

# JUNE 2026 BULLETIN

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## WELCOME TO OUR JUNE BULLETIN!

June's (mostly) pleasant conditions have seen not just a buzz of wildlife activity in our parks and gardens but also in our volunteers. It's been great to see the conversations blossom between our volunteers about their most recent hunts. The biobank and MEAS team have found time in their busy schedules to get out, for example popping to Netherly to check out the amazing grassland and the many ongoing bat surveys. However, the group that's really drawn our volunteers' attention this month has been our often-overlooked moths. This includes the creation of a budding special-interest group in our WhatsApp and a bulletin celebrating lots of lovely moths seen this month!

## Article by Aimee Woods Moses

Hi, I'm Aimee, and I have joined the Merseyside Biobank team for my summer placement! I am currently in my first year at John Moores University studying wildlife conservation. I have always spent a lot of time in nature, but my interest in conservation peaked after I went travelling during my gap year in 2025, visiting Thailand, Australia and Hong Kong. I saw species I'd never seen before and experienced massive damage from human activity. I am interested in many areas of wildlife conservation, but hope to pursue a career in marine conservation in the future, due to my love of the ocean and its complex systems and species that call it home. During my time at Mersey Biobank, I look forward to getting involved in a variety of projects and helping more people engage in small-scale conservation. I hope to broaden my skills in GIS mapping and data collection and build a deeper understanding of how real-world conservation works! I am very grateful to now be a part of the team!



## 2: BioBank Out and about: Netherly Meadows and Green Bank Bat detecting

### Article by David Hopkins

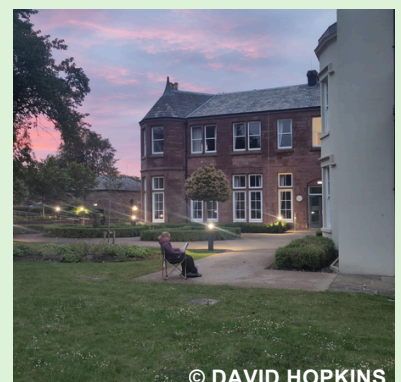
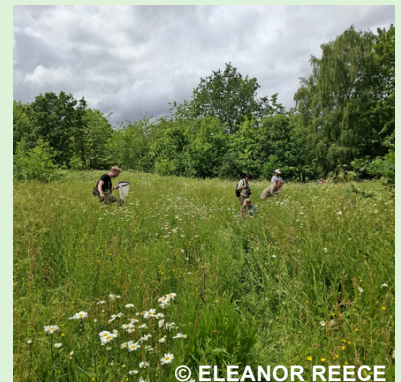
June is peak grassland season, and to celebrate, we partnered with local botanist Josh Styles and community leader Elanore Reece on 6th June to take volunteers and community members around what must be some of the best examples of grassland restoration in the city.

Josh explained the many steps he's taken to bring an uninteresting amenity-parkland into meadows teeming with rare plant and insect life. This was done over multiple years, from cutting and collecting the grass to reduce nutrients to spreading green hay to improve the seed bank and plug-planting rare species. He even went into his plans to reintroduce meadow grasshoppers to the grassland, which will help manage the grass crops.

Afterwards, we ran a mini bioblitz to explore what insect life was benefiting from Josh's and the community's work and found teeming numbers of hover and soldier flies (*Stratiomyidae*), thick-legged flower beetles (*Oedemera nobilis*), blue-tipped damselflies (*Ischnura elegans*), and much more.

Later in the month, some volunteers and I teamed up with Ian Ford from the University of Liverpool grounds team to do a bat survey of the grounds of Green Bank Halls of Residence. After a while, our volunteers' patience paid off as our bat detectors came alive with the "wet slap" pips at 45 kHz, suggesting many common pipistrelles were roosting in old trees around the site and feeding across the lake. We even had some recordings in the 55 kHz range, suggesting Suprano pipistrelles were also on the site.

Towards the end of the evening, Ian showed off his thermal camera, and the volunteers got to enjoy watching hot islands of hedgehogs scurry around the residence's grounds.



