

## Ahead of the Kerb: Perth and Kinross choose ACO Wildlife

*ACO Wildlife Kerb chosen to prevent amphibians from falling down roadside gullies*



### WILDLIFE KERB SOLUTION FOR PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

When local wildlife rangers reported significant numbers of amphibians trapped in roadside gullypots, Perth and Kinross Council were concerned that many of these animals would be unlikely to escape or survive. In order to provide a safe and sustainable solution to prevent this issue, the council turned to ACO's Wildlife Kerb to eradicate the problem.

Following prior observations during routine drain maintenance, Perth and Kinross Council Countryside Ranger Service set out to conduct the Amphibians in Drains Project throughout the region.

The surveys revealed that significant numbers of trapped amphibian wildlife – primarily frogs and toads – were being found, having fallen through the drain grid. In fact, nearly 70 percent of the

gullypots surveyed contained amphibians and small animals. Crucially, once trapped, it is unlikely they are able to escape or survive.

Furthermore, the majority of animals were found in August and September, and the road gullies they had fallen down were less than 500m from a breeding pond – which suggests they were dispersing to their hibernation sites. This gave rangers enough information to infer that

roadside drains have a significant impact on their populations.

Amphibians typically follow the side of the kerb along the road which directs them straight into a traditional gullypot. Following funding from the SITA Trust, the Ranger Service was able to obtain ACO Wildlife Kerbs, which provided the perfect resolution.



As part of their eco-friendly design, ACO Wildlife Kerbs contain a recess which allows amphibians to follow the lower edge of the kerb and bypass the gullypot.

The council piloted the use of Wildlife Kerbs at a site on Elm Drive in Blairgowrie. Following the success of the trial, the products were subsequently rolled out throughout the area.

The survey carried out by Perth and Kinross Council helped to raise awareness of the issue throughout the UK. Since then, the adoption of ACO Wildlife solutions has continued to grow as communities recognise the importance of preserving an

ecologically strong environment following development of any sort – whether it be housing or highways.

One such project was the development of the A4146 in Buckinghamshire, where the rural community of Stoke Hammond was impacted in a dramatic way with a four-lane highway built right alongside the village. In order to preserve wildlife, a variety of mitigation measures were taken, including installation of the ACO Wildlife Kerb, which when installed provide a 'bypass pocket' to help guide animals away from the gullypot. Based on the premise that amphibians naturally proceed

along any vertical barrier that bars their way, these products allow them to safely pass the gully.

Peter Ridgway, Brand Director at ACO Water Management, explained: *"Innovation is vital in any business, and this sits right at the heart of ACO's surface water drainage offering. Everyone has a part to play in sustaining wildlife and their habitats, and ACO Wildlife provides the perfect solution. We will continue to focus on developing water management solutions that help protect our natural environment and the animals that inhabit it."*

For more information on ACO Wildlife's range of products, visit: [www.aco.co.uk/wildlife](http://www.aco.co.uk/wildlife)



Wildlife Kerb rear view showing weight-saving voids.



Wildlife Kerb front view showing bypass recess.

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