



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

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 **March 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 project, near Mold. **Please contact Sarah Ellis on 07494 962909 or sarah.ellis@northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk for more information about the project.** We will be working with Denbighshire County Council most Wednesdays, growing trees and wild flowers at their plant nursery near St Asaph. On Fridays there will also be opportunities to help at our tree nursery near Mold.

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.

The survey season is beginning this month with frogspawn, and then toad spawn, surveys. Reptiles are also starting to emerge from hibernation, making this an excellent time to get some early season sightings – we will need to lay out tins and begin monitoring across several sites. Next month we will begin dragonfly and butterfly surveys and night-time newt surveys. Later in the year there will be bat walks, and specialist surveys for Deptford pink and black grouse. We will also repeat this year's Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterfly survey.

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. Survey protocols, data sheets, ID guides, etc. will be circulated via the WhatsApp group.

If you are interested in helping with this survey work, please contact Paul Furnborough paul.furnborough@northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk

Work programme for March:

Friday 1st March

Coed Trellyniau, near Rhydymwyn. 10 a.m. until 3.30 p.m. Due to limited parking, we will meet at Coed y Felin in the large car park at 10am and lift-share to Coed Trellyniau:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/sMwyyTmA4iZJvzSg9>

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 continuing last month's work to open up the fence line ready for maintenance work in April. Please contact Jordan Vigus-Hurst if you would like to attend.

Tuesday 5th March

Sorry – no work party today. Why not use the time to visit one of your favourite nature reserves!

Friday 8th March

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

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

Tuesday 12th March

Ddôl Uchaf, near Afonwen, Flintshire. 10 a.m. until 3.30 p.m.

Meet in the reserve car park – overspill parking is available in laybys along the Mold to Denbigh road (A541) which runs beside the reserve.

A morning of tree safety works; tree planting for dormice and hedge trimming. We may follow this with a trip down to Coed y Felin in the afternoon to complete a final section of tree safety and coppicing work. Please contact Paul Furnborough if you would like to attend.

Wednesday 13th March

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

With an industrial history spanning over 400 years, this site is arguably as important culturally as it is for wildlife. Originally mined for its lead and later quarried for valuable limestone (until 1994), the reserve now comprises areas at different stages of re-colonisation. Join us today as we work to halt successional processes to maintain a mosaic of different habitats at this former limestone quarry. Please contact Jordan Vigus-Hurst if you would like to attend.

Friday 15th March

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 19th March

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 with sunny grassland glades is filled with colour & life, including the nationally rare Deptford pink and dozens of other wildflowers. Today we will be working on the Deptford pink slope – 'popping' trees and treating encroaching saplings from this grassy slope. Please contact Paul Furnborough if you would like to attend.

Friday 22nd March

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>

Bat box bonanza! Today we will be installing bat boxes across the nature reserve. Please contact Paul Furnborough if you would like to attend.

Tuesday 26th March

Aberduna, Maeshafn, near Mold. Meet at the office car park. 10 a.m. until 3.30 p.m. Aberduna is a striking 20-hectare reserve offering stunning views across the Alyn Valley to Moel Famau & the Clwydian Range.

Today we will be putting out reptile tins across the nature reserve to commence 2024's reptile surveys in earnest! We'll also clear some scrub back from the wonderfully diverse limestone grassland. Please contact Paul Furnborough if you would like to attend.

Wednesday 27th March

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

Join us today 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 29th March

Sorry no session today – enjoy your Bank Holiday!

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



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