2024 (continued)

### 2) Donations and legacies

	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Donations from individuals</b>						
Individual donations	4,830	7,820	12,650	4,837	1,000	5,837
	<u>4,830</u>	<u>7,820</u>	<u>12,650</u>	<u>4,837</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>5,837</u>
			-			-
	<u><b>4,830</b></u>	<u><b>7,820</b></u>	<u><b>12,650</b></u>	<u><b>4,837</b></u>	<u><b>1,000</b></u>	<u><b>5,837</b></u>

### 3) Income from charitable activities

	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Sponsorship	-	-	-	557	-	557
Events	87	-	87	206	-	206
Ecological / project services	40,385	13,450	53,835	17,518	7,892	25,410
	<u><b>40,472</b></u>	<u><b>13,450</b></u>	<u><b>53,922</b></u>	<u><b>18,281</b></u>	<u><b>7,892</b></u>	<u><b>26,173</b></u>

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 January 2024 (continued)

### 4) Expenditure on fundraising

	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	2,717	-	2,717	2,407	-	2,407
	<u>2,717</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,717</u>	<u>2,407</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,407</u>

### 5) Expenditure on charitable activities

	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Analysis by expenditure type</b>						
Volunteer costs	114	161	275	616	320	936
Website costs	847	-	847	689	-	689
Office support	1,342	-	1,342	660	-	660
Insurance (ARG UK)	1,978	-	1,978	1,762	-	1,762
Project costs	22,206	5,494	27,700	11,522	8,598	20,120
Staff costs (incl pensions)	24,449	3,895	28,344	21,661	23,388	45,049
Travel costs	1,051	-	1,051	5,800	1,072	6,872
Governance costs	618	-	618	600	-	600
	<u>52,605</u>	<u>9,550</u>	<u>62,155</u>	<u>43,310</u>	<u>33,378</u>	<u>76,688</u>

	2024	2023
	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£
<b>Analysis by activity type</b>		
Supporting grass roots conservation	45,411	55,366
Volunteer representation at national level	6,487	7,909
Public outreach and education	12,974	15,819
	<u>64,872</u>	<u>79,094</u>

### 6) Related Party transactions

There were no related party transactions.

### 7) Taxation

The organisation is a registered charity (CIO) and is, therefore, exempt from Corporation taxation.

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 January 2024 (continued)

### 8) Fixed assets

	Computers and equipment £
Costs	
At 1 February 2023	581
Additions	-
At 31 January 2024	<u>581</u>
Accumulated depreciation	
At 1 February 2023	581
Charge for year	-
At 31 January 2024	<u>581</u>
Net book value	
At 1 February 2023	-
At 31 January 2024	-

### 9) Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	4,135	-
	<u>4,135</u>	<u>-</u>

### 10) Creditors (amounts falling due within one year)

	2024 £	2023 £
Payroll taxes	347	609
Accruals	600	600
	<u>947</u>	<u>1,209</u>

### 11) Independent Examination and other financial service fees

	2024 £	2023 £
Independent Examiner's fees	180	180
Other financial services from SPX	420	390
	<u>600</u>	<u>570</u>



## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 January 2024 (continued)

### 12) Staff costs and employee benefits

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	30,003	46,402
Employer's pension contributions	1,056	993
Employer's National Insurance	-	-
	<u>31,059</u>	<u>47,395</u>

Average head count: 1 (2023: 2)

No employees received employee benefits of more than £60,000

### 13) Remuneration of trustees and benefits of key management personnel

No trustees received any remuneration for their roles as trustees.

Trustee Nigel Hand was reimbursed for expenses of £285.70 incurred whilst delivering specialist training events for the Northamptonshire Adder Project funded by The Green Recovery Challenge Fund in 2023-24 (2023: £416.10).

The full total for governance costs of £600 also includes costs relating to the professional fee for the examiners' report, professional trustee training, and costs of running trustees' meetings (2022-23, £600).

### 14) Analysis of funds

	As at 2023	Income	Expenditure	As at 2024
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds:				
General funds	36,568	45,302	- 55,322	26,548
Restricted funds:				
100% fund	6,166	1,012	- 1,332	5,846
Sefton sand lizards	447	250	- 27	670
Dragons in the Hills	2,196	11,493	- 6,504	7,185
Northants ARG - adder project	629	1,708	- 1,687	650
Herefordshire ARG	-	6,807	-	6,807
	<u>9,438</u>	<u>21,270</u>	<u>- 9,550</u>	<u>21,158</u>
	<u>46,006</u>	<u>66,571</u>	<u>- 64,872</u>	<u>47,706</u>

### 14) Analysis of net assets by funds

	General funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	23,360	21,158	44,518
Debtors	4,135	-	4,135
Current liabilities	- 947	-	- 947
	<u>26,548</u>	<u>21,548</u>	<u>47,706</u>