

International Year of Biodiversity 2010
Cheshire region Calendar

Date	Event	Organisation/Contact details
January		
Sunday 31st	Walk With the Waders	Location: Wirral Country Park Trainer: Jeff Clarke Cost: £10 members / £15 non-members Details TBC.
February		
Monday 1st	Count Me In! The Tide is High... Join our wildlife expert and observe the rare spectacle as wildfowl, waders, small mammals and insects rush for the shore to escape an advancing tide... where predators lie in wait!	Time: 9.30am-2.30pm Location: Parkgate, Wirral Trainer: Jeff Clarke Cost: Free Free mini bus from Chester Zoo Booking essential No experience required All ages welcome Contact: Karen Lawson – Project Coordinator Email: countmein@RECORD-LRC.co.uk Tel. 01244 383749 Web: www.RECORD.LRC.co.uk
Sunday 7th	Introduction to UK Mammals This course is aimed at anyone with an interest in mammals and their monitoring. The course will cover basic identification of British mammals including their tracks and signs, recording and fieldwork techniques such as trapping, radio	Location: Bickley Hall Farm Trainer: Tony Parker Cost: £20 members / £35 non-members

	tracking etc, and will also cover current legislation relating to British mammals. There will also be a practical session in the afternoon looking at mammal remains in owl pellets.	
Saturday 13th	Introduction to Conservation Grazing	Location: The Grange Farm, Mickle Trafford Trainer: Richard Owen (CWT Conservation Grazing Officer) Cost: £20 members / £35 non-members Details TBC.
Sunday 14th February	Nest Box Week activity Swallows and Amazons. A unique chance to come and make nests for House Martins and Swallows with our bird expert. Design and decorate your nests whilst discovering more about the birds around you.	Time: 10.00am-2.00pm Venue - Bickley Hall Farm, Bickley, Malpas, Cheshire, SY14 8EF For further details and booking please contact – Gill or Jan on 01948 822228 or wachevents@cheshirewt.cix.co.uk or check out the Watch pages on our website www.cheshirewildlifetrust.co.uk/watch_events.html
Friday 19th February	Activity – Otter ecology and holt building day The day designed for landowners and land managers will consist of an indoor morning session covering otter ecology and conservation theory. The afternoon will be a practical session on how to build an artificial otter holt, giving everyone a chance to get	Time: 9.30am – 3.30pm Venue – The Grange Farm, Mickle Trafford Trainer: Ben Gregory BASC Richard Gardner CWT Duncan Revell EA Cost: Free For further information contact Ben Gregory on 01244 573 024 or ben.gregory@basc.org.uk

	involved in constructing a holt.	
March		
Saturday 27th	<p>Introduction to Phase 1 Habitat Surveys</p> <p>This is a one day course designed to provide ecological surveyors with an introduction to the methodology involved in carrying out a Phase One Habitat Survey. The course will consist of an indoor theory session followed by an outdoor practical habitat mapping exercise.</p>	<p>Location: Bickley Hall Farm Trainer: Linda Swankie/Miranda Cowan http://www.cheshirewildlifetrust.co.uk/news_training2.htm</p>
April		
Saturday 10th	<p>Count Me In! How Does Your Garden Grow? A tribute to our humble ‘common plants’ which play a vital role in the health of our ecosystem.</p>	<p>Time: 10am-3pm Location: Chester Zoo Trainer: Trevor Dines/Hilary Ash Cost: Free Booking essential No experience required All ages welcome Contact: Karen Lawson – Project Coordinator Email: countmein@RECORD-LRC.co.uk Tel. 01244 383749 Web: www.RECORD.LRC.co.uk</p>
Saturday 10th	<p>Woodland Wild Flower ID</p> <p>Learn to identify the spring flowers of Warburton Woods with the help of an</p>	<p>Location: Kingsley Community Centre and Warburtons Wood Trainer: Shirley Burton</p>

