

Denbighshire Countryside Service

Volunteer programme

October 2010 to March 2011



Welcome

There are a whole range of opportunities to get involved in the work of Denbighshire Countryside Service - and we need your help! There are projects taking place across the whole county. You can join in every once in a while or every week – the choice is yours.

Tasks vary from tree planting to dry stone walling, footpath construction to creating wildlife habitats. No previous experience required - training will be provided and you're free to work at your own pace.

For more information contact David Shiel, Loggerheads Country Park 01352 810614

For a braille, large print or tape version of this information call free on 0800 243980



Clwydian Range Area of Outstanding Beauty

In your area contact:

Loggerheads Country Park - 01352 810614

North Denbighshire (Rhyl) - 01745 356197

South Denbighshire (Llangollen) - 01978 869618

A word about Health & Safety

The Countryside Service will provide all necessary safety clothing. Remember to wear sturdy foot wear with a good grip and to bring water proof clothing and a packed lunch with you. Please ensure that under 14 year olds are accompanied by a parent/guardian. Unfortunately we are not able to work with children under 8 years old.

www.clwydianrangeaonb.org.uk

www.denbighshire.gov.uk/countryside

www.heatherandhillforts.co.uk

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Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 -10^{am} Shepherd's Cottage and Enclosure

Come and help continue the good work clearing the cottage and enclosure of rubble. Meet Coed Nercwys, Northern Car Park (SJ 218 593)



Wednesday 6 10^{am}- 3^{pm} Pond Clearance

The pond on the heathland at Moel Findeg Local Nature Reserve is becoming choked with vegetation. Meet at Ffordd Bryngwyn entrance (SJ 204 611)

Wednesday 6 Waymarking at Llyn Brenig

The Brenig Way at Llyn Brenig Archaeological trail needs waymarking and a new stile. Working in small teams we'll aim to get several waymarkers and the stile in by the end of the day. Please come along and help us out! You can meet us at Llangollen Market street car park by 9:30^{am} and Corwen leisure centre car park at 9.50^{am}, where a minibus will take everyone to site. Alternatively you can meet us Llyn Brenig Archaeological trail car park (SH983 574) at 10.30^{am}

Thursday 7 10^{am} – 2^{pm} Save the Toads!

Help put up chestnut paling and clear the pond scrapes at Gronant Dunes. The fencing work has become necessary to stop dogs eating up the rare Natterjack toad tadpoles! Meet at Presthaven Caravan Park, Gronant (SJ 089 841)

Tuesday 12 10^{am} Coppicing

Lend a hand with this important traditional woodland management technique, which will increase biodiversity within the woodland at Loggerheads. Meet at Loggerheads.



October

Tuesday 12 10^{am} Corwen Cynwyd Woodland Work

Bow-saws at the ready! Come along and help thin out sections of woodland as well as removing ash saplings along this beautiful section of the old railway line. Meet at Stamp lay-by (SJ060 420).

Wednesday 13 10^{am}- 3^{pm} Healthy Heath

Management to remove birch trees and saplings which threaten the unusual mosaic of heathland plants that give Moel Findeg its unique character. Meet between Maeshafn village and Old Youth Hostel (SJ 205 608).

Wednesday 13 & Thursday 14 10^{am} Repairing the Past

Come and help us to repair the entranceway to the impressive Iron Age hillfort of Caer Drewyn. Meet at Corwen Leisure Centre car park (SJ 082 442)



Thursday 14 & Friday 15 10^{am} Dry Stone Walling

Come along and help us to continue the repair work on the boundary wall. Meet at Moel Arthur car park (SJ 068 814)



Monday 18 10^{am} Jubilee Tower

Help is needed to give the tower and surrounding area a clean up before the 200th anniversary celebration. Meet at Moel Famau, Iron Gate Car Park (top car park).



Tuesday 19 10^{am} Coppicing

Help us finish off the coup that we started last week! Meet at Loggerheads.

Wednesday 20 10^{am} Steps to Melin-y-Wig

The Brenig Way needs some new steps between Derwen and Melin-y-Wig. If you'd like to try your hand at building steps then come along! Meet at Clawdd-Newydd Community shop car park (SJ083524).

