

Denbighshire Countryside Service

Volunteer programme

April to September 2012



Welcome

There are a range of opportunities for you to get involved in the work of Denbighshire Countryside Service – and we need your help! From Rhyl & Prestatyn in the north along the Clwydian Range to Hiraethog and the Dee Valley in the south, 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 a Braille, large print or tape version of this call free on 0800 243980



Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

For further information 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, steel toe cap boots are recommended for most jobs. Please bring water proof clothing and a packed lunch with you. Under 14 year olds must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Unfortunately, we are not able to work with children under 8 years old.

www.clwydianrangeaonb.org.uk

www.denbighshirecountryside.org.uk

Like our Facebook
Clwydian Range AONB and
Denbighshire Countryside Service
for up to date information and events.



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**Bryniau Clwyd a
Dyffryn Dyfrdwy**
Clwydian Range
and Dee Valley

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eiddrefnod
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru
Countryside Council for Wales

April

Tuesday 3rd 10^{am} – 3^{pm}

Bird and bat box day.

Come help us put together this year's bird and bat boxes, Loggerheads attracts many varieties of birds and they all need somewhere to live! So come and try out your carpentry skills! Meet us in the car park.

Wednesday 4th 10^{am}- 3^{pm}

Keeping on Top of Things!

Prestatyn Hillside/Bishops Wood

General site maintenance, improvements and footpath work in the woodland and on the Hillside. Meet: Car park below Hillside Gardens (SJ 071 821)

Thursday 5th 10^{am}

Hedge Management.

In the winter of 2010, we planted a 250 metre thorn hedge with some help from Rhos Street primary school in Ruthin. Before they get smothered by bramble and bindweed we need to clear around, and heel in, the trees to help create a healthy hedge.

Meet: Lay-by opposite new housing at Glasdir (SJ 119 590)

Tuesday 10th 10^{am}

Spring Clean.

There is always plenty to do at Coed Nercwys, helping to improve the All User Trail, clearing out drainage ditches, improving the area around the cottage - the forest will benefit from some TLC! Meet at the northern car park (SJ 218 593)

Wednesday 11th 10^{am}- 3^{pm}

Moel Findeg Local Nature Reserve.

Site maintenance of thresholds and infrastructure improvements around the LNR Meet: Eastern site entrance between the village of Maeshafn and the former youth hostel building (SJ 205 608)

Monday 16th 10^{am}

Litter Pick.

After the busy Easter holidays come and enjoy a walk up to the Jubilee Tower – litter picking on the way! Meet at Bwlch Penbarras car park. (SJ 162 606)



Tuesday 24th 10^{am} – 3^{pm}

Ragwort pulling.

Ragwort is an important food plant for certain species. However, due to its potential as hay meadow and its proximity to fields containing horses we are attempting to eradicate ragwort from Rhuddlan.

Meet: Main car-park at Rhuddlan nature reserve (SJ 020 777)

Thursday 26th 10^{am}

Caer Drewyn Access Improvements.

Come and help edge the footpath as it meanders its way up to Caer Drewyn hillfort - we will also be looking to install a new oak bench. Meet: Corwen Leisure Centre Car Park



May

Tuesday 1st 10^{am}

Tree Attraction.

Help to improve the entrance to the Arboretum to encourage more visitors in to enjoy this attraction. Meet at Coed Moel Famau car park. (SJ 174 613)



Wednesday 2nd 10^{am} - 3^{pm}

Keeping on Top of Things!

Prestatyn Hillside/Bishops Wood

General site maintenance, improvements and footpath work in the woodland and on the Hillside Meet: Car park below Hillside Gardens (SJ 071 821)

Thursday 3rd 10^{am} – 3^{pm}

Little Tern fencing.

Good weather, loads of fish and lots of voles for kestrels is what we're hoping for this year. One more thing, the electric fence that we'll put up today will keep foxes out!

Meet: Field gate at Gronant dunes, by entrance to Presthaven (SJ 074 842)

Tuesday 8th 10^{am} – 3^{pm}

Bits and bobs.

There is always something to do within the park at Loggerheads, come and help us keep up the management and keep it looking its best! Meet us in the car park.

