

Activity Guide 2017



Explore the landscape, heritage and wildlife of the
Tame Valley Wetlands



Welcome to the Tame Valley Wetlands

Between the eastern edge of Birmingham and the ancient market town of Tamworth lies the Tame Valley Wetlands; an extraordinary, hidden landscape on the doorstep of over one million people.

The area has a wealth of wildlife and heritage interest, with the River Tame, its floodplain and the canal network at its heart.

The Tame Valley Wetlands Landscape Partnership works to protect and enhance the area, with the vision of:

‘creating a wetland landscape, rich in wildlife and accessible to all’.

The Partnership is led by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust together with a wide variety of organisations including charities, local groups, councils and statutory bodies.

We are currently delivering an exciting landscape partnership scheme, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, which works towards our vision. We are completing a series of conservation projects aimed at restoring heritage and improving the area for wildlife and people. We are also improving access so that everyone can enjoy the landscape, as well as delivering activities, volunteering and learning opportunities aimed at improving people's skills and connection with the landscape.

This Activity Guide outlines the exciting programme we have in store for you this year.



Ladywalk Nature Reserve (C Harris, WWT)

Get involved!

There are plenty of ways for you to get involved, learn new skills and meet new people.

If you'd like to be active and spend time outdoors, you could join our 'TameForce' practical conservation group, or come along to one of our events or activities. We also offer bespoke volunteering opportunities for businesses and groups with special needs.

For the full range of volunteering, training, and outdoor education opportunities, go to: tamevalleywetlands.co.uk/get-involved.

Please note, all under 18s must be accompanied by an adult. Our events are offered at a greatly reduced cost thanks to funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Find out more

Would you like to find out about more events happening in the Tame Valley Wetlands? Head to our website and search our directory of events. This includes extra events that might be added, as well as talks, conservation days, guided walks and events organised by our wide range of partners and other organisations active in the area.

tamevalleywetlands.co.uk/whats-on

How to book

Booking is required on all our events, except where noted ('Drop-in' events). To book a place, visit the 'Events' section of our website and follow the 'Book a place' link next to each event.

tamevalleywetlands.co.uk/events

Book online at

tamevalleywetlands.co.uk/events

or call **01675 470917**



Bodymoor Heath Water, Kingsbury Water Park (Chris Harris, WWT)

MAY

TameFest

🕒 11.00 - 16.00

Saturday
27
MAY

TameFest is a fun event showcasing the vibrant heritage of the Tame Valley Wetlands, including beautiful historical buildings, amazing wildlife, traditional crafts, outdoor sports and much more! TameFest is the opportunity to sample this and have a go at a huge range of activities, for free!

Tamworth Castle Grounds**Everyone | Free | Drop in | Parking charges**

Tamworth Castle (© Harris, WWF)

MAY

Wild
Wednesday

🕒 11.00 - 15.00

Wednesday
31
MAY

Our holiday activities for the whole family, with something different every time: crafts, hands-on activities, and scavenger hunts.

Woodland
Monitoring

🕒 10.30 - 15.30

Wednesday
31
MAY

Learn how to carry out an "eyes on the ground" survey to help determine the species currently present in the woodland.

RSPB Middleton Lakes**Families | Free | Drop in | Parking charges****Conservation Area, Castle Vale****16+ | Free | Booking required**

JUNE

Introduction to
Moths

🕒 11.00 - 13.00

Saturday
3
JUNE

Presentation about the wonders of moths followed by identifying moths found on site and some species from around the county.

Woodland
Storytelling

🕒 10.00 - 12.00

Saturday
3
JUNE

Let award-winning storyteller Ian Billings amaze you with nature-themed stories! The morning will also include craft activities led by the Coleshill Library team, all in a wonderful community woodland! (or at Coleshill library in case of rain).

Hams Hall Environmental Studies Centre**14+ | Free | Booking required****Trajan Hill Spinney, Coleshill****Families | Free | Booking required**

JUNE

Meadow Monitoring

🕒 10.30 - 12.30

Learn how to carry out an "eyes on the ground" survey to help determine the species currently present in the meadow.