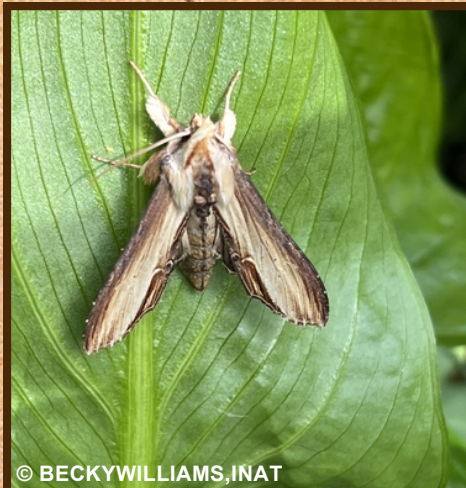
# 3: BIOBANK BOUNTY

THE BIOBANK TEAM HAS SPOTTED A RANGE OF LIFE HERE AT COURT HEY PARK THIS MONTH. THE HIGHLIGHTS SPOTTED ENJOYING THE HOT WEATHER INCLUDE:



©SUSANMARLEY, INAT

**COMMON FLEA BANE**  
*PULICARIA DYSENTERICA*



© BECKYWILLIAMS, INAT

**MULLEIN MOTH**  
*CUCULLIA VERBASCI*



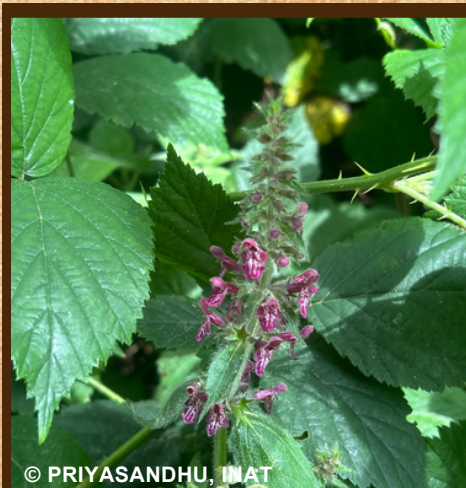
©PAULROUND, INAT

**NARCISSUS BULB FLY**  
*MERODON EQUESTRIS*



© CROXTETHPARKVOLUNTEERGROUP, INAT

**RING NECKED PARAKEET**  
*PSITTACULA KRAMERI*



© PRIYASANDHU, INAT

**HEDGE WOUND WORT**  
*STACHYS SYLVATICA*



© STEVEMCWILLIAM, NA

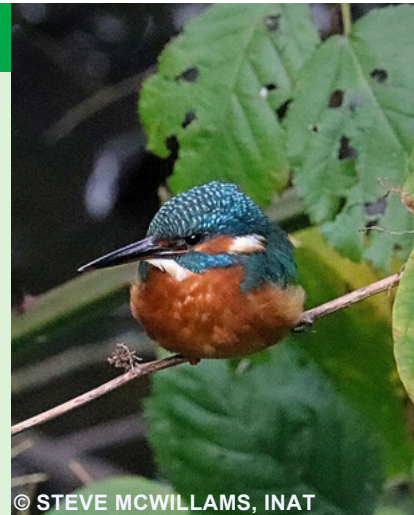
**MEADOW CRANE'S-BILL**  
*GERANIUM PRATENSE*

AS ALWAYS, IF YOU DO SPOT ANY OF THESE SPECIES PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU SUBMIT YOUR RECORDS TO US HERE AT MERSEYSIDE BIOBANK, SO WE CAN INCLUDE THEM IN OUR DATABASE.

## Article by David Hopkins

### Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

While their population fluctuates dramatically from year to year, kingfishers are present across the UK, including Merseyside. However, despite being so loved, they're difficult to record. The reason is that they are fast! Tips to see them: patiently linger in river areas they are known to be, recognise their call so you know which direction to look, and prepare to see the "blue flash" of their brilliance as they disappear. **Identification tips:** 25cm wing and body 16cm (only slightly larger than a robin). Back is a bright metallic blue with a coppery-brown breast. **Habitat:** Frequent slow-flowing, clear freshwater habitats with abundant small fish stock, such as rivers, lakes, canals, and ponds, surrounded by overhanging trees, which they use as diving perches.



© STEVE MCWILLAMS, INAT

### Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*)

If you're out on a long summer evening, spend a bit of time looking up, and it's likely you'll spot the flutter of a Pipistrelle, our smallest, but most common, bat. Throughout the summer, female bats must constantly hunt insects to nourish their single but hungry young pup, catching over 3,000 insects a night.