Wednesday 9th 10^{am} - 3^{pm}

Moel Findeg Local Nature Reserve.

Removing invasive plants from the heath, fence repairs, footpath improvements
Meet: Eastern site entrance (SJ 205 608)

Friday 11th 10^{am} – 1^{pm}

The First Hurdle.

Help make the traditional stock fences out of coppiced hazel. A sustainable resource at Mount Wood the hazel will provide a nice feature on the path up to the viewpoint
Meet: Mount Wood field gate from Bryn Stanley estate. (SJ 047 658)

Tuesday 15th 10^{am}

Enclosure.

Help with weeding and clearing stone from the enclosure to give the wildflowers their chance to bloom. Meet at the northern car park (SJ 218 593)



Wednesday 16th 10^{am} – 3^{pm}

Moel Findeg Local Nature Reserve.

Surveying the varied plants and flowers to be found in the woods and heathland of Moel Findeg Local Nature Reserve
Meet: Eastern site entrance (SJ 205 608)

Monday 21st 10^{am}

Moel Fenlli Fence line.

We need to take out an old damaged fence and replace with a new one to prevent more erosion occurring on this Iron Age Hillfort. Meet at Moel Fenlli car park. (SJ 161 606)



Tuesday 22nd 10^{am} – 3^{pm}

Path works, fencing repairs

The fences along the paths within the park are in need of some TLC! Come and give us a hand repairing the broken sections to give them a fresh new look! Meet us in the Loggerheads car park.

Tuesday 22nd – Thursday 24th 10^{am} - 4^{pm}

Dry Stone Walling.

Why not try your hand – or improve your skills – at Dry Stone Walling? We will be rebuilding sections of the boundary wall adjacent to Caer Drewyn Hillfort, so you can also learn a little bit about how our ancestors used to live here too!

Meet: Corwen Leisure Centre Car Park

Thursday 31st 10^{am}

Path repair and cutting back.

Come and help improve access to the footpath that leads to the impressive view point at Coed Pen y Pigyn. Meet at main car park, Corwen.

Tuesday 5th 10^{am} – 3^{pm}

Scrub control.

Loggerheads County Park has a variety of different habitats that make it such a special place, come and help us remove some invasive species to allow us to preserve the delicate habitat on the limestone pavement! Meet us in the car park.

Thursday 7th 10^{am}

Balsam Bashing Part 1.

Help is needed to remove dense stands of the highly invasive Himalayan Balsam from the banks of the River Dee.
Wellies recommended
Meet Sports Pavilion Car Park, Corwen

Wednesday 13th 10^{am} - 3^{pm}

Prestatyn Hillside/Bishops Wood.

We'll be walking up Prestatyn Hillside on the Offa's Dyke National Trail cutting back the thorny scrub that invades the path
Meet: Car park below Hillside Gardens (SJ 071 821)

Thursday 14th 10^{am} – 3^{pm}

Wetland management.

The main task of the day will be to erect a stock proof fence to portion off an area of the Maes Gwilym meadow. We are planning to manage this area as a protected pond with an orchard boundary.
Meet: End of Maes y Gog housing estate in Rhyl, which is entrance to Maes Gwilym (SJ 031 819)

Thursday 14th 10^{am}

Balsam Bashing Part 2.

Help is needed to remove dense stands of the highly invasive Himalayan Balsam from the banks of the River Dee.
Wellies recommended
Meet Sports Pavilion Car Park, Corwen

Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th

10^{am} - 3^{pm} Dry Stone Walling.



Help is needed to continue to rebuild the boundary wall on Moel Famau. Come along and improve or learn with an experienced instructor. Meet Bwlch Penbarras car park. (SJ 174 613)

Thursday 21st 10^{am}

Balsam Bashing Part 3.

Help is needed to remove dense stands of the highly invasive Himalayan Balsam from the banks of the River Dee.
Wellies recommended
Meet Sports Pavilion Car Park, Corwen

Tuesday 26th 10^{am} – 3^{pm}

Himalayan Balsam removal.

It's that time of year again, so grab your Wellington boots and waders and come help us look for and remove the highly invasive Himalayan Balsam from the banks of the river Alyn! Meet us in the Loggerheads car park.