Conservation Area, Castle Vale
16+ | Free | Booking required

Tuesday
13
JUNE

Butterfly ID

🕒 13.30 - 15.30

Join us on a walk at the Castle Vale Conservation Area, looking for the various butterflies which live there.

Conservation Area, Castle Vale
14+ | Free | Booking required

Tuesday
13
JUNE

JUNE

Father's Day Crafts

🕒 16.30 - 18.30

Make key rings for Father's Day and leaf print decorations

Conservation Area, Castle Vale
Families | Free | Booking required

Friday
16
JUNE

Lime Bark Workshop

🕒 10.00 - 16.00

Discover the many uses of small-leaved lime trees, the unsung hero of our countryside and how it has been used to supply rope and basket-making material, as well as wood for shields. Learn to debark coppiced poles, make your own string and weave a simple mat.

Hams Hall Environmental Studies Centre
18+ | Free | Booking required

Saturday
17
JUNE

JUNE

BTO - Bird Identification

🕒 9.30 - 16.00

Learn to identify the birds of the wetlands and surrounding habitats with Ed Drewitt, and then push yourself by learning some of their songs and calls as well.

Hams Hall Environmental Studies Centre
14+ | £30 | Booking required

Tuesday
20
JUNE



Bird ID course (C.Harris, WWT)

JUNE

Amphibian Survey Training

🕒 10.30 - 15.30

Join Froglife to learn all about identifying and surveying amphibians.

Hams Hall Environmental Studies Centre
14+ | Free | Booking required

Friday
23
JUNE

Watercolours Workshop

🕒 10.00 - 16.00

Learn how to paint bold, loose, dynamic watercolours with local artist Peter Scott. The workshop will include an introduction to the various materials and techniques. Weather permitting, we will paint outdoors in our quiet walled garden.

Hams Hall Environmental Studies Centre
14+ | Free | Booking required

Saturday
24
JUNE

JUNE

Meadow Management

🕒 10.30 - 12.30

Have a go at managing one of our beautiful meadows to ensure the best possible growth in future years. The session will cover practical tips and also a beginners guide to identifying the species that make up this haven for wildlife.

Conservation Area, Castle Vale
18+ | Free | Booking required

Tuesday
27
JUNE

JULY

Meadow Family Challenge

🕒 11.00 - 13.00

Visit our local meadow, take part in our family challenge event whilst learning about the ecological benefits of these rare, attractive and precious habitats and make your very own meadow to take home.

Conservation Area, Castle Vale
Families | Free | Booking required

Saturday
1
JULY

JULY

Macro Photography Course

🕒 9.00 - 17.00

This day is for photographers who are familiar with the basics of composition and the basic controls on their camera, but who would now like to learn how to take amazing close-up images.

Hams Hall Environmental Studies Centre
14+ | Free | Booking required

Sunday
2
JULY

Non Native Species Workshop

🕒 10.30 - 14.00

Find out about the history, impact and control of one of the biggest threats to our wildlife; invasive non-native species. This workshop will include an indoors presentation and an outdoors session tackling Himalayan balsam at nearby Whitacre Heath Nature Reserve.

Hams Hall Environmental Studies Centre
18+ | Free | Booking required

Friday
7
JULY

JULY

Wildlife Discovery
Day

🕒 All day

Join us and a team of experts for an exciting day exploring the wildlife of Kingsbury Water Park. Over the course of 24 hours we will be recording as many different species as we can find. For more information visit tamevalleywetlands.co.uk/events.

Kingsbury Water Park

Everyone | Free | Drop in | Parking charges

Saturday

8

JULY

Hedgerow
Management & Tree ID

🕒 10.30 - 15.30

Have a go at managing a newly planted hedge to ensure the best possible growth in future years. The session will cover practical tips and also a beginners guide to identifying the species that make up the hedge.

Conservation Area, Castle Vale

18+ | Free | Booking required

Tuesday

11

JULY

JULY

Summer Plants
Walk

🕒 14.00 - 16.00

Join our experts for a walk around Kingsbury Meadow Local Nature Reserve where they will introduce you to a range of wild plants.

Kingsbury Meadow Local Nature Reserve

Everyone | Free | Booking required

Wednesday

12

JULY

Key Holder
Crafting

🕒 16.30 - 18.30

Make your own original key holder out of wood and sticks.