	expert botanist who will guide you through an initial classroom identification session and then a trip outdoors to see the wildflowers in their natural environment. This identification workshop will be conducted at a level suitable for a Phase I Habitat Survey.	http://www.cheshirewildlifetrust.co.uk/news_training2.htm
Sunday 18th	Woodland Flora for recorders A workshop funded by Ineos for Local Wildlife Site recorders only to improve their botanical identification skills.	Location: Marbury Reed Bed Please contact Mark Ambrose at CWT directly to book your place – mambrose@cheshirewt.cix.co.uk
Sunday 18th	Count Me In! Snakes in the Grass Join us at a popular local nature reserve – home to adders, great crested newts and common lizards.	Location: Risley Moss Trainer: Rob Smith Cost: Free Free mini-bus from Chester Zoo Booking essential No experience required All ages welcome Contact: Karen Lawson – Project Coordinator Email: countmein@RECORD-LRC.co.uk Tel. 01244 383749 Web: www.RECORD.LRC.co.uk
Thursday 22nd	A guided bluebell walk in the Barrowmore estate woods.	Location: Barrowmore Estate Cost: free Contact: Barry Hulme / Andy Faulkner Tel: 01829 742560 Web: www.barrowmore.org.uk

<p>Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th</p>	<p>Bluebell walks at Arley Hall & Gardens. An opportunity to visit areas of Arley not normally open to the public. Enjoy carpets of bluebells under a canopy of beech leaves and hear a little about the area and its history.</p>	<p>Location: Arley Hall & Gardens Cost: included in the admission price to the gardens Walks last approx 1 1/2 hours. Booking is essential. Web: www.arleyhallandgardens.com</p>
<p>Sunday 25th</p>	<p>Natural Know How Raptor Identification Day Do you have a fascination with birds of prey but sometimes struggle to identify the different British species? This full day Raptor Identification Day is designed just for you, we will look at the different British species, their habits and habitats, then put this into practice in the field.</p>	<p>Location: Brookside Farm, Pulford, Chester Trainer: James Hill http://www.cheshirewildlifetrust.co.uk/news_training2.htm</p>
<p>Sunday 25th</p>	<p>Bluebell walk at Adlington Hall. Guided walk with Head Gardener, Anthony O'Grady, through the gardens and grounds. 15 acres of bluebell woodland, rhododendrons and azaleas.</p>	<p>Location: Adlington Hall Cost: please see website for price The Tour starts at 14.00 prompt and will finish at 15.30. HOUSE CLOSED AND TEAROOM OPEN Web: www.adlingtonhall.com</p>
<p>Sunday 25th</p>	<p>Bluebell walk at Norton Priory. Find out all about the iconic bluebell on this woodland walk.</p>	<p>Location: Norton Priory, Runcorn Cost: included in the admission price to the Priory gardens</p>

		<p>Tel: 01829 569895</p> <p>Web: www.nortonpriory.org</p>
Sunday 25th and Monday 26th	Bluebell Festival at Capesthorne Gardens	Web: http://www.capesthorne.com/
Saturday 25th	Bluebell walk at Rode Hall	Web: www.rodehall.co.uk
Sunday 26th	Bluebell Walk at Combermere Abbey	Web: www.combermereabbey.co.uk
Wednesday 28th	<p>Habitats on our Hillforts A Series of Monthly Field Days led by Ecologist Colin Hayes</p> <p>Woodhouse Hill The effects of land use change on the visual impact of our landscape are very well demonstrated around this hillfort.</p> <p>We will be visiting early in the season, before the trees and bracken obscure our views. Did they really construct this fort in the woods? Can you even find the fort?</p> <p>Dunstable Hollow Site of Special Scientific Interest, a fine example of the ancient woodland typically found on the steep slopes of the Mid-Cheshire Ridge, will be visited and compared to other blocks of</p>	<p>Start: 10.00 am</p> <p>Venue: Meet at Forest Hills/The View carpark</p> <p>Please bring a packed Lunch</p> <p>*Limited Places - Booking Essential*</p> <p>Please contact below</p> <p>COLIN SLATER: 01244 973387 or colin.slater@cheshire.gov.uk</p>