Thursday 28th 10^{am}

Balsam Bashing Part 4.

Help is needed to remove dense stands of the highly invasive Himalayan Balsam from the banks of the River Dee.
Wellies recommended
Meet Sports Pavilion Car Park, Corwen



Little Tern with chick

John Powers

July

Tuesday 3rd 10^{am}

Bracken Bashing.

Help the young trees grow strong by knocking back the bracken and bramble in the Arboretum. Meet at Coed Moel Famau car park. (SJ174 613)



Thursday 5th 10^{am}

Bench Installation Part 1.

Help is needed to replace several benches that are situated at various picturesque locations around the Vale of Llangollen. Meet, Market Street Car Park.

Monday 9th 10^{am}

Enclosure II.

Continue with the weed pulling at the old enclosure in Coed Nercwys to give this young meadow a chance to thrive and take part in a plant survey. Meet at the northern car park (SJ 218 593)



Tuesday 10th 10^{am} – 3^{pm}

Running River Repairs.

Come and help us repair sections of the river bank to try and prevent any further erosion and to restore sections that have been washed away! Meet us in the Loggerheads car park.

Thursday 12th 10^{am} – 3^{pm}

Dead hedging.

Help improve the entrance to this community woodland site by working with some traditional coppiced hazel to create a series of hurdles.

Meet: Glan Morfa small car-park (end of Marsh Road, Rhyl) (SJ 007 803)

Thursday 12th 10^{am}

Healing the Scar - Dinas Bran.

Help is needed to tackle eroded sections of ground close to the walls of the castle that is having a detrimental effect to the archaeological integrity of the site.

Meet, Market Street Car Park, Llangollen
10.00^{am} – or at the castle summit 10.³⁰

Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th

10^{am} – 3^{pm} Dry Stone Walling.

Help is needed to continue to rebuild the boundary wall on Moel Famau. Come along and improve or learn with an experienced instructor. Meet Bwlch Penbarras car park. (SJ 174 613)



Tuesday 24th, Wednesday 25th & Friday 27th

July 10^{am} - 4^{pm}

Charcoal Making.

Try your hand at traditional charcoal making, free charcoal for all participants!

Tuesday – fill the kiln, Wednesday lighting and burning, Friday – bagging the product. Corwen - Cynwyd Railway Line. Meet, Stamp lay-by SJ060424

Tuesday 24th 10^{am} – 3^{pm}

Himalayan Balsam removal.

We will be continuing our relentless battle against the invasive species along the river Alyn. So put on your Wellington boots and come help us remove it from the river banks. Meet us in the Loggerheads car park.

Tuesday 24th 10^{am} – 3^{pm}

Ragwort pulling (again..)

Ragwort is an important food plant for certain species. However, due to its potential as hay meadow and its proximity to fields containing horses we are attempting to eradicate ragwort from Rhuddlan. Don't worry we will get to do a few other tasks to break up this task!

Meet: Main car-park at Rhuddlan nature reserve (SJ 020 777)

Wednesday 25th 10^{am} - 3^{pm}

Scar Trek.

Get your boots on and walk up to the Cilcain Scar to carry out essential footpath maintenance and repairs.

Meet: at Cilcain Pumping Station
(SJ 172 647)

August

**Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th
10^{am} – 3^{pm} Dry Stone Walling.**



Help is needed to continue to rebuild the boundary wall on Moel Famau. Come along and improve or learn with an experienced instructor. Meet Bwlch Penbarras car park. (SJ 174 613)

**Tuesday 7th 10^{am} – 3^{pm}
Bruton Orchard.**

At the time of this booklet going to press, 500 orchard trees are due to be planted with the North Wales Wildlife Trust. Come and see how the orchard is faring at Bruton Park and help them succeed with some maintenance work on the area around. If we did plant the trees of course! Meet Tarquin Drive (first right off Bryn Cwnin Road, from Vale Road, Rhyl) (SJ 027 801)

**Thursday 9th 10^{am}
Bench Installation Part 2.**

Help is needed to replace several benches that are situated at various picturesque locations around the Vale of Llangollen. Meet, Market Street Car Park

**Tuesday 14th 10^{am} – 3^{pm}
Path works.**

Come and help us carry out our ongoing maintenance of the paths around the park to keep them in good condition for the public to enjoy! Meet us in the Loggerheads car park.