Castle Vale Community Garden

Families | Free | Booking required

Friday

21

JULY

JULY



Painted Lady butterfly (Jim Higham)

Butterfly
Walk

🕒 11.00 - 14.00

Join Warwickshire Wildlife Trust's Steve Cheshire on a walk at RSPB Middleton Lakes looking for the various butterflies which live there, including the rare painted lady.

RSPB Middleton Lakes

Everyone | Free | Booking required

Saturday

22

JULY

JULY

Meadow Monitoring & Management

🕒 10.30 - 15.30

Learn how to best manage and conserve meadows for wildlife and diversity. We will be exploring identification of the species that grow there and discussing how to keep these areas thriving.

Conservation Area, Castle Vale
18+ | Free | Booking required

Tuesday
25
JULY

Wild Wednesday

🕒 11.00 - 15.00

Our holiday activities for the whole family, with something different every time: crafts, hands-on activities, scavenger hunts etc.

RSPB Middleton Lakes
Families | Free | Drop in | Parking charges

Wednesday
26
JULY

JULY

Fairy & Elf Village Workshop

🕒 11.00 - 13.00

Make your own fairy or elf house from natural materials & take it home to your garden. Get creative, have some fun and help the magical creatures housing shortage!

Conservation Area, Castle Vale
Families | Free | Booking required

Saturday
29
JULY

AUGUST

Wild Wednesdays

🕒 11.00 - 15.00

Our holiday activities for the whole family, with something different every time: crafts, hands-on activities, scavenger hunts etc.

RSPB Middleton Lakes
Families | Free | Drop in | Parking charges

Wednesday
2, 9, 16, 23, 30
AUGUST

AUGUST

Stone Carving Taster Day

🕒 10.00 - 16.30

Learn stone carving techniques and produce your own Tudor Rose relief carving, with step-by-step tutoring. The stone, tools and protective eyewear will be provided.

Hams Hall Environmental Studies Centre
18+ | £5 | Booking required

Saturday
5
AUGUST

Summer Trees Walk

🕒 10.00 - 12.00

Find out how to identify trees in summer when they are in full leaf.

Whitacre Heath Nature Reserve
18+ | Free | Booking required

Monday
7
AUGUST

AUGUST

Introduction to Hedgehog Surveys

🕒 10.00 - 13.00

Join Warwickshire Wildlife Trust's Hedgehog Officer on a search for signs of hedgehogs. Learn all about the lives of these enigmatic creatures, the dangers they face and what we can do to help.

Hams Hall Environmental Studies Centre
18+ | Free | Booking required

Tuesday
8
AUGUST



Hedgehog (Tom Marshall)

AUGUST

Introduction to Survival Skills

🕒 10.00 - 16.00

Join our survival expert from woodland survival crafts to try your hand at creating natural shelters and learn how to make the most of what nature can offer.

Hams Hall Environmental Studies Centre
Everyone | £5 Ad, £2 Ch | Booking required

Thursday
10
AUGUST

Discover Bees

🕒 11.00 - 16.00

Discover the world of bees with Nuneaton and Atherstone Bee Keepers Association and the Friends of Kingsbury Water Park. Includes a live bee display, crafts and bug hunts with Tame Valley Wetlands at 12pm and 2pm.

Kingsbury Water Park
Everyone | Free | Booking | Parking charges

Sunday
13
AUGUST

AUGUST

Family Bat Walk

🕒 20.00 - 22.00

Find out all about the bats that live at Stoneydelph Lakes, in Tamworth. We'll listen to them with bat detectors, try and spot them flying about and play games to learn about what makes bats special!

Stoneydelph Lakes, Tamworth
Families | Free | Booking required

Friday
18
AUGUST

Scarecrow Day

🕒 12.00 - 15.00

Make your own scarecrow! Wooden frames, straw, clothes and expertise will be provided. Bring along some old clothes and accessories, such as silly hats and jazzy braces!

