



## North Wales Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve Work Parties in NE Wales (Denbighshire, Flintshire & Wrexham) December 2023

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with North Wales Wildlife Trust. With 35 nature reserves to manage across North Wales, there is always lots of work to be done and we would love you to come along and join us. Winter is a great time of year to visit our nature reserves and discover why they are such special places.

This programme lists the volunteering opportunities that are available throughout **December 2023** on our nature reserves in Denbighshire, Flintshire & Wrexham. You can also volunteer with our NE Wales Living Landscapes Project – see below for more information. **If you wish to attend any of the volunteer work days, you must book ahead directly with the task organiser (their contact details are listed below).**

Our work parties provide an interesting and lively mix of practical work and informal training. **Details of the locations of our nature reserves can be found on our website [www.northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk)** Please wear work clothes and stout boots/wellies and bring waterproofs and a packed lunch. We will supply work gloves & tools. We ask that you make sure your work boots or wellies are clean; biosecurity is an important part of our work - you can find out more on our website.

**In summary, there is usually:**

- A volunteer work day every Tuesday & Friday on one of our nature reserves in NE Wales. **Contact Jordan Vigus-Hurst on 07764 897416 or [Jordan.Vigus-Hurst@northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:Jordan.Vigus-Hurst@northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk) or Paul Furnborough on 07880 033562 or [Paul.furnborough@northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:Paul.furnborough@northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk)**
- A volunteer work day at Minera or Marford Quarry (Wrexham area) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. **Contact Jordan Vigus-Hurst on 07764 897416 or [Jordan.Vigus-Hurst@northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:Jordan.Vigus-Hurst@northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk)**
- Opportunities to volunteer with our NE Wales Living Landscape projects, near Mold. **Please contact Sarah Ellis on 07494 962909 or [sarah.ellis@northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:sarah.ellis@northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk) for more information about the project.**

**Please remember, if you are interested in attending a particular work party, you must contact the relevant task leader in advance. Thank you!**

### **Wildlife surveys at our Aberduna nature reserve, near Mold.**

Our survey programme is taking a break over winter, but please contact Paul if you would like to join us in the spring. In spring, the season will start with first frog - and then toad - spawn surveys, before cranking up a gear with night-time newt surveys. We will then build on this year's work and survey for reptiles, dragonflies and butterflies. We may also include bat walks and bat surveys and specialist surveys, e.g. Deptford pink and Black grouse. We will also repeat this year's Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary surveys. Most surveys will be organised and co-ordinated via WhatsApp. Surveys will be focussed on our Aberduna Nature reserve, near Mold, before spreading out to other sites and nature reserves.

If you are interested in helping with this survey work, please contact Paul Furnborough [paul.furnborough@northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:paul.furnborough@northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk)

### **Work programme for December:**

#### **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

Cors y Sarnau, Sarnau, near Bala. 10 a.m. until 3.30 p.m. Meet in Sarnau village. Our regular monthly visit to this reserve. Today we will continue our fencing work, as well as some other habitat management across the nature reserve. Don't forget your wellies! Please contact Jordan Vigus-Hurst if you would like to attend.

#### **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

Aberduna, Maeshafn, near Mold. Meet at the office car park. 10 a.m. until 3.30 p.m. Aberduna is a striking 20-hectare nature reserve offering stunning views across the Alyn Valley to Moel Famau & the Clwydian Range. Today we will be carrying out winter woodland work. We will be managing diseased ash and other fallen trees to create an open area that will be perfect for reptiles.

There will also be Christmas treats around the Bushcraft area at lunchtime. We aim to end the day by heading down to the 'We three Loggerheads' for a drink. Please contact Jordan Vigus-Hurst if you would like to attend.



#### **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

Gors Maen Llwyd, near Llyn Brenig. 10 a.m. until 3.30 p.m. Meet at the main car park.

**Claim yourself a free Christmas tree!** If you can carry it to your car and transport it home, then you can choose your own Christmas tree. The work party will take place near to an access track to facilitate this. We'll then head back on to the moors, pulling and cutting self-seeded Sitka spruce and processing the brash. This work is important as it will help to restore precious heathland habitat. Please contact Paul Furnborough if you would like to attend.

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

Big Pool Wood, 2.5 miles east of Prestatyn. 10 a.m. until 3.30 p.m. Parking off the road, close to the reserve entrance. Meet at the entrance to the nature reserve. A wonderful reed bed and woodland site filled with wildflowers, birdsong and facilities that allow you to get closer to wildlife. Today will be a winter work party! We'll continue the annual workplan of reed cutting and thinning, but we'll also have a firepit, marshmallow, mulled apple juice, baked potatoes and other Christmas treats! Please contact Paul Furnborough if you would like to attend.

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

Minera Quarry, Coedpoeth, near Wrexham. 10 a.m. until 3.30 p.m. Meet in the car park.

Our final Minera Quarry get-together before Christmas. We'll continue with some tree work and then we'll have a barbeque – feel free to bring anything you'd like cooked on the BBQ. Please contact Jordan Vigus-Hurst if you would like to attend.

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

Aberduna, Maeshafn, near Mold. Meet at the office car park. 10 a.m. until 3.30 p.m. Our last work party in 2023. Today we will be carrying on with more winter woodland work. We will be coppicing hazel to maintain open areas within the woodland's slopes and to create more diversity within the structure of the woodland. Please contact Jordan Vigus-Hurst if you would like to attend.

Everyone at North Wales Wildlife Trust would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you so much for your support throughout the year – we look forward to working with you again in 2024.