Wednesday 20 10^{am}-3^{pm} Hike the Dyke

Continuing to improve sections of the Offa's Dyke National Trail on and around Prestatyn Hillside at Manor Hill Quarry, Prestatyn. Meet at small car park on hairpin bend below Hillside Gardens, Prestatyn. (SJ 071 821)

October

Tuesday 26 10^{am} Coed y Felin

Come and help improve a newly created wildflower meadow by raking off the cut grass in the morning and in the afternoon we will turn our attention to clearing a pond of invasive bulrush! Bring your wellies! Meet at Millennium wood Cilcain (SJ 177 649)

Wednesday 27 Heather Management, Moel Famau

Controlled heather burning is an important part of our heather management work. If you would

like to help us, ring up (01352 810614) prior to this date with your contact details and, weather dependant, we will ring you back on the day to confirm when and where we will be meeting.

It is hoped that there will be several days worth of heather management undertaken this year. Obviously this task is entirely weather dependent and often a decision to burn can only be decided at short notice. If you would be interested in helping out this year, please contact us and leave your number so that we can get in touch once we know that we will be heading for the hills!



November

Monday 1 10^{am} Bits 'n' Bobs, Llangwyfan

There is always work to be done in Coed Llangwyfan, whether it be improvements to the wetland area or improving access. Come along and lend a hand. Meet Llangwyfan car park on the road between Nannerch and Llandrnmog (SJ 139 668)



Tuesday 2 10^{am} Weaving

Help us to construct a path barrier using the coppiced material from last month at eroded edges of the Leete path at Loggerheads. Meet Loggerheads.

Wednesday 3 10^{am}- 3^{pm} Healthy Heath

Management to remove birch trees and saplings which threaten the unusual mosaic of heathland plants that give Moel Findeg its unique character. Meet between Maeshafn village and Old Youth Hostel (SJ205 608)

Wednesday 3 9.30^{am} Brenig Way Path Work

The Brenig Way near Maerdy needs improving. Come along and help dig ditches, move windblown trees, build steps, hang a gate and construct a stile. Meet at Llangollen Market street car park at 9:30am and Corwen leisure centre car park at 10am. There will be a minibus to take everyone to site.

Wednesday 10 10^{am} Dead Hedging

Help is needed to create a dead hedge along the path that leads to Gro Isa. Not only will this be a nice feature, but as the path is adjacent to an old tipping site, it will also serve to prevent burrowing rabbits spreading glass and old pottery shards underfoot! Meeting Point, Sports Pavilion Car Park, Corwen (The Sports Pavilion is located next to the Recreational playing fields)

Wednesday 10 10^{am}- 3^{pm} Healthy Heath

Management to remove birch trees and saplings which threaten the unusual mosaic of heathland plants that give Moel Findeg its unique character. Meet between Maeshafn village and Old Youth Hostel (SJ205 608)

Monday 15 & Tuesday 16 - 10^{am} Hedgelaying

Come along and learn or improve your hedgelaying skills with an experienced instructor. Meet at Coed Llangwyfan car park on the road between Nannerch and Llandyrnog (SJ139 668.)



Wednesday 17 10^{am} Waymarking the Brenig Way

The Brenig Way at Cynwyd needs waymarking. Working in small teams we'll aim to get several waymarkers in by the end of the day. Please come along and help us out! We currently don't have a fixed meeting place so please phone us on 01978 869616 closer to the time to find out where we will be meeting. Also if you would like to join us on this event but don't have any transport then again call the office and we might be able to find a car share for you.

Tuesday 19 10^{am} - 2^{pm} Tree Thinning

Yes help cut down trees! It sounds damaging but thinning work already done at Mount Wood has created open areas within the woodland abundant with wild woodland flowers. Meet at Mount Wood, Denbigh (SJ 047 658)

Tuesday 23 10^{am} Hen Ardd Coppicing

Come and help coppice willow to open up an important wetland. Wellies essential! Meet at Hen Ardd, Eryrys (SJ 204 578)

November

Tuesday 23 10^{am} Plas Newydd

In collaboration with Heritage Services come and help to restore some of the oak-fret work at Plas Newydd with head gardener, Gary Lovelock. Work is needed on Lady Eleanor's Bower and the Summer House. We will be able to see how they originally looked from paintings of the Dell that were created by Lady Leighton – dapper! Meet at Plas Newydd, Llangollen. (SJ 228 416)

Wednesday 24 10^{am}-3^{pm} Healthy Heath

Management to remove birch trees and saplings which threaten the unusual mosaic of heathland plants that give Moel Findeg its unique character. Meet between Maeshafn village and Old Youth Hostel (SJ205 608)

Tuesday 30 10^{am} - 3^{pm} Juniper Jolly

Scrub clearance around the small group of native Juniper trees high on Prestatyn Hillside by Manor Hill Quarry. Very steep slopes, boots essential. Meet at small car park on hairpin bend below Hillside Gardens, Prestatyn (SJ 071 821)

Tuesday 30 10^{am} Scrub Clearance

Help with scrub clearance to improve this internationally important limestone grassland. Meet Loggerheads.