	woodland, where man thought he could improve on nature. How exotic are Beech and Pine trees in Cheshire? Discover the hidden weaponry that makes Birch and Bracken such insidious fort invaders!	
May		
Saturday 1st	Dawn Chorus	Chester Zoo/RSPB
Saturday 1st	Bluebell walk at Rode Hall	Web: www.rodehall.co.uk
Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd	Bluebell walks at Arley Hall & Gardens	Location: Web: www.arleyhallandgardens.com
Sunday 2nd, Monday 3rd, Monday 10th, Sunday 16th and Monday 17th	Bluebell Festival at Capesthorne Gardens	Web: www.capesthorne.com
Monday 3rd	Bluebell Bonanza	Location: Marshall's Arms Nature Reserve, Hartford <u>Tel:</u> 01606 42667
Wednesday 5th	Bluebells: painting in the garden Enjoy a full day painting in our ancient bluebell woods with expert tuition on hand for demonstrations and help. Ideal for novice or first time outdoor painters	Location: Bluebell Cottage Gardens Time: 10am – 4pm Cost: £35. Refreshments and garden tour included. Please bring packed lunch Web: www.lodgelane.co.uk
Thursday 6th	Bluebells: painting in the garden Enjoy a full day painting in our	Location: Bluebell Cottage Gardens Time: 10am – 4pm

	ancient bluebell woods with expert tuition on hand to provide guidance and technique demonstration. For painters of all skill levels	Cost: £35. Refreshments and garden tour included. Please bring packed lunch Web: www.lodgelane.co.uk
Sunday 9th	Introduction to Local Wildlife Site Recording Info: A workshop designed for people who are interested in becoming volunteer LWS recorders.	Location: Wigg Island, Runcorn Trainer: Mark Ambrose Please contact Mark Ambrose at CWT directly for more details – mambrose@cheshirewt.cix.co.uk
Sunday 9th	Count Me In! Pond-Life Take a dip into the lives of Cheshire's pond dwellers.	Location: TBC Trainer: Andy Harmer/Rachel Hacking Cost: Free Free mini-bus from Chester Zoo Booking essential No experience required Contact: Karen Lawson – Project Coordinator Email: countmein@RECORD-LRC.co.uk Tel. 01244 383749 Web: www.RECORD.LRC.co.uk
Friday 14th – Sunday 16th	Plant Conservation Weekend	Chester Zoo
Saturday 22nd	Natural Know How Butterfly Identification and Survey Techniques Info: Learn about the biology, ecology and habitats of the Cheshire species and then learn how to identify and monitor butterflies in the field. The workshop includes both indoor and	Trainer: Stu Burnett Location: Wigg island, Runcorn www.cheshirewildlifetrust.co.uk/news_training2.htm

	outdoor sessions.	
Saturday 22nd	<p>CrBP IYB 2010 Event To mark the IYB 2010 the Cheshire region Biodiversity Partnership, of which Cheshire Wildlife Trust is a partner, is holding an event at Delamere Forest on the International Day of Biodiversity, Saturday 22nd May. The event will include a variety of activities to get people involved in IYB ranging from how to record wildlife to learning more about important habitats and declining species.</p>	<p>Contact: Sarah Bennett sbennett@cheshirewt.cix.co.uk No booking required.</p>
Wednesday 26th	<p>Habitats on our Hillforts A Series of Monthly Field Days led by Ecologist Colin Hayes Helsby Hill This might be the smallest hillfort, but it is arguably on the most dramatic hill – and only a stone’s throw from the flat expanses of the Mersey Estuary. Some ramparts are exposed in pastures; others are more hidden in semi-natural vegetation. The valuable sandstone that forms Helsby Hill has been extensively quarried, creating more dramatic rock exposures here than any other fort. See what Iron Age man built his settlements upon – their true foundations.</p>	<p>Start: 10.00 am Venue: Meet at Helsby Quarry carpark. Please bring a packed Lunch *Limited Places - Booking Essential* Please contact below COLIN SLATER: 01244 973387 or colin.slater@cheshire.gov.uk</p>

