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*Drainage and building solutions for Wildlife Conservation*  
**ACO Wildlife Systems**

# ACO Wildlife Systems

Drainage and building solutions for Wildlife Conservation

## ACO and the environment

ACO is a manufacturing company at the forefront of drainage technology producing a number of products for the construction, processing and electromechanical industries.

However, ACO's philosophy has never been about just making products; the company believes its role is much wider and offers the market technical knowledge, education, innovation and research.

ACO has been involved in a number of projects in the field of wildlife conservation. ACO have developed a special Amphibian Tunnel and Fencing system along with integral nest boxes for birds.

### Sustainability in Construction

Biodiversity consideration is an essential element of the construction sustainability programme. It starts at planning stage and takes effect as soon as civils works begin. The ACO Wildlife range of products provides all the features necessary for successful amphibian conservation in amphibian habitats where roads and traffic pose a problem. The Nestboxes represent ACO's broadening involvement in managing biodiversity.

### Amphibians and roads

Amphibians, such as toads, spend much of their time on sheltered, dry land, but during the spring mating season, seek water in which to spawn.

The journey from land to water may be as much as a few kilometres, taking several days and crossing one or more roads. In autumn, the amphibians make their way back to the sheltered ground in preparation for winter.

Every time the amphibians are forced to cross roads, they risk being run over by cars. On particularly busy roads, hundreds and thousands can be killed in a single evening. It is a risk to motorists, too – injury and even death can be caused by these animals being on the road.

The ACO Wildlife Amphibian Guidance System means that solutions specific to each project can be achieved. Safety and simplicity are the main principles of the ACO Wildlife system. The long lasting materials used fit the special requirements of such a system, so that installation and maintenance are kept to a minimum.

The NEW ACO Amphibian kerb is designed to overcome a major problem created by gully pots lying directly in the path of toads travelling along the gutter line or a road.

### Free technical support

To assist the specifier and contractor in designing and installing ACO Wildlife products, ACO's Design Services Department offers a comprehensive support service

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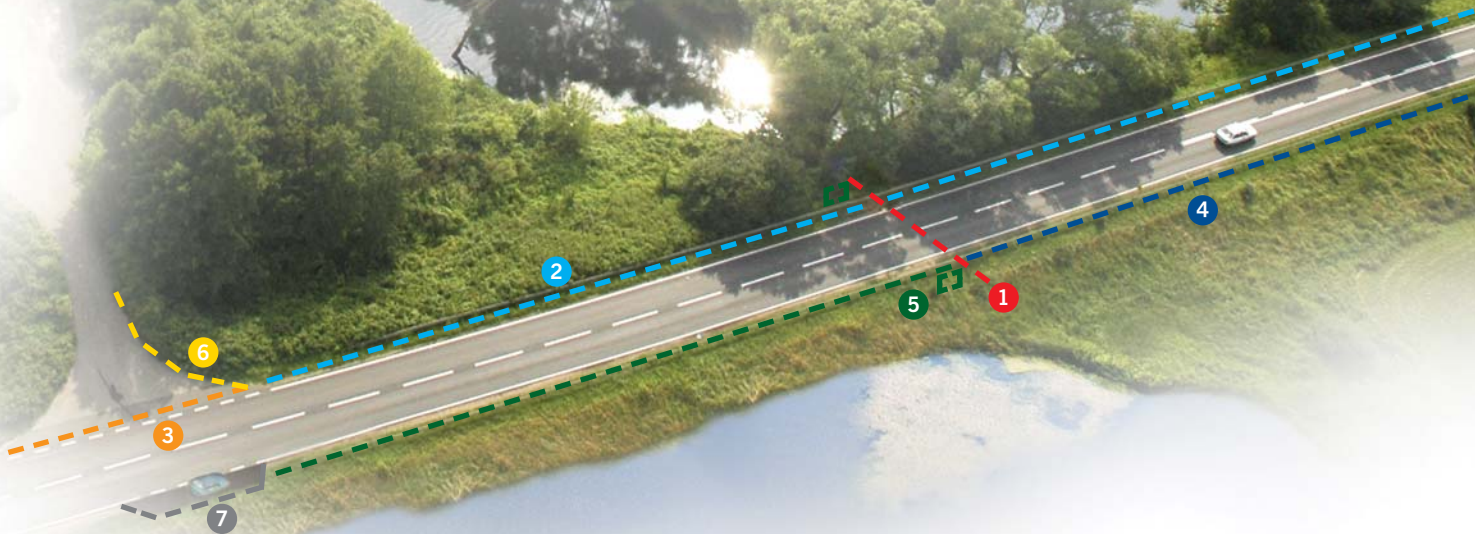
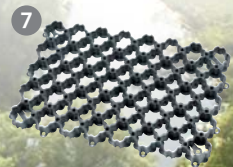
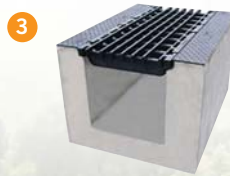
[www.aco.co.uk](http://www.aco.co.uk)



# Overview

## PRODUCTS

- 1 AT 500 tunnel unit
- 2 Recycled amphibian fencing
- 3 ACO StopGrid
- 4 Temporary amphibian fencing
- 5 Polymer fence and tunnel entrance unit
- 6 Wildlife Kerb
- 7 ACO GroundGuard



# ACO Wildlife Systems

## Drainage and building solutions for Wildlife Conservation

### 1 ACO Guide Fence – Recycled

Amphibian tunnels are only effective when used in conjunction with a well-designed fencing system.

