



North Wales Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve Work Parties in NE Wales (Denbighshire, Flintshire & Wrexham) January 2024

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda! Happy New Year! 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 **January 2024** 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** 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 or Paul Furnborough on 07880 033562 or Paul.furnborough@northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk**
- A volunteer work day at Minera or Marford Quarry (Wrexham area) on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month. **Contact Jordan Vigus-Hurst on 07764 897416 or 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 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

Work programme for January:

Tuesday 2nd January

Coed y Felin, Hendre, near Mold. 10 a.m. until 3.30 p.m. Meet in the large car park: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/sMwyyTmA4iZJvzSg9>

Coed y Felin is an ancient oak/ash woodland planted with sycamore, beech and sweet chestnut. The woodland has a long post-industrial heritage and its timber has been used to support the local mining village for centuries. This peaceful woodland & sunny grassland are filled with colour & life, including the nationally rare Deptford pink and dozens of other wildflowers. This is our first task in 2024 and we'll begin by coppicing along our new butterfly transect. This will let more light into the woodland. Please contact Paul Furnborough if you would like to attend.

Friday 5th January

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 will be another opportunity to practise coppicing which will benefit a wide range of woodland wildlife on the nature reserve. Please contact Jordan Vigus-Hurst if you would like to attend.

Tuesday 9th January

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 our winter work continues. We will focus on cutting back reeds in key areas as well as selectively thinning sycamore. Please contact Paul Furnborough if you would like to attend.

Wednesday 10th January

Marford Quarry, near Wrexham. Meet in the accessible car parking area off Springfield Lane. 10 a.m. until 3.30p.m.

Our Minera Quarry & Marford Quarry volunteers meet on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of every month. Why not join them and witness the incredible power of nature as it slowly reclaims these former quarries into wildlife havens? Today we will be at Marford Quarry. Installing signs; popping regenerating saplings and cutting back the butterfly glade are just some of the jobs to be completed at this wonderful insect oasis. Please contact Jordan Vigus-Hurst if you would like to attend.

Friday 12th January

Coed Cilygroeslwyd, Pwll-glas, near Ruthin. Meet in the Siop Pwllglas car park. 10 a.m. until 3.30 p.m.

This is one of our first nature reserves, purchased in 1964. It is home to some genuine rarities and is brimming with wildlife. Today we will be coppicing an area of woodland to benefit a wide range of wildlife on this lovely nature reserve overlooking the Vale of Clwyd. Please contact Jordan Vigus-Hurst if you would like to attend.

Tuesday 16th January

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

Today we are heading back on to the moors, pulling and felling self-seeded Sitka saplings and trees. This work is important as it will help to restore precious heathland habitat. Please contact Paul Furnborough if you would like to attend.

Friday 19th January

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 be carrying out a variety of jobs including fencing and scrub clearance on this wonderful nature reserve. Don't forget your wellies! Please contact Jordan Vigus-Hurst if you would like to attend.

Tuesday 23rd January

Coed Trellyniau, near Rhydymwyn. 10 a.m. until 3.30 p.m. Parking is limited – please contact Paul Furnborough if you would like to attend so that we can arrange car sharing.

This nature reserve is a fragment of a once larger ancient woodland. It sits within an agricultural landscape and is linked to other scattered woodlands by ancient hedgerows and tracks that are the last refuge for many native plants and animals. Today we will be re-visiting last year's work projects – tackling hedgerow maintenance, planting and fence repairs. Please contact Paul Furnborough if you would like to attend.

Wednesday 24th January

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

Join us as we work to halt successional processes to maintain a mosaic of habitats at this former limestone quarry. Please contact Jordan Vigus-Hurst if you would like to attend.

Friday 26th January

Blaenyweirglodd, near Llansannan. Parking off-road near the nature reserve (grid reference SH 9114 6322). 10 a.m. until 3.30 p.m.

We return to this peaceful peatland to remove regenerating saplings from the mire, which will help to keep it clear. There will also be an opportunity to monitor the reserve's hydrology and extend our plastic dams. Please contact Jordan Vigus-Hurst if you would like to attend.

Tuesday 30th January

Today will be a catch-up task. Location to be confirmed. Please contact Paul Furnborough to find out more!

We would like to thank Natural Resources Wales for supporting our conservation management work.

