



22 Countryside sites to visit in
Denbighshire
& The Clwydian Range Area
of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Welcome



Making sense of the jargon

Some sites have local, national or international designations. This means that the sites have to be managed and preserved in a special way to safeguard the animals, habitats, archaeology or landscapes that are rare or in danger.

- LNR** - Local Nature Reserve
- SSSI** - Site of Special Scientific Interest
- SAC** - Special Area of Conservation
- AONB** - Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- SAM** - Scheduled Ancient Monument
- WS** - County Wildlife Sites

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These symbols show what facilities are available on the sites:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Café or restaurant nearby | room for hire |
| shop | events |
| picnic tables | hang/para gliding & model flying |
| toilets | historic remains |
| disabled facilities | cycling route |
| (parking, toilets, view) | bridlepath |
| leaflet | parking on site |
| Information panels | parking within 1/2 mile |
| limited coach parking | views |
| public bus route | |
| schools resources | |

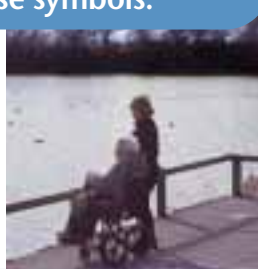
This leaflet is designed to show you the managed countryside sites in the area, how to get to them, what you can do when you get there and why they are such valuable places to visit and protect. The centre map shows the location of the sites; please refer to the map reference to help you to your destination.

We hope you enjoy exploring these beautiful countryside sites.

Sites are graded according to how accessible the main paths are, please look for these symbols:

- Most paths are flat with hard surface.
- Some gradients and hard surfaces.
- Gradients with surfaces of loose stones and grass.
- Steep gradients with rough uneven surfaces and some stiles.

These grades are for guidance only. Please contact us to discuss your visit if you have queries about access.



Whilst every effort has been made to make this booklet as accurate as possible, neither authors nor publishers accept any responsibility for the consequence of any errors.

Dogs, under close supervision, are welcome on the sites. Please respect our sites and clear up after your dog.



Contact Us

Denbighshire Countryside Service offers advice, information and practical support throughout the County. We are involved with countryside conservation, recreation, events, ecology, archaeology and trees & woodlands. Please feel free to contact us.

Denbighshire Countryside Service Loggerheads Country Park

Nr Mold, Denbighshire. CH7 5LH.

☎ 01352 810614 (weekdays) ☎ 01352 810586 (weekends & holidays)

Ruthin Office ☎ 01824 708261

Rhyl Office ☎ 01745 356197

Llangollen Office ☎ 01978 869618

or email: loggerheads.countryside@denbighshire.gov.uk

www.denbighshire.gov.uk/countryside

All walks, events, news and education publications are available to download on this website.

www.clwydianrangeaonb.org.uk



This leaflet has been produced with generous support from the Countryside Council for Wales.



North Denbighshire

Brickfields Pond LNR

Map Reference: ⑧ Grid Ref: SJ013804

Size: 11 acres

Designation: LNR, WS

A tranquil freshwater lake surrounded by grassland, scrub and woodland. Enjoy the sculpture trail, fishing, pond dipping or a spot of bird watching - especially good in the winter for migrating and wintering birds.



Brickfields Pond



Brickfields Pond

Gronant Dunes

Map Reference: ⑤ Grid Ref: SJ074842

Size: 168 acres

Designation: LNR, SSSI, candidate SAC

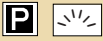
A rare and beautiful sand dune system acting as a natural sea defence and a valuable home to amazing biodiversity. Look out for the only breeding colony of little tern in Wales, the reintroduced natterjack toads and sand lizards (please do not disturb them!).



Bruton Park

Map Reference: ⑦ Grid Ref: SJ 028 805
Size: 6 acres

A community woodland and field providing an excellent habitat for Great Crested Newts



Prestatyn Community Woodland

Map Reference: ⑥ Grid Ref: SJ 058 823
Size: 45 acres
Designation: WS

Nature has reclaimed this former landfill site with the help of community woodland planting creating a green space in the centre of Prestatyn.



The Prestatyn - Dyserth Way

Map Reference: ③
Length: 2.6 mile (4.25km)
Designation: WS

An even surfaced trail for boots and wheels, following a disused railway turned wildlife corridor.