**Identification tips:** 20 cm wingspan, with a rapid and manoeuvrable flight. Most reliably identified with bat detectors at 45 kHz, with a "wet slap" like call. **Habitat:** They form colonies in the smallest of gaps and spaces, so common across many habitats, including any urban and garden areas with enough insects to support them. Commonly seen hunting around street lamps.



© TOM MARSHALL, ALDERNEYWILDLIFE.ORG

### Common Field Grasshopper (*Chorthippus brunneus*)

Not that far back in history, if you stood in a typical UK field, you'd be deafened by the noises of insects. However, environmental decline and fragmentation of our grasslands have overstressed our insect populations. Field Grasshoppers are no exception, but should still be easily found if you spend the time to look and listen for them. One of the strange phenomena of this species is the increase in sightings of a bright pink mutant that has spread across the UK, including the NW. **Identification tips:** 15- 25 mm, very variable in colour (brown, green and pink), always has a sharply incurved dark wedge at the top of the thorax, and downy hairs on the underside of thorax. Call: short, brisk chirp at short intervals. **Habitat:** Short vegetation in dry, sunny areas.



© ROY LOWRY, INAT

### Tufted Vetch (*Vicia cracca*)

As many grasses and herbs grow to their maximum heights in summer, you'll start to notice other craftier plants move themselves up to the light. Vetches are specialist climbers that use their thin, quick-growing stems and tendrils to grow between and then over other vegetation. Tufted vetch is particularly striking in summer as it forms dense clusters of the rich violet flowers that, when numerous enough, can be seen easily across a field as islands of colour. **Identification tips:** Leaves are composed of 6 to 15 smaller leaflets, which are linear to oblong in shape. Flowers tubular, as typical of the pea family, bluish violet in colour, 10 to 12 mm. All flowers are arranged densely in a one-sided, long-stalked flower head. **Habitat:** Common across woodland edges, fields and wasteland.



© JACQUELINE WORTHINGTON, INAT

Article by Paul Round

Observations: 6,228

Species: 1,524



This last month saw a drop in records in iNaturalist across Merseyside, from 12,229 to 6,228, and in species from 1,590 to 1,524, but this is typical due to the flood of City Nature Challenge records the previous month. Similar species were recorded again, but it was nice to see that we had 3 species of Orchid make it into the top 5 most-recorded plants for the region. Check out the other stats below.

## Top 5 Plant Species

1	Southern Marsh Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza praetermissa</i>	52
2	Bee Orchid	<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	49
3	Foxglove	<i>Digitalis</i>	31
4	Pyramidal Orchid	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	31
5	Yellow iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	25

## Top 5 Bird Species

1	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	22
2	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	19
3	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	18
4	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	15
5	Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	14

## Top 5 Insect Species

1	Buff-tailed Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>	80
2	Harlequin Ladybird	<i>Harmonia axyridis</i>	58
3	Thick-legged Flower Beetle	<i>Oedemera nobilis</i>	50
4	Red-tailed Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus lapidarius</i>	47
5	Early Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus pratorum</i>	39

## Top 5 Other Invertebrate Species

1	Garden Snail	<i>Cornu aspersum</i>	21
2	Zebra Jumping Spider	<i>Salticus scenicus</i>	8
3	Long-bodied Cellar Spider	<i>Pholcus phalangioides</i>	6
4	Threeband Slugs	<i>Ambigolimax</i>	6
5	Brown-lipped Snail	<i>Cepaea nemoralis</i>	5

## Top 5 Other Vertebrate Species

1	European Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>	12
2	Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	11
3	European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	9
4	Smooth Newt	<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i>	9
5	Common Slowworm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	5

## Top 5 Fungi Species

1	Nettle Clustercup Rust Fungus	<i>Puccinia urticata</i>	7
2	Dryad's Saddle	<i>Polyporus squamosus</i>	6
3	Nettle Shield Lichen	<i>Parmelia sulcata</i>	3
4	Pocket Plum	<i>Taphrina pruni</i>	3
5	Brown Mottlegill	<i>Panaeolus foenisecii</i>	3

## Article by Dr. Phil Smith

Consistent with a warming trend, England experienced the second hottest May ever, a heatwave in the last week reaching a record May peak of 35.1°C at Kew Gardens, London. Fortunately, it wasn't quite as hot here, though Crosby reported a blistering 33°C on 25<sup>th</sup>. It was also a relatively dry month, Rachael Parks measuring 55 mm of rainfall in her Formby garden, about 25% lower than average, though 22 rain-days was far more than usual. The sand-dune water-table, as measured at the Devil's Hole blowout, dropped by about 11 cm.