	Gentry have also been hard at work around Helsby. Learn to read the signs of their work in local place names, the rocks and the vegetation.	
Saturday 29th	<p>Natural Know How Identifying birds by their character (for beginners)</p> <p>Info: A practical guide to recognising common birds in a variety of habitats. Join Jeff Clarke, one of the regions most experienced bird identification specialists as he shows you how each species has its own special character, (general Impression, size, shape and sound) which helps to improve your chances of making a correct identification.</p>	<p>Trainer: Jeff Clarke Location: Norton Priory Info: http://www.cheshirewildlifetrust.co.uk/news_training2.htm</p>
June		
Saturday 5th	<p>Natural Know How Identification of Aquatic Invertebrates</p> <p>Info: This workshop is open to anyone interested in aquatic invertebrates. It provides a basic introduction to the</p>	<p>Date: 5 June Trainer: Dr Mike Tynen (CWT aquatic invertebrates officer) Location: Bickley Hall Farm www.cheshirewildlifetrust.co.uk/news_training2.htm</p>

	<p>identification of freshwater invertebrates and will include an indoor session and an outdoor session to observe the animals discussed in their natural habitat and to practise basic field identification skills</p>	
<p>Sunday 6th</p>	<p>Natural Know How Water Vole Survey Techniques Info: Learn about the biology, ecology and habitats of water voles. Develop the skills to identify the signs of water voles in their natural environment. With both indoor and outdoor sessions this workshop is aimed at beginners or anyone interested in the water vole.</p>	<p>Location: The Grange Farm, Mickle Trafford Trainer: Andrea Powell (CWT Water Vole Officer) www.cheshirewildlifetrust.co.uk/news_training2.htm</p>
<p>Sunday 20th</p>	<p>Natural Know How Identification of Summer Wildflowers Info: This workshop will include both indoor and outdoor sessions. Learn to identify the summer flowers of Sale Water Park. This identification workshop will be conducted at a level suitable for a Phase I Habitat Survey. Please bring a hand lens and ID guide with you if possible</p>	<p>Trainer: Liz Blackman Location: Sale Water Park www.cheshirewildlifetrust.co.uk/news_training2.htm</p>

<p>Sunday 20th</p>	<p>Count Me In! Insects: Level 1 Beginners</p>	<p>Location: Chester Zoo Trainer: Paul Hill Cost: Free Booking essential No experience required All ages welcome Contact: Karen Lawson – Project Coordinator Email: countmein@RECORD-LRC.co.uk Tel. 01244 383749 Web: www.RECORD.LRC.co.uk</p>
<p>Wednesday 23rd</p>	<p>Count Me In! Insects: Level 2 Improvers</p>	<p>Location: TBC Trainer: Jeff Clarke/Don Stenhouse Cost: Free Free mini-bus from Chester Zoo Booking essential Contact: Karen Lawson – Project Coordinator Email: countmein@RECORD-LRC.co.uk Tel. 01244 383749 Web: www.RECORD.LRC.co.uk</p>
<p>Wednesday 30th</p>	<p>Habitats on our Hillforts A Series of Monthly Field Days led by Ecologist Colin Hayes Kelsborrow The incised, west-facing cliffs in this part of the Cheshire Ridge make Kelsborrow a complex site. Usually it's difficult to view hillfort's except from the air, but here there are good vantage points from which to view the ramparts. Again much of the top of the fort is intensively farmed, and this case its ramparts are as well. There is a</p>	<p>Start: 10.00 am Venue: Meet at King's Gate carpark, Waste Lane, Kelsall. Please bring a packed Lunch *Limited Places - Booking Essential* Please contact below COLIN SLATER: 01244 973387 or colin.slater@cheshire.gov.uk</p>

	<p>pond just outside the rampart – was this part of the outer ditch, a source of water or a more recent excavation? Access is difficult in places, but we will be studying the different types of woodland that have developed on the steeper slopes, where there are fragments of ancient woodland, gentrified areas and blocks of conifers. Time might permit a study of Himalayan Balsam, which has gained a foothold in nearby Boothsdale.</p>	
July		
Sunday 11th	<p>Count Me In! Beach Party Our team of experts invites you to discover Cheshire’s diverse coastal wildlife. Beachcombing and much more... Promises to be really wild!</p>	<p>Location: Wirral Trainer: Ian Wallace Cost: Free Free mini-bus from Chester Zoo Booking essential No experience required All ages welcome Contact: Karen Lawson – Project Coordinator Email: countmein@RECORD-LRC.co.uk Tel. 01244 383749 Web: www.RECORD.LRC.co.uk</p>
Saturday 24th	<p>Natural Know How Identification and Survey Techniques of Dragonflies and Damselflies</p>	<p>Trainer: Stu Burnett Location: Sale Water Park www.cheshirewildlifetrust.co.uk/news_training2.htm</p>

