



North Wales Wildlife Trust

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

July 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 and colour.

This programme lists the volunteering opportunities that are available throughout **July 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.

It is now peak survey season, with options to help with reptile, butterfly and dragonfly surveys. Later in the year there will be bat walks and specialist surveys like Deptford pinks. 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

Butterflies: Join a new transect at Coed y Felin. Some experience/training required to ID common butterflies, but support may be available. You can also explore the old reserve area at Aberduna looking out for Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterflies.

Reptiles: New transects have been laid out at Aberduna ready for monitoring when the weather conditions are favourable. Please contact Paul for maps and timing details.

Dragonflies: There are opportunities to survey the ponds and river at our Ddôl Uchaf nature reserve, near Afonwen, Flintshire.

Work programme for July:

Tuesday 2nd July

Coed Cilygroeslwyd (morning) and Aberduna (afternoon). Meet outside Siop Pwllglas for Coed Cilygroeslwyd at 10 a.m. Once we have finished there, we will head to Aberduna to clear paths through the woodland, finishing at 3.30 p.m. Today will be a day of roving path clearance at two of our nature reserves. Vegetation has grown a lot over the past couple of months, so we're making sure our paths remain clear and accessible! We'll also carry out our annual count of the rare limestone woundwort plants at Coed Cilygroeslwyd and install a boot brush there! Please contact Jordan Vigus-Hurst if you would like to attend.

Friday 5th July

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 to help maintain and enhance this wonderful wetland site. These will include strimming vegetation on paths, repairing fencing and monitoring the hydrology of the peatland restoration area. Don't forget your wellies! Please contact Jordan Vigus-Hurst if you would like to attend.

Tuesday 9th July

Aberduna, Maeshafn, near Mold. 10 a.m. until 3.30 p.m. Meet in the office car park. Aberduna is a striking 20-hectare reserve offering stunning views across the Alyn Valley to Moel Famau & the Clwydian Range. We're now in scything season. We'll continue to maintain and enhance our limestone grassland by reducing the dominance of bracken. Please contact Jordan Vigus-Hurst if you would like to attend.

Wednesday 10th July

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

Step to it! Amongst other jobs, we'll be working to create a new set of steps, making the nature reserve more accessible. Please contact Jordan Vigus-Hurst if you would like to attend.

Friday 12th July

Cors y Sarnau, Sarnau, near Bala. 10 a.m. until 3.30 p.m. Meet in Sarnau village. Continuing from last Friday's session, we'll be clearing paths and checking the condition of our fencing. We'll also work to remove the old, defunct boardwalk, in readiness for a new one to be installed. Please contact Jordan Vigus-Hurst if you would like to attend.

Tuesday 16th July

Aberduna, Maeshafn, near Mold. 10 a.m. until 3.30 p.m. Meet in the office car park. We're now in scything season. We'll continue to maintain and enhance our limestone grassland by reducing the dominance of bracken. There may also be an opportunity to survey the reptiles and vegetation in our meadows too! Please contact Jordan Vigus-Hurst if you would like to attend.

Friday 19th July

Coed y Felin, Hendre, near Mold. 10 a.m. until 3.30 p.m. Meet in the east (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. This is Himalayan balsam bashing season! Please bring wellies and a stout stick if you have one. We will start from the nature reserve and walk downstream towards Rhydymwyn, bashing balsam as we go! Please contact Paul Furnborough if you would like to attend.

Tuesday 23rd July

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. Join us for another day at this beautiful wildflower meadow. We'll be tree popping and root digging in the main field, as well as installing bat boxes in the adjacent woodland, repairing some stock fencing after storm damage, and for good measure, installing a boot brush to encourage good biosecurity practice! A busy day! Please contact Paul Furnborough if you would like to attend.

Wednesday 24th July

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

Today we'll be working to manage the calcareous grassland at this former industrial site, to benefit the rare wildflowers that thrive there. If we get time, we will also install boot brushes to encourage good biosecurity practice! Please contact Jordan Vigus-Hurst if you would like to attend.

Friday 26th July

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

A day of mixed tasks! We will tackle a combination of: installing an owl box and bird boxes; painting bat boxes; building outdoor work-tables; cutting footpaths; tool maintenance and timber storage! Something for everyone! Please contact Paul Furnborough if you would like to attend.

Tuesday 30th July

Coed y Felin, Hendre, near Mold. 10 a.m. until 3.30 p.m. Check meeting point with Paul, the session leader.

Balsam bashing season is in full swing! Please bring wellies and a stout stick. We will start from one end of our section and work to the other (area tbc). Please contact Paul Furnborough if you would like to attend.

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

