



# West Midlands Regional ARG Conference 'Managing reptile and amphibian conservation in a time of increasing public pressure on wildlife'



Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020, 09:30 – 16:45

Himley Hall & Park, Himley, Dudley, West Midlands, DY3 4DF

**9:30 – 10:00** *Registration & welcome tea/coffee*

**10:00 – 10:10** *Housekeeping & introduction*

**10:10 - 10:30** *Land manager perspective of managing a public site for adders and other reptiles - Ewan Chapman, Area Ranger, National Trust, Kinver Edge*

**10:30 - 10:50** *The status of reptiles and amphibians in Birmingham and the Black Country and how Nature Recovery Networks can aid their conservation – Natalie Norton, Senior Conservation Officer Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust*

**10:50 - 11:10** *Conserving Herefordshire's Ice Age Ponds – Andrew Nixon, Conservation Senior Manager, Herefordshire Wildlife Trust*

**11:10 - 11:40** *Refreshment break*

**11:40 - 12:00** *The effects of public access on amphibians and reptiles, a perspective from a statutory agency – Paul Edgar, Senior Environmental Specialist (Amphibians and Reptiles), Natural England*

**12:00 - 12:20** *ARG UK perspective on adders and the 'Adders Are Amazing!' project – Angela Julian, Coordinator, Amphibian and Reptile Groups of UK (ARG UK)*

**12:20 - 12:40** *Reconnecting foresters with the wildlife they manage in the Forest of Dean – David Dewsbury, Chair, Gloucestershire ARG (GlosARG)*

**12:40 - 13:00** *Grass snake conservation and monitoring in a fragmented Black Country landscape – Paul Wilkinson, Birmingham and Black Country ARG (BBCARG)*

**13:00 - 14:00** *Lunch break*

**14:00 - 15:00** *Workshop: Engagement vs disturbance – balancing public access with conservation priorities - Facilitator: Amber Hopgood (BBCARG)*

**15:00 - 15:30** *Refreshment break*

**15:30 - 15:50** *Landscape scale citizen-science projects and how they can benefit reptiles and amphibians – Jennifer Gilbert, Back from the Brink Cotswolds Community Engagement Officer, Butterfly Conservation*

**15:50 - 16:10** *Responding to the different issues facing amphibians and reptiles in Warwickshire, a case study – Ian Tanner, Warwickshire Amphibian and Reptile Team (WART)*

**16:10 – 16:30** *The 'Foresters Forest', researching reptile ecology in the Forest of Dean – Nigel Hand, County Recorder, Herefordshire Amphibian and Reptile Team (HART)*

**16:30 - 16:40** *Closing remarks and thanks*

**16:45** *End of conference*