Our crazy weather had important effects on local wildlife, especially the insects that are my special interest. Early in the month, numbers and variety seemed normal...



© PHIL SMITH

Bird's-foot (*Ornithopus perpusillus*)  
Formby 24.05.2026



© PHIL SMITH

Ornate Brigadier (*Odontomyia ornata*)  
Sands Lake 29.05.2026



© PHIL SMITH

Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*)  
Sands Lake 28.05.26

[To continue reading, please follow this link](#)

## 7: Urban Nature Notes

### Article by Eleanor Reece

To start, I want to discuss the vibrant season when everything begins to bloom – spring. We're now at the point where spring is giving way to summer, but I've been planning to launch this blog since April. There are still a few topics from spring that I'm eager to explore and share. This year, from April through May, a remarkable woodland wildflower created stunning carpets across many woodlands in Merseyside. The English Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) was especially spectacular. One memorable location showcasing this natural wonder is Speke Hall, where the Clough woodland was completely blanketed in these enchanting blue flowers, forming a vast ocean of color. Our native English bluebells are an ancient woodland indicator species, as it takes hundreds of years for them to spread and establish...



© Eleanor Reece

[To continue reading, please follow this link](#)

## Article by Andrea Staszewski (Volunteer)

On the first Tuesday of the month, Merseyside Biobank hosts its evening “Twilight Talks” from its base in Court Hey Park. Talks are perfect for beginners and early-career naturalists. Going to these has broadened my knowledge, developed my identification skills, and helped me figure out where my interests lie in the natural world.

One of the sessions I attended recently was about caterpillars. Before going, I was worried I wouldn’t understand anything, that there would be a lot of fancy terminology and that everyone would know a lot more than I did. Turns out technical knowledge wasn’t necessary, as a passion for nature and a willingness to turn up and learn are more than enough. However, my background in healthcare and my knowledge of anatomy were useful in understanding the technical terms used to identify different parts of a caterpillar (e.g., lateral, dorsal) and where particular markings might be found to aid identification.

The environment was welcoming, with questions encouraged, plus on this occasion, there were also biscuits!

The great thing about twilight talks is that they focus on species found in North Merseyside and the habitats to look for them, so we can find them in real life. The types of environments included garden and urban areas, woodland and hedgerows and the coastal dunes.

Although caterpillars don’t always stick to the rules and can turn up in unexpected places, the talk made us aware of what was common to see; therefore, we would have a better awareness of when we had spotted something rare or unusual for the area and know to record it.

After the workshop, I’ve noticed caterpillars more than ever. I found a copper underwing on a hazel tree while volunteering with the wildlife trust, which meant I could share my knowledge with others, a Comma caterpillar on some nettles while taking a walk on my lunch break and outside the biobank itself, a mullein moth on some figwort.

I have definitely been more mindful and attentive when outside, with my walks getting increasingly long, and I’m braver about approaching nettles and thistles (nettles being food plants for peacock and small tortoise shell, and thistles for painted lady).

Before attending the workshop, I wouldn’t have known where to find them or what to look for, but now I know their habitats, food plants, and the time of year they emerge; I’ve been able to upload my sightings to iNaturalist, which are hopefully increasing in number and becoming more accurate. With my trusty field guide in hand, who knows what I will discover next.

**Comma Butterfly**  
*Polytonia c-album*



**Copper Underwing**  
*Amphipyra pyramidea*



**Mullein Moth**  
*Cucullia verbasci*



**Do you want to write about something in our bulletin?  
Get in touch at [Info@merseysidebiobank.org.uk](mailto:Info@merseysidebiobank.org.uk)**

## Article by Paul Round

This month has allowed me to trap a bit more regularly than I have been able to so far this year, and whilst I have not had big volumes of individuals each night I have trapped, I have been rewarded with various species each time. The highlight this month is also our spotlight species, Ingrailed Clay (*Diarsia mendica*). This is a species I have trapped for the first time in my records. Hearing from other recorders, there does seem to be an influx of them this year, so hopefully that is a good sign for the species and moths in general! Also, this month we have started up a community moth trapping project that we will be assisting with at Rimrose Valley Local Wildlife Site, led and organised by our volunteer Joanna Johnston. Keep your eye out for updates on this in future bulletins!