	<p>Info: This workshop is open to anyone interested in entomology. It provides an introduction to the ecology, biology and behaviour of dragonfly and damselfly species and will include an indoor session and an outdoor session to practice survey techniques.</p>	
<p>Sunday 25th</p>	<p>Natural Know How Bumble Bee Ecology and Identification Info: This workshop is open to anyone interested in entomology. It will provide an introduction to the ecology and biology of bumblebee species. The day will include an indoor session with information on bumblebee conservation and the future for bumblebees and an outdoor session to practice basic field identification skills</p>	<p>Trainers: Tony Parker & Carl Clee Location: Norton Priory www.cheshirewildlifetrust.co.uk/news_training2.htm</p>
<p>Wednesday 28th</p>	<p>Habitats on our Hillforts A Series of Monthly Field Days led by Ecologist Colin Hayes Eddisbury This is arguably the Queen of Cheshire's Hillforts, it being both very large and fully exposed. However, the intensively farmed centre offers little</p>	<p>Start: 10.00 am Venue: Meet opposite Delamere Primary School, Stoney Lane. Please bring a packed Lunch *Limited Places - Booking Essential* Please contact below COLIN SLATER: 01244 973387 or colin.slater@cheshire.gov.uk</p>

	<p>interest to the naturalist; our studies will be focused on ramparts. By the end of the day we will be able to identify which ramparts were built and which ones utilised natural features by studying the acidic grassland covering them. Elm is a native species, so why is it causing so much concern around the medieval hunting lodge on the fort's southeastren flanks? And why is there a hole in the middle of the fort?</p>	
August		
Sunday 8th	<p>Count Me In! Theres a Buzz in the Air Meet our experts at one of Cheshire's favourite gardens – Popular with both people and bees!</p>	<p>Location: Ness Gardens Trainer: Tony Parker Cost: Free Booking essential No experience required All ages welcome Contact: Karen Lawson – Project Coordinator Email: countmein@RECORD-LRC.co.uk Tel. 01244 383749 Web: www.RECORD.LRC.co.uk</p>
Sunday 15th	<p>Count Me In! Anyone for Crickets... Ladybirds or Grasshoppers? It's official! Leap into summer with these fascinating seasonal characters.</p>	<p>Location: TBC Trainer: Jeff Clarke Cost: Free Free mini bus from Chester Zoo Booking essential No experience required All ages welcome Contact: Karen Lawson – Project Coordinator</p>

		Email: countmein@RECORD-LRC.co.uk Tel. 01244 383749 Web: www.RECORD.LRC.co.uk
Wednesday 25th	<p>Habitats on our Hillforts A Series of Monthly Field Days led by Ecologist Colin Hayes</p> <p>Beeston Castle The appearance of this prominent pinnacle fortress has been changed many times over the centuries, especially during the last two hundred years. Nature has struggled to heal the cuts and bruises inflicted by man's changing demands on its landscape and appearance. Is any of the woodland ancient or is the whole mound an enormous, wild rockery? Hunt out the rock-loving Navelwort, Toadflax and Wallflower and the rare Salmondberry. Understand why so much work is involved in looking after this ancient lookout and it's legally protected birds and mammals.</p>	Start: 10.00 am Venue: Beeston Castle, (parking fees apply but free entry into Castle grounds included in the course) Please bring a packed Lunch *Limited Places - Booking Essential* Please contact below COLIN SLATER: 01244 973387 or colin.slater@cheshire.gov.uk
September		
Sunday 5th	<p>Count Me In! Recordathon This is your chance to practice your recording skills and maybe pick up a few new ones.</p>	<p>Location: TBC Trainer: Jeff Clarke/Andy Harmer/Rachel Hacking/Tony Parker/Paul Hill Cost: Free Free mini bus from Chester Zoo Booking essential</p>