Tuesday 30 9.45^{am} Gorse Bashing

Help is needed to remove as much gorse as is possible from the impressive Eglwyseg escarpment. Meeting Point, Market Street car park, Llangollen 9.45^{am} (or at the Panorama lay-by for 10^{am} SJ234 432)

December

Wednesday 1 10^{am} - 2^{pm} Ditch Digging

Get stuck in a ditch to aid the rare Water Vole. All tools provided as usual but please bring wellies just in case you need them. There is also lots of cutting back to do for those wanting a less strenuous (or mud-filled) task. Meet at Brickfields Pond Countryside Office (SJ 013 804)

Wednesday 1 9.30^{am} Gorse clearance & hot potatoes along the Brenig Way

Come along for a day of gorse clearance near Derwen and a chance to help install stiles along the new Brenig Way. There'll be beans and hot potatoes in the fire for lunch, and anything more adventurous anyone wants to bring along! Meet at Llangollen Market street car park at 9:30^{am} and Corwen leisure centre car park at 10^{am}. There will be a minibus to take everyone to site.

Thursday 2 10^{am} Stop It and Tidy Up

Come along and help us tidy up the paths up to the Iron Age hillfort of Moel Fenlli. Meet at Bwlch Pen Barras car park (top car park)



Monday 6 10^{am} Step and Path Repairs

Help is needed in the arboretum at Moel Famau to improve the condition of the steps and paths. Meet at Forest Car Park (Lower Car Park).



Tuesday 7 10^{am} Thinnin' Pen y Pigyn!

Help is needed to cut back vegetation and saplings to open up the footpaths at Coed Pen y Pigyn. Meet, Main car park, Corwen.



Tuesday 7 10^{am} Path Work

Help improve the paths for all by continuing the path improvements work on the busy paths at Loggerheads. Meet Loggerheads.



Wednesday 8 10^{am}-3^{pm} Healthy Heath

Management to remove birch trees and saplings which threaten the unusual mosaic of heathland plants that give Moel Findeg its unique character. Meet between Maeshafn village and Old Youth Hostel (SJ 205 608)

Monday 13 10^{am} Path Work

The popular trail at Coed Nercwys is in need of some attention. Meet at Coed Nercwys, Northern Car Park (SJ 218 593)



Tuesday 14 10^{am} Drains

Help maintain the drains by clearing out the autumn leaves. Meet Loggerheads.

Wednesday 22 December 10^{am}-3^{pm} Healthy Heath

Management to remove birch trees and saplings which threaten the unusual mosaic of heathland plants that give Moel Findeg its unique character. Meet between Maeshafn village and Old Youth Hostel (SJ205 608)



January

Wednesday 5 10^{am}-3^{pm} Healthy Heath

Management to remove birch trees and saplings which threaten the unusual mosaic of heathland plants that give Moel Findeg its unique character. Meet between Maeshafn village and Old Youth Hostel (SJ 205 608)

Monday 10 10^{am} Clean up at House for a Grouse

Ongoing management is needed to stop this open area being overtaken by conifer regeneration. Meet forest car park (lower car park)



Tuesday 11 10^{am} Gorse Bashing

Help is required to clear dense stands of gorse at Caer Drewyn hillfort. Jacket spuds and beans to be cooked on the fire (as if you needed a reason to spend a day on this fantastic site!). Meeting Point, Corwen Leisure Centre Car Park

Wednesday 12 10^{am} - 2^{pm} Dead Hedging

By popular demand come and help create a traditional and natural surround to the new picnic site at Rhuddlan Nature Reserve. We will be using locally cut hazel coppice from our other sites. Meet at Rhuddlan Nature Reserve car park (SJ 021 780)

Wednesday 12 10^{am} - 3^{pm} Healthy Heath

Management to remove birch trees and saplings which threaten the unusual mosaic of heathland plants that give Moel Findeg its unique character. Meet between Maeshafn village and Old Youth Hostel (SJ 205 608)

Tuesday 18 10^{am} Scrub Clearance

Help with scrub clearance to improve this internationally important limestone grassland. Meet Loggerheads.