The curved shape of the fence prevents amphibians climbing over from the protected side, but makes sure that animals that do manage to gain access onto the road are not trapped by the fence – they can climb over the curve and drop to safety on the other side. The need for such a curved shape is underlined by the danger to amphibians from natural predators and their need to be protected from strong sunlight.

### 2 ACO Amphibian Tunnel AT 500

The polymer concrete metal-free tunnel sections have been designed for the safe passage of amphibians and small mammals alike – with a smooth surface to avoid risk of injury. The slotted upper surface of the channel enables consistent ventilation and a humid environment along the full length of the tunnel – a situation favourable to amphibians. Channels are also available with a blind upper surface.

The smoothness of the surfaces also allows for problem-free cleaning of the channel. (This is especially important at the beginning of the migration period as road salts and debris may be present in the tunnel.)



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### 3 ACO Guide Fence and Entrance Tunnel

The ACO Guide Fence and entrance tunnel system is designed with the fundamental requirements and well-being of amphibians and small mammals alike. The entrance system is designed to work in conjunction with the ACO Amphibian Tunnel AT 500.

### 4 ACO Mobile Fence – Temporary

The ACO wildlife temporary amphibian fence is ideal for use where the protection of amphibians is paramount e.g. alongside roads and busy industrial areas or on migratory paths between breeding ponds or to protect a conservation area housing newts or similar species.

The easy-to-install system consists of a holding post, a rubber line and weatherproof polyester fabric. This system can be easily erected before the migratory period and then dismantled after the migration has taken place. The system is lightweight and can be easily stored until the next time it is needed.

## 5 ACO Stop Grid

Frequently, side roads interrupt the path of the ACO amphibian fencing and so a product was developed to prevent the amphibians from having to cross a minor road.

The ACO Stop Grid acts as a tunnel beneath the road and connects to the ACO Amphibian Fencing on the other side. The amphibians which are trafficking the side paths are caught by the ACO Stop Grid and passed into the channel to carry on their journey in safety.



## 6 ACO GroundGuard

The ACO GroundGuard is a natural form of porous pavement. Suitable for use with grass or gravel finish, the GroundGuard pavours allow stormwater to infiltrate naturally into the ground. The use of ACO GroundGuard reduces stormwater run-off and underground drainage systems associated with traditional surfaces. Free movement of water subsequently continues to feed the standing water and ponds essential for Wildlife.



## 7 NEW ACO Wildlife Kerb

With immediate effect, ACO Technologies are delighted to introduce ACO Wildlife Kerb.

Traditional road kerbing can often prove fatal for amphibians as it causes them to fall into gully pots and become trapped. With no escape route, the end result is usually starvation.

This situation occurs because many amphibians naturally proceed along any vertical barrier that bars their way. In a road situation, this is a kerb line where it meets the road surface. When they encounter a gully pot where there is no gap between it and the vertical kerb face, they often fall in.

ACO Wildlife Kerb is designed to counter this problem by providing a "bypass pocket" set into the kerb. When installed, it is positioned so that the gully is in the middle of the Wildlife Kerb. Then, when an amphibian arrives at the "bypass pocket", it naturally moves into the kerb and safely passes the gully.



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## ACO Nest Boxes



### Integral cavity wall nest boxes for new and existing buildings

For centuries buildings have provided roosting and nesting sites for wild birds. However modern draught-proof buildings do not have the necessary nooks, crannies and voids. This can have a serious impact on our bird population.

ACO Technologies plc, Eco Schemes Ltd and the British Trust for Ornithology have developed an integral cavity wall nest box for new and existing buildings. Designed specifically for small birds such as the Blue

tit which carry their young's droppings away from the nest, it provides a haven from natural predators such as crows, magpies and the neighbourhood cat.

The ACO Nest box is designed to be built into the cavity wall of any new building constructed of standard size bricks. It occupies three courses in height and is a half brick width. It is therefore easy to install during the normal bricklaying process. The front of the box is flush to the wall, with only a small section at the top protruding. This acts as a weather shield for the birds.

The ACO nest box also has two holes cast into the back face to allow the option of easy external mounting.

### Benefits

- ▶ Easy, flexible installation options
- ▶ Colour match options available
- ▶ Strong weather resistant material
- ▶ Provides a unique selling point that helps improve surrounding environment
- ▶ Helps support your company's environmental policy, by helping to protect resident bird populations



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For updated technical data, please download relevant PDF documents from [www.aco.co.uk](http://www.aco.co.uk)

To ensure your data is kept up to date, register for ACO Librarius at [www.aco.co.uk](http://www.aco.co.uk)



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