

# 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](mailto:caroline.dahn@naturalengland.org.uk)**



# Cub Naturalist Badge



Natural England is delighted to be sponsoring the Cub & Scout Naturalist Activity Badge which encourages Cubs and Scouts to go on an outdoors adventure to learn about the place where they live, to discover the wonders of the natural world & how through our lives we might affect the world around us.

**Complete three of the following:**

- 1. Make a survey of a hedgerow or wild area. Be able to identify at least six species of wild flowers, grasses or ferns.**

*New for 2010! Take part in the national OPAL hedgerow biodiversity survey. <http://www.opalexplornature.org/BiodiversitySurvey>*

- 2. Keep a record of birds you have spotted over one week. Be able to identify at least six wild birds.**

*Start this badge with a visit to the Aqualate Mere NNR bird hide to discover the birds that make Aqualate their home. Personal 'Naturalist activity badge packs' contain wildlife guides to aid identification.*

- 3. Make a survey of a pond, river, stream or seashore. Be able to identify some of the animals, fish, and insects or plant life you find.**

*Join us for a pond dipping session.*

- 4. Be able to identify six types of insect you find.**

*Join us on a bug safari.*

- 5. Identify six different trees or shrubs from their leaves, shape, fruit or nuts and make a bark rubbing.**

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

- 6. Identify six butterflies, moths or frogs and talk to a leader about their life cycle.**

*Join us on a led walk around Aqualate Mere NNR to discover the wildlife that makes Aqualate their homes. Investigate the lifecycle of butterflies & moths through role play. Wildlife guides will aid identification.*