



North Wales
Wildlife Trust
Ymddiriedolaeth Natur
Gogledd Cymru

North Wales Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve Work Parties in NE Wales (Denbighshire, Flintshire & Wrexham) April 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. Now that the signs of spring are all around us, it's 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 **April 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 we've been promising you is finally upon us! Reptiles are starting to emerge from hibernation, making this an excellent time to get some early season sightings. We will need to lay out refugia tins and begin monitoring across several sites. We will begin dragonfly and butterfly surveys and night-time newt surveys as well as our annual black grouse survey. Later in the year there will be bat walks and specialist surveys like Deptford pinks. We will also repeat our 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 April:

Tuesday 2nd April

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

Friday 5th April

Sorry – no work party today due to staff being on leave.

Tuesday 9th April

Sorry – no task today due to staff being on leave.

Wednesday 10th April

Marford Quarry, Marford, near Wrexham. 10 a.m. until 3.30 p.m. Meet in the accessible car parking area off Springfield Lane (what3words: rural.single.outcasts). With over 1000 recorded species, Marford Quarry is a wildlife oasis & one of the best places in Wales for invertebrates. The site was quarried for many years but nature has truly reclaimed it. Join us today & help us maintain this haven for invertebrates. Please contact Jordan Vigus-Hurst if you would like to attend.

Friday 12th April

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 on this wonderful nature reserve. Don't forget your wellies! Please contact Jordan Vigus-Hurst if you would like to attend.

Monday 15th April

Gors Maen Llwyd, near Llyn Brenig. **4 a.m. – no that's not a typo!! - 7 a.m.** It's a really early start for our annual black grouse count. We will be working alongside staff from Natural Resources Wales and the RSPB in surveying lekking black grouse across the Hiraethog SSSI. We will walk along transects to look and listen out for these magical birds. Wrap up warm and bring a hot drink, good walking boots and if you have a pair, some binoculars. **Booking essential.** Please contact Paul Furnborough if you would like to attend.

Tuesday 16th April

Y Graig, near Tremeirchion, just off the B5429. 10 a.m. until 3.30 p.m. Parking is restricted – please use the layby at Ffynnon Beuno on B5429.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/VsB58pNzqV4WKmr86>

Y Graig is a haven for wildflowers and butterflies with breath-taking views over the Vale of Clwyd & beyond. Today we will be continuing with fencing, reinforce the dead hedge and install bat boxes throughout the woodland area. Please contact Paul Furnborough if you would like to attend.

Friday 19th April

Coed y Felin, Hendre, near Mold. **1 p.m. until 3.30 p.m.** Meet in the large car park: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/sMwyyTmA4iZJvzSg9> **Note the late start – but feel free to book on to a guided bluebell walk taking place in the morning before the work party. See the events page on our website for more details.**

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 installing bat boxes to suitable trees for future monitoring and replacing old and rotten boxes. Please contact Paul Furnborough if you would like to attend.

Tuesday 23rd April

Rhydymwyn Valley Nature Reserve, 17 Nant Alyn Road, Rhydymwyn, Mold CH7 5HQ. If the car park gate is closed, you may need to alert the gatehouse to open it on arrival. 10 a.m. until 3.30 p.m.

Today will be a Reptile Training day. Following the purchase and installation of reptile survey tiles across several of our nature reserves (thanks to generous funding from Cofnod), we will be offering this training, suitable for beginners or as refresher training, for volunteers who would like to monitor reptiles at any of our nature reserves. We will cover ID and survey techniques. Please contact Paul Furnborough if you would like to attend.

Please note: Subsequent surveys will be organised independently of our Tuesday and Friday volunteer sessions, to take advantage of suitable weather and timings. Surveys will be co-ordinated between volunteers on a WhatsApp group.

Wednesday 24th April

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.

Thursday 25th April

Ddôl Uchaf, near Afonwen and Aberduna nature reserve, Maeshafn, near Mold. We will meet at Ddôl Uchaf first and then if you'd like to continue we'll move on to Aberduna. **This will be an evening meeting – exact meeting time to be confirmed.**

Tonight, we will be carrying out Great Crested Newt (GCN) surveys. Join us for night-time monitoring in the ponds on our nature reserves, as part of our long-term monitoring programme. Bring a head/hand torch and clean wellies (for biosecurity!). Please contact Paul Furnborough if you would like to attend.

Friday 26th April

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.

One final push on bat box building and repair. If numbers allow, we may also do some tool maintenance and some spring cleaning in the workshop. Please contact Paul Furnborough if you would like to attend.

Friday 26th April

Minera Quarry, Coedpoeth, near Wrexham. **This will be an evening session – exact meeting time to be confirmed.** Meet in the nature reserve car park. Tonight, we will be carrying out Great Crested Newt (GCN) surveys in the ponds at Minera, as part of our long-term monitoring programme. Bring a head/hand torch and clean wellies (for biosecurity!). Please contact Paul Furnborough if you would like to attend.

Tuesday 30th April

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. Today we will refresh fencing around the nature reserve as it is beginning to rot. We will also install an owl box donated to the Trust. Please contact Paul Furnborough if you would like to attend.

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