Leaflet: Enjoy Prestatyn's Countryside



Prestatyn - Dyserth Way

Glanmorfa

Map Reference: ⑨ Grid Ref: SJ007803
Size: 27.5 acres
Designation: WS

Situated alongside the tidal River Clwyd this former landfill site is now a haven for wildlife.



Gronant Dunes





The Clwydian Range

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)



Designated in 1985, the Clwydian Range is one of only 8 protected landscapes in Wales. A contrasting mix of heather moorland ridge, limestone crags, woodland and rolling farmland, covers an area of 62 sq miles following the ridge of the Clwydian Hills. Approximately 60% of the AONB is in Denbighshire and the other 40% is in Flintshire. Denbighshire Countryside Service manages the AONB. Some of the woodlands are managed in partnership with Forestry Commission Wales.

Offa's Dyke National Trail

The 41 miles of the Offa's Dyke National Trail running through Denbighshire and along the spine of the Clwydian Range is managed in partnership with Countryside Council for Wales.



Loggerheads Country Park

Map Reference:  Grid Ref: SJ200628

Size: 80 acres


Designation: SSSI, SAC within the AONB.



Explore a wooded river valley and limestone cliffs offering views across to Moel Famau. Rare plants and ash-dominated woodland are interspersed with evidence from the once thriving lead mining industry.



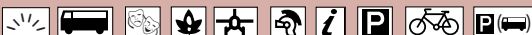
Moel Famau Country Park

Map Reference:  Grid Ref: (Moel Famau Car Park) SJ161606.

Size: over 2000 acres

Designation: WS within the AONB.

Impressive upland landscape of heather moorland changing to bracken or pasture on its lower slopes. It is home to the rare black grouse, birds of prey and typical upland birds, like stonechat. The ruins of the Jubilee Tower can be seen at the summit of Moel Famau, the highest point in the Park, and the Clwydian Range, at 1818ft (544m). The remains of four hillforts (SAM's) can be seen on the summits of Moel Fenlli, Moel y Gaer, Penycloddiau and Moel Arthur. A seven mile section of the Offa's Dyke National Trail runs through the Park.



Jubilee Tower on Moel Famau

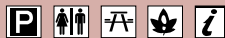
Coed Moel Famau

Map Reference: ⑫ Grid Ref: SJ171611

Size: 1047 acres

Designation: within the AONB.

The facilities are managed jointly by Forestry Commission Wales and Denbighshire Countryside Service. The planting of conifers is being phased out in favour of natural broadleaved regeneration. The site boasts an arboretum, numeracy and puzzle trail, off road cycling and a waymarked, sheltered route to the summit of Moel Famau.



Penycloddiau Nature Area & Llangwyfan Forest

Map Reference: ⑩ Grid Ref: SJ139668

Size: 29 acres

Designation: WS, SAM within the AONB.

Recovering native broad-leaved woodland below an Iron Age hillfort and adjacent to Llangwyfan Forest. A section of the Offa's Dyke National Trail passes through and there are good bird-watching opportunities.



Coed Nercwys

Map Reference: ⑮ Grid Ref: SJ197593

Size: 322 acres

Owned by Forestry Commission Wales and managed in partnership with Denbighshire Countryside Service, this site is bursting with history from Bronze Age burial, mining and agriculture to plantation and recreation. Nightjars, long eared owls and great crested newts are some of the rare inhabitants. An excellent multi-user route helps visitors explore the forest.



Moel Findeg

Map Reference: ⑭ Grid Ref: SJ208611

Size: 55 acres

Designation: LNR, within the AONB.

A rich combination of birch woodland, heath and purple moor-grass wetland, hide evidence of old lead mine workings.



Bishops Wood

Map Reference: ① Grid Ref: SJ 072821

Size: 32 acres

Designation: SSSI

Mining and quarrying remains are hidden within the ancient oak woodland of Bishops Wood and the limestone - rocky outcrops of Prestatyn hillside.



Coed Bell

Map Reference: ④ Grid Ref: SJ089830

Size: 20 acres

Designation: WS, SAM within the AONB

Vibrant bluebells carpet this ancient semi-natural woodland in the spring. A rare mature elm tree with a girth of 12 feet and a tumulus from the Bronze Age (2000BC - 800BC approx.) are amongst the highlights of this site.



Moel Findeg in Summer

South Denbighshire

Corwen Cutting

Map Reference: ②① Grid Ref: SJ082443
Size: 7 acres

A reclaimed railway line with a trim trail running from Corwen Leisure Centre.