RSPB Middleton Lakes
Families | Free | Drop in | Parking charges

Monday
28
AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

Wetland Plants

🕒 14.00 - 16.00

Join our experts for a walk around Whitacre Heath where they will introduce you to the world of wetland plants

Whitacre Heath Nature Reserve
Everyone | Free | Booking required

Wednesday

6

SEPTEMBER

Macro Photography Course

🕒 9.00 - 17.00

This day is for photographers who are familiar with the basics of composition and the basic controls on their camera, but who would now like to learn how to take amazing close-up images.

Hams Hall Environmental Studies Centre
14+ | Free | Booking required

Sunday

17

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

Foraging Walk

🕒 14.00 - 16.00

Find out about the traditional uses of wild plants including food, tools and medicines on a gentle walk through Ladywalk Nature Reserve.

Ladywalk Nature Reserve
14+ | Free | Booking required

Sunday

8

OCTOBER

Build a Nestbox

🕒 10.00 - 13.00

Make a bird box for your own garden and help us to make and install some in the Castle Vale Conservation Area. Learn about what other things you can do to help birds to survive winter.

Castle Vale Community Garden
Everyone | Free | Booking required

Tuesday

24

OCTOBER

OCTOBER

Small Mammals

🕒 08.30 - 11.30

Discover which small mammals live locally and learn more about their habitats and how to identify them. There will be a talk followed by checking Longworth traps. We will meet at Kingsbury Water Park and then move on to our classroom space at Hams Hall.

Kingsbury Water Park
Everyone | Free | Booking | Parking charges

Thursday

26

OCTOBER

Willow Crafts

🕒 13.00 - 15.00

A fun family event to have a go at weaving willow. Make your own willow crafts, from mini baskets to garden ornaments.

RSPB Middleton Lakes
Families | Free | Booking | Parking charges

Saturday

11

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER



Rustic furniture workshop (TVW)

Rustic Furniture Workshop

🕒 10.00 - 16.00

Sat & Sun

25-26

NOVEMBER

Create your own piece of rustic furniture with award winning greenwood artist Spencer Jenkins. Build a chair using a mixture of contemporary and traditional techniques and sustainably sourced willow. Take home your own creation at the end of the weekend for you to use within your home (NB two-day course).

Hams Hall Environmental Studies Centre
18+ | £30 | Booking required

DECEMBER

Basketry Workshop

🕒 10.00 - 16.30

Saturday

2

DECEMBER

Have a go at basket-weaving. Learn traditional basketry techniques and make your own shallow basket to take home.

Community Together Hub, Castle Grounds
Everyone | £5 | Booking | Parking charges

Owl Pellets

🕒 10.00 - 14.00

Wednesday

6

DECEMBER

Gain an insight into the fascinating life of native owl species through the examination of locally sourced pellets. Find out what they are they feasting on and learn more about their habits with Dr Debbie Wright from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

Hams Hall Environmental Studies Centre
Everyone | Free | Booking required

DECEMBER

Christmas Cycle Cinema

🕒 17.30 - 20.00

Saturday

9

DECEMBER

Pedal-powered cinema. Wrap up warm for a late afternoon screening of a Christmas classic in the festive setting of Middleton Hall. Or, you can jump on one of the 6 bikes powering the projector. The film will be chosen by our audience in an online poll.

Middleton Hall
Everyone | £3 Ad, £1 Ch | Booking required

Christmas Decoration Crafts

🕒 16.30 - 18.00

Thursday

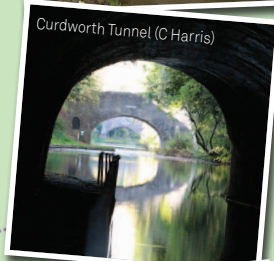
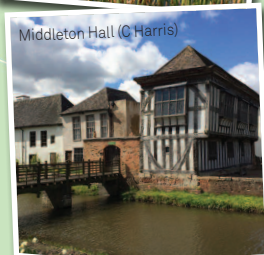
21

DECEMBER

Willow wreaths and a great selection of Christmas decoration using natural materials sourced from our local green open spaces.

The Sanctuary, Castle Vale
Everyone | Free | Parking charges

Cover picture: Eleanor Bentall (rsrb-images.com)




For more information and booking visit:
www.tamevalleywetlands.co.uk

Printed on 100% recycled paper

 enquiries@tamevalleywetlands.co.uk

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 @thetamevalley

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