© Paul Round

**Yellow Shell**  
*Camptogramma bilineata*



© Paul Round

**Light Emerald**  
*Campaea margaritata*



© Paul Round

**Common Swift Moth**  
*Korscheltellus lupulina*



© Paul Round

**Large Ivy Tortrix**  
*Lozotaenia forsterana*

## Spotlight Species

### Ingrailed Clay *Diarsia mendica*

The Ingrailed Clay is a moth I recorded for the first time in either of my gardens since trapping. Not uncommon, but less frequent than they have been so far this year.

A highly variable species, it ranges from individuals with a rather pale appearance in the south to those with a much darker one in Scotland, with additional island variants found in Orkney and Shetland.

They inhabit woodland and moorland, flying in a single generation from June to July. The caterpillars hibernate and feed in the spring on a variety of shrubs and plants, including Bramble (*Rubus*) and Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*).



© Paul Round

**Ingrailed Clay**  
*Diarsia mendica*

## Article by Paul Round

### Local Finds

This month locally, we had a few of nice finds, the first a Pied Strider (*Pachyprotasis rapae*) (1) found by one of our very own volunteers here at Merseyside BioBank, Priya Sandhu. This is a species of Sawfly *Symphyla*, and while not uncommon, we found no records around the Merseyside region on NBN Atlas, which highlights another new or under-recorded species in our region. Another of our volunteers, Daniel Argent, also came across Lesser Stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*) when out on wildlife recording in Sefton. Finally, Elanor Reece found a stunning (3) Lunar Hornet Moth (*Sesia bembeciformis*) in Netherly are of Liverpool, which is a very unusual part in Merseyside for it.



### Regional Finds

This month the bulk of our regional finds are focused within Cheshire with one record in Lancashire also. The first three finds are all recorded by Paul Brewster where he recorded two migrant moths, the first a Eastern-bordered Straw Heliopsis nubigera (1) and the second a Ni Moth (*Trichoplusia ni*) (2), the former was only a second record for Cheshire and the latter a fifth. On a private site in Cheshire Paul also recorded Lesser Emperor Dragonfly (*Anax parthenope*) (3). Other great regional finds this month included *Contarinia scrophulariae* (4) a species of gall inducing midge which is found on Common Figwort (*Scrophularia nodosa*), found by Chris Reiki at Marbury Country Park and *Theridiosoma gemmosum* (5) which is the most northern record of this species to date found by Dominic Best in Lancashire.



### UK Finds

This month we share a UK find as the first ever Western Reef Heron (*Egretta gularis*) turned up on UK soil. This individual was seen over in North Wales at Foryd Bay, Caernarfon and then a few days later ended up at RSPB Conwy. Quite the find!



## Supporting Local – What’s On Near You

Some of our local environmental groups have a fantastic range of events and activities coming up, offering something for everyone in the community.

From workshops, days out and seasonal events, it’s a great time to get involved and show your support.

Take a look over the next few pages to see what’s happening and discover how you can take part in what our local groups have to offer.

### BioBliz events with MBB present

There are a few upcoming events where BioBank will be holding a stall, helping with nature walks and teaching people how to record

#### Upcoming events:

Croxteth Park BioBlitz | Sat 4<sup>th</sup> July | 11:00- 15:00

Mab Lane Woodlands | Tues 21<sup>th</sup> July | 13:00- 18:00

Millenium Green | Tues 23<sup>th</sup> July | 11:00- 15:00

### MBB’s Twilight Sessions

We continue to cater to nature enthusiasts, whether you are a beginner or seasoned recorder, please join us to learn something new. Spaces for these workshops are limited, so be sure to register early to secure your spot! All sessions are expected to run between 18:30-20:30 on the first Tuesday evening of the month.

#### Upcoming Sessions:

Meeting point: MBB Office

Ferns | Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July | 6:30pm

Hoverflies | Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August | 6:30pm

Spiders | Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September | 6:30pm



[More information here](#)

## Liverpool Biological Society

The Liverpool Botanical Society, our local BSBI group, have released their indoor meetings for 2026. To attend any indoor meetings or field visits, you need to be a member. Membership is **£5 per year**. These meetings are a great opportunity to improve your botanical skills, learn about new species and projects and to have a great time with like-minded people.