Pen y Pigyn

Map Reference: ②③
Grid Ref: SJ078434
Size: 9 acres

Ancient semi-natural upland oak woodland. Search for the Druid circle, a royal monument and the elusive red squirrel.



Caer Drewyn

Gro Isa

Map Reference: ②② Grid Ref: SJ076441
Size: 1.5 acres
Designation: WS

A wide stretch of unimproved meadow on the southern bank of the River Dee (SSSI and SAC) renowned for its salmon, brown trout and grayling. The banks provide a home for otters and water-vole. The grassland, trees and shrubs provide a valuable habitat for small mammals, insects and nesting birds and the upright stone slabs, are an interesting feature peculiar to the Corwen area.



Corwen to Cynwyd Railway Line

Map Reference: ②④
Grid Ref: SJ064424
Size: 17 acres

A reclaimed railway line with flourishing ash woodland provides a quiet and peaceful riverside walk. Look out for wild flowers, birds and mammals, especially otters along the banks of the River Dee (SSSI and SAC). Medieval Llangar Church is also worth a visit.



Caer Drewyn

Map Reference:  Grid Ref: SJ087445

Size: 40 acres

Designation: WS, SAM

An Iron Age hillfort with unusual stone ramparts. Intriguing history linked to Owain Glyndwr. Rare lichens can be found on the hillfort walls.



Llantysilio Green

Map Reference:  Grid Ref: SJ198433

An ideal base for visiting the Horseshoe Falls, Valle Crucis Abbey, Velvet Hill, Eliseg's Pillar, Llantysilio Church and also a starting point for a range of walks in the Dee Valley.



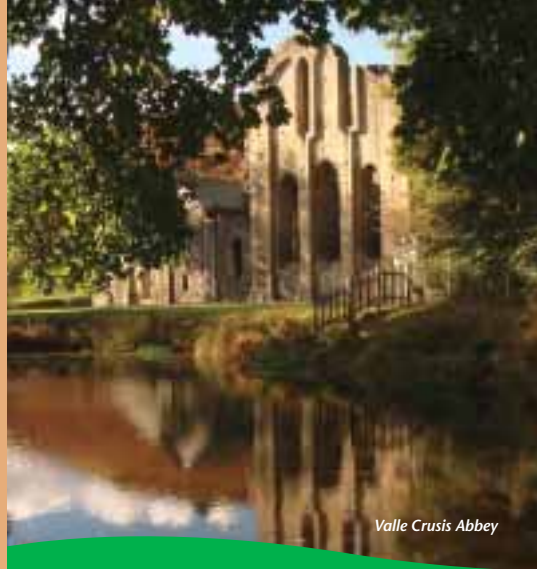
Dinas Bran

Map Reference:  Grid Ref: SJ 222430

Size: 9 acres.

Designation: SSSI and SAM

A steep hill crowned by Castell Dinas Bran, the ruins of a 13th Century Welsh stronghold. The ramparts of a much earlier Iron Age hillfort also remain.



Valle Crucis Abbey

Dee Valley Walks -

Explore the Dee Valley by foot. Walk the Dee Valley Way, a linear route linking Llangollen and Corwen and then explore Corwen and Llangollen a little more. Llangollen History Trail is a circular route taking in historic sites of the area and the Corwen Walks provides three circular routes looking at history and wildlife.

www.deevalleywalks.com



Castell Dinas Bran



What else can you do?



Walking the Way to Health

'Footloose' aims to improve physical, mental and social health through regular walks in the Rhyl area, that are short, flat and accessible. Footloose is a Walking the Way to Health Initiative - part of a national scheme run by the British Heart Foundation.

☎ 01745 356197



Help us record your local wildlife and conserve the biodiversity of Denbighshire and the Clwydian Range.



The species, number of animals, date and location (preferably a 6 figure grid reference) should be recorded. It is also useful to get weather conditions and a description of the site. Contact Denbighshire Biodiversity Officer on 01824 708234 or visit www.biodiversityindenbighshire.gov.uk



Out & About in Denbighshire's Countryside

An annual programme bursting with FREE events throughout the County. From volunteering opportunities improving traditional skills, like hedgelaying, to family fun - making a giant willow bug or joining a guided walk.

Pick up a copy from your library, One Stop Shop, Tourist Information Centre, download a copy or ring 01352 810614.