



North Wales Wildlife Trust

Nature Reserve Work Parties in NE Wales (Denbighshire, Flintshire & Wrexham)

May 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. It's a great time of year to volunteer; our nature reserves are full of life as they transform from the muted colours of winter to the vibrancy of spring.

This programme lists the volunteering opportunities that are available throughout **May 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 finally upon us with newt, reptile, butterfly and dragonfly surveys all starting to take place. 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 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. 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 May:

Friday 3rd May

Maes Hiraddug, near Dyserth. 10 a.m. until 3.30 p.m. Meet in the lay by on Carreg Heilin Lane where it joins Pandy Lane.

Maes Hiraddug was saved from development when it was bought by the Wildlife Trust in 1996. It has subsequently been managed as a hay meadow, continuing centuries of traditional practices. We'll start the season digging out pernicious scrub roots and tree-popping where we can. Let's see who gets the prize for digging out the longest root! If necessary, we'll also cut back any vegetation encroaching onto the footpaths. Please contact Jordan Vigus-Hurst if you would like to attend.

Tuesday 7th May

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'll be carrying out spring projects to keep everything in order! We will repair broken steps on the limestone grassland terrace; re-hang a fallen field gate and clear fallen trees from the woodland paths. Please contact Jordan Vigus-Hurst if you would like to attend.

Wednesday 8th May

Old Pulford Brook Meadows, south of Poulton near Rossett. There is parking for around eight cars on the roadside in Pulford village (what3words: rubble.tightest.spreading). Meet at the reserve entrance (what3words: headings.bubble.kinder). 10 a.m. until 3.30 p.m.

Join us for a rare day out at this tranquil floodplain meadow. We will be working to protect this threatened habitat, full of colour and life in the summer. We will be removing encroaching docks; counting the rare mousetail plant; providing natural shelters for our autumn grazing animals and removing waste plastic wrap from old hay bales. Don't forget your wellies! Please contact Jordan Vigus-Hurst if you would like to attend.

Friday 10th May

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.

Tuesday 14th May

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 will be a tool maintenance and audit day, combined with a workshop tidy and building folding outdoor workbenches. Please contact Jordan Vigus-Hurst if you would like to attend.

Thursday 16th May

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 17th May

Rhydymwyn Valley Nature Reserve, 17 Nant Alyn Road, Rhydymwyn, Mold CH7 5HQ. 10 a.m. until 3.30 p.m.

Today will be a butterfly identification training session for beginners or people wanting to refresh their id skills! We will start with a classroom session learning about the key features of approx. 30 different species of butterfly which we are likely to find on our nature reserves. This will be followed by a field survey to put our new-found skills into practice. This will be an excellent foundation for volunteers wishing to take part on our butterfly transect surveys. Please contact Paul Furnborough if you would like to attend.

Friday 17th May

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 21st May

Coed y Felin, Hendre, near Mold. 10 a.m. until 3.30 p.m. Meet in the large car park. 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 on suitable trees across the site. Please contact Paul Furnborough if you would like to attend.

Wednesday 22nd May

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 24th May

Rhydymwyn Valley Nature Reserve, 17 Nant Alyn Road, Rhydymwyn, Mold CH7 5HQ. 10 a.m. until 3.30 p.m.

Today will be a Dragonfly Training day. It will be a classroom session for beginners. We will cover the key species which we are likely to find out on our nature reserves. It will provide an excellent foundation for volunteers who would like to take on dragonfly surveys independently (see survey section on Page 2). Please contact Paul Furnborough if you would like to attend.

Tuesday 28th May

End of the month catch-up session. Location to be confirmed. 10 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. Please contact Paul Furnborough if you would like to attend.

Friday 31st May

End of the month catch-up session. Location to be confirmed. 10 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. Please contact Paul Furnborough if you would like to attend.

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