**Thursday 16th 10^{am}-3^{pm}
Treasure Island.**

Take a short boat trip over to the island at Brickfields Pond Nature Reserve to help clear overgrowth and unwanted vegetation. Meet Brickfields Pond Car Park. (SJ 013 804)

Thursday 16th 10^{am}

Corwen Cutting Footpath works.

Help is needed to improve access opportunities along the former railway line that include installing a new stile and repositioning a waymarker post. Meet: Corwen Leisure Centre Car Park

Thursday 23rd 10^{am}

Offa's Dyke Path.

Help is needed to build up sections of the Offas Dyke Path as it traverses along the spectacular Eglwyseg Escarpment. As parking is limited, please meet at Market Street Car Park, Llangollen at 10^{am} and we will travel to site from there.

Tuesday 28th 10^{am}-3^{pm}

Himalayan Balsam removal.

Once again, put on your Wellington boots and head to the river for another round of Himalayan Balsam removal. Meet us in the Loggerheads car park.



September

Tuesday 4th 10^{am} – 3^{pm}

Scrub Removal.

Loggerheads County Park has a variety of different habitats that make it such a special place, come and help us remove some invasive species to allow us to preserve the delicate habitat on the limestone pavement! Meet us in the car park.

Thursday 6th 10^{am}

Bench Installation Part 3.

A final push to replace several benches that are situated at various picturesque locations around the Vale of Llangollen. Meet, Market Street Car Park

Monday 10th 10^{am} – 3^{pm}

Heather Moorland Restoration.

Come and help us repair the damage on this internationally important site. Either meet the warden at Loggerheads Country Park at 9.15^{am} or Bwlch Y Groes (SJ 150 448) at 10^{am}.



Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th 10^{am} Forest Boundary.

There are sections around Coed Nercwys where the stone wall has fallen down. Help to rebuild this boundary wall with an experienced instructor. Meet at the northern car park. (SJ 218 593)



Thursday 13th 10^{am} – 3^{pm}

Vole Gene Pool.

We will cut back tall scrub and expose the old drainage ditch so that it can hold water once again. Hopefully, this will provide the necessary ecological link for the water voles present in this area to mix with other vole territories.

Meet: Outside Countryside office, Brickfields Pond. (SJ 020 777)

Thursday 13th 10^{am}

Moor Path Work.

Annual maintenance is needed to repair eroded sections of the Offas Dyke Path as it crosses Llandegla Moor. Lift available from Market Street Car Park at 10am, or meet us on site where the ODP leaves the Worlds End road GR SJ 234 495 at 10.30

Tuesday 18th & Wednesday 19th

10^{am} – 3^{pm} Woodland Walling.



Come and help to restore the Country Park stone wall boundary near Moel Arthur with a qualified dry stone walling instructor. Meet: Moel Arthur car park (SJ 147 658)

Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th 10^{am} – 3^{pm}

Nature Area at Penycloddiau.

Come and help us to continue the good work improving the habitat in the nature area at Penycloddiau. Jacket potatoes for lunch! Meet at Coed Llangwyfan car park. (SJ 138 669)



come and have a go!



Access Enhancements to Castell Dinas Bran.

Stop Press!

This summer staff in the newly extended Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB are going to be kept extremely busy with a wide range of key access enhancement works at Castell Dinas Bran in Llangollen.

This will range from installing stiles, waymarking and bespoke kissing gates to more technical works such as stone pitching paths at the castle itself. Much of this work will be addressing erosion problems at sensitive areas that are having a detrimental effect upon the archaeological integrity of the site. We will also be developing new interpretation to help visitors to understand the importance of the castle and it's surrounding environment.

We will be organising a number of volunteer events on Dinas Bran this year, ranging from access improvements to wildlife surveys and habitat management.

If you are interested, please contact Ros Stockdale (01978 869615 – email ros.stockdale@denbighshire.gov.uk) and ask to be added to a contact list, we will then keep you informed of future developments.