

# 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)**



# Scout Naturalist Badge



Natural England is delighted to be sponsoring the Cub & Scout Naturalist Activity Badge which encourages Cubs & 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 the requirements below:** *We recommend activities are completed during one on-site session & one evening meeting with Natural England staff.*

*Start this badge with a led walk around Aqualate Mere NNR to explore the habitats & discover the wildlife that makes Aqualate their home.*

- 1. Pick one of the following locations &, with appropriate permission, investigate the wildlife and plants found there. This activity should take at least one day.**
  - a. Woodland
  - b. Hedgerow
  - c. small pond

*Explore your chosen habitat & join us to undertake scientific surveys of the site. Take part in the national OPAL hedgerow biodiversity or water survey. <http://www.opalexplornature.org/surveys>*

- 2. Tell a knowledgeable adult what has been discovered using field notes, sketches, photographs or maps prepared on site.**

*Reserve staff will assist your Scouts in collating their results to present to the group at a later meeting.*
- 3. Find out more about any one plant, animal or particular wildlife.**

*Scouts will be set the task of finding out more about a particular species observed on site & produce a group poster.*
- 4. Discuss what has been found out, giving sources for information, for example museums, field guides or the Internet.**

*Scouts will be set the task of collating information to support their posters & presentation.*
- 5. Discuss how human activities or management can affect wildlife.**

*Reserve staff will help you to find out about local wildlife and how we affect the environment through a variety of games & demonstrations.*