Tuesday 18 10^{am} Corwen - Cynwyd Railway Line

Help is required to clear vegetation and to coppice trees along the old railway line. Meeting point, Stamp lay-by (SJ 060 420)

Wednesday 19 10^{am} - 3^{pm} Healthy Heath

Management to remove birch trees and saplings which threaten the unusual mosaic of heathland plants that give Moel Findeg its unique character. Meet between Maeshafn village and Old Youth Hostel (SJ 205 608)

Monday 24 10^{am} Bog Trotting

Help to clear the important wetland site of Llyn Ochyn from scrub encroachment and birch. Meet at Coed Nercwys, Northern Car Park (SJ 218 593).



Tuesday 25 10^{am} Woodland Work

Help improve the internationally important woodlands at Loggerheads by removing non-native trees within the park. Meet Loggerheads.

Wednesday 26 10^{am}-3^{pm} Footpath Maintenance

Continuing to improve sections of the Offa's Dyke National Trail and other footpaths on and around Prestatyn Hillside. Meet at small car park on hairpin bend below Hillside Gardens, Prestatyn (SJ 071 821)



February

Wednesday 2 10^{am}-3^{pm} Healthy Heath

Management to remove birch trees and saplings which threaten the unusual mosaic of heathland plants that give Moel Findeg its unique character. Meet between Maeshafn village and Old Youth Hostel (SJ 205 608)

Wednesday 2 & Thursday 3 10^{am} Hedgelaying

Spend a couple of days revitalizing this field boundary, learning the traditional craft of hedgelaying. Meeting Point, Llandegla Village Centre car park (SJ 196 524)

Tuesday 8 10^{am} Gorse Bashing II

Help is required to clear dense stands of gorse at Caer Drewyn hillfort. Jacket spuds and beans to be cooked on the fire – feel free to bring something more exotic to cook! Meeting Point, Corwen Leisure Centre Car Park

Tuesday 8 10^{am} Scrub Clearance at Hen Ardd

Come and help remove invasive scrub from a local wildlife gem. Meet at Hen Ardd, Eryrys (SJ 204 578)

Wednesday 9 10^{am}-3^{pm} Healthy Heath

Management to remove birch trees and saplings which threaten the unusual mosaic of heathland plants that give Moel Findeg its unique character. Meet between Maeshafn village and Old Youth Hostel (SJ 205 608)

Monday 14 10^{am} Nightjar area

The wetland area at Coed Nercwys is fast being overtaken by conifer regeneration and scrub. We need help to thin this area out so that the heathland can thrive and the nightjars will be enticed back. Meet at Coed Nercwys, southern entrance.



Tuesday 15 10^{am} Scrub Clearance

Help with scrub clearance to improve this internationally important limestone grassland. Meet Loggerheads.

Wednesday 16 10^{am}-3^{pm} Healthy Heath

Management to remove birch trees and saplings which threaten the unusual mosaic of heathland plants that give Moel Findeg its unique character. Meet between Maeshafn village and Old Youth Hostel (SJ 205 608)

Friday 18 10^{am} – 1^{pm} Tidy Bird Box Day

Help clean out the many bird boxes we have at Mount Wood and learn about the species that may have used them the previous year. Coincides with 2010 National Nest Box Week. Meet at Mount Wood, Denbigh (SJ 047 658).

Monday 21 10^{am} Nightjar area

Continue the good work started last week. Meet at Coed Nercwys, southern entrance.



Tuesday 22 10^{am} Woodland Work

Help with the removal of non-native trees within the park. Meet Loggerheads.

Wednesday 23 10^{am} - 3^{pm} Healthy Heath

Management to remove birch trees and saplings which threaten the unusual mosaic of heathland plants that give Moel Findeg its unique character. Meet between Maeshafn village and Old Youth Hostel (SJ 205 608)

Monday 28 10^{am} Clean up at House for a Grouse

Continue the ongoing management needed to stop this open area being overtaken by conifer regeneration.