		<p>No experience required All ages welcome Contact: Karen Lawson – Project Coordinator Email: countmein@RECORD-LRC.co.uk Tel. 01244 383749 Web: www.RECORD.LRC.co.uk</p>
Saturday 11th	<p>Count Me In! Life on the Hedge A vital shelter and food source for a huge variety of mammals, birds and insects. Find out more about this vast and vibrant natural highway.</p>	<p>Location: Wirral Trainer: Hilary Ash Cost: Free Free mini bus from Chester Zoo Booking essential No experience required All ages welcome Contact: Karen Lawson – Project Coordinator Email: countmein@RECORD-LRC.co.uk Tel. 01244 383749 Web: www.RECORD.LRC.co.uk</p>
Sunday 19th	<p>Count Me In! Incey Wincey Workshop Face your fears with Richard ‘Spider Man’ Gallon.</p>	<p>Location: Chester Zoo Trainer: Richard Gallon Cost: Free Free mini bus from Chester Zoo Booking essential No experience required All ages welcome Contact: Karen Lawson – Project Coordinator Email: countmein@RECORD-LRC.co.uk Tel. 01244 383749 Web: www.RECORD.LRC.co.uk</p>
Wednesday 29th	<p>Habitats on our Hillforts A Series of Monthly Field Days led by Ecologist Colin Hayes Bickerton Hill</p>	<p>Start: 10.00 am Venue: Meet at Pool Lane carpark Please bring a packed Lunch *Limited Places - Booking Essential*</p>

	<p>This is the only hillfort to be recognised for its nationally important vegetation; the whole hill is notified as a Site of Special scientific Interest. What is so special about this hillfort area compared to all others? We will find out – by studying the plants that make up the heathland mosaic, which will be at its colourful best for this autumn session. A brief tour of the fort’s surroundings will reveal how the healthy vegetation changes as young trees colonise and then mature into woodland. The National Trust, who have owned and managed much of the hill for many years, has been particularly innovative in their use of sustainable management to keep the ramparts visible and the heathland in prime condition. By the time you leave this closing session of course, you will fully understand the typical vegetation and habitats of the Mid-Cheshire Ridge and its Hillforts</p>	<p>Please contact below COLIN SLATER: 01244 973387 or colin.slater@cheshire.gov.uk</p>
October		
2nd	<p>Natural Know How Dormouse Ecology & Conservation Info: This workshop will provide an introduction to the ecology of the hazel dormouse and the ongoing</p>	<p>Trainer: Sue Tatman (CWT Dormouse Project Officer) Location: Bickley Hall Farm www.cheshirewildlifetrust.co.uk/news_training2.htm</p>

	<p>conservation work taking place in Cheshire. There will be an indoor session in the morning then a visit to the Cheshire dormouse reintroduction site in the afternoon.</p>	
<p>Sunday 10th</p>	<p>Count Me In! Mammals of Cheshire Back by popular demand. Another chance to meet and greet some of Cheshire's 'cute and furry' creatures.</p>	<p>Location: TBC Trainer: Rob Smith/Sarah Bird Cost: Free Free mini bus from Chester Zoo Booking essential No experience required All ages welcome Contact: Karen Lawson – Project Coordinator Email: countmein@RECORD-LRC.co.uk Tel. 01244 383749 Web: www.RECORD.LRC.co.uk</p>
<p>Saturday 16th</p>	<p>Natural Know How Hedgehog Ecology, Conservation & Rehabilitation Info: This workshop is open to adults interested in learning more about Cheshire's hedgehogs. The day will start with an indoor session that will give an introduction to hedgehogs, their ecology, habitat requirements and conservation issues. This will be followed by an outdoor field session to observe the kind of natural habitat</p>	<p>Trainer: Sarah Bennett (Cheshire region Biodiversity Manager) Location: Bickley Hall Farm www.cheshirewildlifetrust.co.uk/news_training2.htm</p>

	where hedgehogs can usually be found.	
Sunday 24th	<p>Count Me In! Celebration</p> <p>Join us and help to celebrate two years of Count Me In! and the International Year of Biodiversity –in true CMI! Style!</p>	<p>Location: TBC Trainer: Rob Smith/Sarah Bird Cost: Free Free mini bus from Chester Zoo Booking essential No experience required All ages welcome Contact: Karen Lawson – Project Coordinator Email: countmein@RECORD-LRC.co.uk Tel. 01244 383749 Web: www.RECORD.LRC.co.uk</p>
November		
December		