



# Walsall Wild Community Connections

End of Grant Report, Elsbeth Leighton 15/08/2025

[www.froglife.org](http://www.froglife.org)

Froglife  
Brightfield Business Hub  
Bakewell Road  
Orton Southgate  
Peterborough  
PE2 6XU

01733 602102



## Introduction

Froglife is a national wildlife charity that specialises in the conservation of amphibians, reptiles and their habitats. One of our defining features is our commitment to involving people in every aspect of our work, including people from the most disadvantaged backgrounds. We run projects across the UK, including our Coalface to Wildspace, Midlands Programme in Walsall.

Thanks to a grant of £2000, kindly awarded to us by The Nineveh Charitable Trust on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2025, we have been able to run a series of nature connection activities at 4 key Walsall parks and greenspaces. This expands and enhances our work within the Coalface to Wildspace, Midlands programme.

## Project Activities

Between February to July 2025, we ran 17 engagement activities that were attended by 505 people in total, including children, adults and older people. Excluding our most well attended event, average attendance per event was 23 community members. During our most well attended event, we directly engaged 139 people in crafts by partnering with the council to provide an activity at their larger scale event. The activities we provided as part of the Wild Community Connections Project have varied in type, which allowed us to appeal to different peoples interests and support them to connect to nature. They included pond dipping, bat walks led by experts, pollinator days with a medley of activities, bug hotel creation, clay crafting and more.

These activities took place within 4 key urban greenspaces in Walsall, which were chosen for their accessibility to some of the most deprived neighbourhoods. These greenspaces are Walsall Arboretum, Pelsall North Common, Reedswood Park, and Palfrey Park. By getting people out into their local parks and nature reserves, we have supported people to access nature locally and encouraged the future use of these ecologically valuable greenspaces.

Our original grant request was for £3000 to cover 20 activities, and the Ninevah Charitable Trust was gracious enough to provide 66% of this fund. With this support, we were successful in delivering 85% of the original planned activities and achieved triple our target for participant numbers.



## Project Feedback

The response from community members who took part in activities has been very positive, with indications that they have connected more with nature as a result of the activities. Everyone who provided feedback through our survey about rated their experience positively, with 88% rating it as “great” and the rest as “good”.

Comments include:

“We had a great time. Very interesting and calming experience. Our two guides were friendly and informative. We saw a nice range of creatures and had such a lovely time. We are looking forward to our next experience with Froglife.” – Pond Dipping Attendee

“It was a lovely walk, the Froglife team were so knowledgeable and really took the time to explain things to us. Thank you for all the patience you had with the little ones. These events really help to inspire the next generation to take care of nature and wildlife around them.” – Reptile Walk Attendee

“Was very nice for the children to learn about the bees and especially the staff was very welcoming and giving out fun packs for kids to do at home.” – Pollinator Day Attendee

## The future

Walsall Wild Community Connections formed part of Froglife’s local programme of activities in Walsall called Coalface to Wildspace, Midlands. This programme will conclude by the end of November 2025. Inspired by the success of this programme and project elements within it, including Walsall Wild Community Connections, Froglife is establishing new projects in other parts of the UK, including Scotland. This way, people in new areas, who may not have many opportunities to access and benefit from connecting to nature, will be introduced through fun and varied activities.

## Feedback about The Nineveh Charitable Trust

Froglife would like to express our gratitude to The Nineveh Charitable Trust for making this project possible through this grant. The grant application process was clear and straightforward, and we appreciated the clear communication throughout the process and prompt notification regarding the status of our application.





## Project photographs







Photographs displaying **(a)** young students from Abu Bakr school connecting with nature at Palfrey Park, **(b)** a community member pointing out newts during a guided reptile walk in Pelsall North Common, **(c)** a local child showing off the bug hotel they created at Walsall Arboretum, **(d)** a local child pond dipping in Palfrey Park as part of a mini bioblitz, **(e)** Walsall families connecting to nature through pond dipping at Reedswood Park, **(f)** community members learning about UK bats from a local expert in Reedswood Park, **(g)** a local birding expert leading a dawn chorus walk to introduce people to native birds and their calls, **(h)** Walsall children crafting their own clay amphibians and reptiles at Walsall Arboretum.