Meet forest car park (lower car park)



March

Tuesday 1 10^{am} Scrub Clearance

Help with scrub clearance to improve this internationally important limestone grassland. Meet Loggerheads.

Wednesday 2 10^{am} - 3^{pm} Healthy Heath

Management to remove birch trees and saplings which threaten the unusual mosaic of heathland plants that give Moel Findeg its unique character. Meet between Maeshafn village and Old Youth Hostel (SJ 205 608)

Monday 7 & Tuesday 8 - 10^{am} Bits 'n' Bobs, Moel Famau

Help us ready the park for the busy Spring and Summer period by undertaking the annual drainage clearance along the main footpath, carrying out repairs and improving the pond next to Moel Fenlli carpark. Meet at Moel Famau, Iron Gate car park (top car park).



Tuesday 8 10^{am} Gorse Bashing III

One final push to open up the grassland area at Caer Drewyn. Meeting Point, Corwen Leisure Centre Car Park.

Wednesday 9 10^{am} - 3^{pm} Footpath Maintenance

Continuing to improve sections of the Offa's Dyke National Trail and other footpaths on and around Prestatyn Hillside. Meet at small car park on hairpin bend below Hillside Gardens, Prestatyn (SJ 071 821)

Tuesday 15 10^{am} Spring Cleaning Castell Dinas Brân

Help spruce up Castell Dinas Brân for the forthcoming season. Meet at Market Street Car Park, Llangollen.

Tuesday 15 10^{am} Path Work

Help improve the paths for all by continuing the path improvements work on the busy paths at Loggerheads. Meet Loggerheads.

Wednesday 16 10^{am}-3^{pm} Healthy Heath

Management to remove birch trees and saplings which threaten the unusual mosaic of heathland plants that give Moel Findeg its unique character. Meet between Maeshafn village and Old Youth Hostel (SJ 205 608)

Monday 21 & Tuesday 22 10^{am} Dry Stone Walling at Moel Famau

Help is needed to continue to rebuild the boundary wall on Moel Famau. Come along and improve or learn with an experienced instructor. Meet Iron Gate car park (top car park).



Wednesday 23 10^{am} - 1^{pm} Beach Clean

Come and join us on a clean-up of all the litter washed up at Gronant beach. We will also be stashing wood for the tern's arrival in May. Meet at Presthaven Caravan Park, Gronant (SJ 089 841)

Wednesday 30 10^{am}-3^{pm} Healthy Heath

Management to remove birch trees and saplings which threaten the unusual mosaic of heathland plants that give Moel Findeg its unique character. Meet between Maeshafn village and Old Youth Hostel (SJ 205 608)



The Brenig Way

A group of six people are sitting on a large, mossy log in a forest. The ground is covered in fallen leaves. In the background, a large tree trunk is visible, and the forest is dense with trees and foliage. The scene is outdoors, likely in a woodland area.

Denbighshire Countryside Service is currently working on creating a new promoted walking route from Corwen to Llyn Brenig, called "The Brenig Way". The route uses existing footpaths and bridleways, forest tracks and quiet lanes, and meanders for 36 miles through little-used areas in the west of the county. It aims to link the walking opportunities provided by the Dee Valley and North Berwyn Ways and the Hiraethog Trail.

We are trying to keep car usage down to a minimum and a new daily bus service (no 72 – "Bws Brenig") from Corwen to Llyn Brenig Archaeological Trail is currently being trialled. We are keen to get as many people as possible accessing these remote and beautiful areas by public transport, so if you fancy a different day out, check out the timetable on Traveline 0871 200 2233, or www.traveline-cymru.info.

We are also keeping our carbon footprint down by using locally sourced oak for all our stiles, gates and waymarker posts. The wood comes from either trees cut down for health and safety reasons across North Wales or from sustainable managed woodlands in the Ceiriog Valley by Coed Ceiriog wood co-operative.

There are many stiles, gates, steps and waymarkers to install on the route as well as vegetation clearance so there are plenty of opportunities for volunteering in areas of the county that are relatively unexplored. We have events planned for Llyn Brenig, the Clocaenog Forest, Derwen and Cynwyd. We will also be going out with volunteers on a weekly basis. There will be a minibus for some of our events, so check out the events from October to December. If you're interested in volunteering please contact Deborah on 01978 869616.