

Visits to Aqualate Mere National Nature Reserve

Aqualate Mere NNR near Newport Shropshire is one of the finest wildlife & geological sites in the country. The reserve boasts the largest natural lake in the West Midlands with a fantastic mix of woodland & meadows supporting a variety of birds, mammals & invertebrates which can be observed on site.

- Friendly reserve staff will welcome you & your group to explore the natural surroundings on your doorstep.
- We invite you to the reserve to take a look around before bringing your group.
- We can offer a safe & secure environment for your children.
- You can choose from a variety of fun, led activities including bird watching, pond dipping, bug hunts, orienteering, den building & nature walks. These activities can be used to help your group achieve one of their badges. Over the page are some suggestions about how we could help you to fulfil badge requirements.
- All visits are FREE of charge.
- All staff are fully CRB checked.
- Site specific risk assessments can be provided.

For further information about the activities we can offer you please contact Caroline Dahn on 0300 060 0583 or e-mail caroline.dahn@naturalengland.org.uk



Wildlife Explorer Badge



1. Identify three of each of the following: common wild birds, common butterflies & wild mammals.

Start this badge with a led walk around Aqualate Mere NNR to discover the wildlife that make Aqualate their home. Personal 'wildlife explorer packs' contain wildlife guides to aid identification.

2. Make a feeding station. This could be for hedgehogs, insects, birds, frogs or other creatures that aren't pets. With permission, put it up in a suitable place.

Make a bird feeder for the garden.

3. Choose and do one of the following:

a) Make a pooter & collect samples of the insects living in your garden.

Make a pooter and discover the bugs living at Aqualate Mere NNR.

b) With an adult you know, find a pond or stream and study what lives there. Look for insects, fish, amphibians & plants. Make a record of any signs of pollution.

Join us for a pond dipping session.

c) Visit a nature reserve or Country Park. Draw pictures or take photographs of at least four different types of tree. Make leaf & bark rubbings. Label them with the names of the trees.

Join us to explore the woodlands at Aqualate Mere NNR, draw sketches, make bark & leaf rubbings & most importantly learn how to identify the trees.

Environment Badge



1. Explain how artificial fertilizers, pesticides and the destruction of hedgerows affect wildlife.

When the evenings are darker reserve staff can come to your meeting to help your Brownies to find out about local wildlife and how we affect the environment through a variety of games.

2. Find out about an endangered species, like red squirrels, tigers, blue whales or giant pandas. Make a display about them.

During the same session reserve staff can help the Brownies find out More about endangered species & produce a group poster.