### Upcoming Field Meetings

**Crosby Beach**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July | 10:30am**

**Minera Quarry (near Wrexham, North Wales)**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July | 10.30am**

**Tegg's Nose (cost £25)**

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July | 10.30am**

**Wirral Way**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July | 10:30am**

Please follow the link below for details on how to book

[More information here](#)



Liverpool Botanical Society

## Mersey Naturalist's Association

### Upcoming Meetings

**Ainsdale | Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July | 11am**

Meeting point: Ainsdale Station

**Tegg's Nose | Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July | 8:30am**

Meeting point: Coach trip - different pick up points. £25

More details for all events available on the link below

[More information here](#)



## Ento Live

In July, Ento Live have the below events available. All of them are free to attend online for people with a passion and interest for invertebrates. Well worth checking them out and tuning in for the ones that are of an interest to you. To book on to any sessions, please click on the links below.

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2026 | 13:00 - 14:00

[Can Infiltrators be Indicators? Understanding Cuckoo Bumblebees](#)

[More events here](#)



## Tanyptera Trust

Lots of interesting events, workshops, webinars and recording days are coming up in July with the Tanyptera Trust. See the dates below and follow the links for more information and how to book:

**Alvaston Hall Invertebrate Recording Day**  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July | 10am - 4pm

**An Introduction to Invertebrate Identification Workshop**  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July | 10am - 4pm

**Dibbinsdale Nature Reserve Invertebrate Recording Day**  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July | 10am - 4pm

**Heswall Dales Invertebrate Recording Day (reschedule)**  
Friday 21<sup>th</sup> July | 10am - 4pm

**Freshfield Dune Heath Invertebrate Recording Day**  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July | 10am - 4pm

**Carr House Green Common Invertebrate Recording Day**  
Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July | 10am - 4pm

More information on these events are available on the link below

[More events here](#)



## Kindling Farm

Kindling Farm have the following events available. Well worth getting involved. More information is available via the links below. Booking for all events is essential, please follow the links below to book

**The Big Reveal: Moth Special**  
**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July | 8:30am**

**Big Butterfly Saturday (am & pm sessions)**  
**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July | 10:30am & 2pm**

**Kindling Lates: A Fest from the Fields**  
**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July | 6:30pm**

**Canopy Fest (am & pm sessions)**  
**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August | 10:30am & 2pm**

Kindling Farm also host various volunteering days. Future dates include: 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> July, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> August

More information on all these events are available on the link below



[More events here](#)

## British Botany

British Botany provide a series of online courses, which you might be interested in if you want to expand your knowledge on plants. We have highlighted a few below for you to have a browse:

**Reading the Landscape: An Introduction to Wetland & Fen Identification**

Cost: £9.99

**An Introduction to Botanical Survey: NVC**

Cost: £12.99

**Plants in the Planning Process**

Cost: £7.00

[More courses here](#)



## Who we are

Merseyside BioBank is the Local Environmental Records Centre for North Merseyside. We collect, manage and share vital information about the wildlife and habitats in our area.

By bringing together records from volunteers, community groups, researchers and professionals, we provide a trusted evidence base that supports conservation, planning and environmental decision-making.

We also help strengthen local recording through training, volunteer opportunities and projects that encourage people to get involved in understanding and protecting North Merseyside's natural environment.

## Want to keep in touch?

Follow us on social media, and sign up to receive our monthly bulletin



[Merseyside BioBank](#)



[mbblerc](#)



[Merseyside BioBank](#)



[Merseyside BioBank LERC](#)



[mbblerc.bsky.social](#)

[Sign up to our monthly bulletin here](#)

## Volunteering with us:

### Step 1: Express your interest

Contact us directly at [info@merseysidebiobank.org.uk](mailto:info@merseysidebiobank.org.uk), on social media, or by our online platform

### Step 2: Attend an induction session

These sessions are held regularly, allows you to meet MBB staff and learn more about what we do and why it is important, as well as discuss your opportunities

### Step 3: Sign up to our volunteer portal

The portal allows you to book into our office rota and log hours

### Step 4: Start volunteering

We have a range of different opportunities including; collating records, writing articles, outreach events, collecting data etc.

To see our volunteer opportunities, or to register for the volunteer platform, please scan the QR code or click [here](#)

