

# Countryside Service Events Guide 2010



**Things to do in the countryside**

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Events hotline: 0781 4477 422

Office (limited hours only): 01395 517557

[www.eastdevon.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/countryside)

[countryside@eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto:countryside@eastdevon.gov.uk)

*Sorry but our events are not suitable for dogs.*

*All our events are free of charge unless otherwise stated.*

# Birds for beginners



If you don't know your curlew from your whimbrel then why not come along to one of the bird hides on the Axe Wetlands for a morning's bird watching? Telescopes and binoculars are provided free of charge. All sessions run from 10.00am until 12.00 noon.

## Seaton Marshes

### Local Nature Reserve

Thursday 28 January

Thursday 25 February

Thursday 18 March

Thursday 29 April

Thursday 23 September

Thursday 28 October

Thursday 25 November

Thursday 16 December



## Colyford Common

### Local Nature Reserve

Thursday 14 January

Thursday 4 February

Thursday 4 March

Thursday 8 April

Thursday 2 September

Thursday 7 October

Thursday 4 November

Thursday 2 December



**NEW IN 2010!!** In addition to our free, covered public bird hides at Seaton Marshes and Colyford Common Local Nature Reserves we hope to open a further hide at Black Hole Marsh during 2010.

## Monday 14 June

**Holyford Woods Local Nature Reserve** 10.00am – 12.00 noon

Not a wader in sight! Looking and listening for woodland birds.

Meet in layby at the top of Seaton Down Hill.

# Birds from the Tram



Bird watching from the best mobile hide around is one of the unique experiences that birdwatchers can have travelling through the Axe Wetlands. Each trip has an experienced guide on board and departs from Seaton Terminus at the time indicated. Please remember to bring your binoculars!

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Guide</b>
<b>Sunday 28 February</b>	9 – 11am	Ian Waite
<b>Sunday 7 March</b>	9 – 11am	Donald Campbell
<b>Sunday 28 March</b>	9 – 11am	Don Cotton
<b>Saturday 10 April</b>	5 – 7pm	Ian Waite
<b>Monday 3 May</b>	5 – 7pm	Don Cotton
<b>Sunday 30 May</b>	5 – 7pm	Donald Campbell
<b>Sunday 15 August</b>	5 – 7pm	Ian Waite
<b>Friday 20 August*</b>	5 – 7pm	Donald Campbell
<b>Saturday 21 August*</b>	5 – 7pm	Ian Waite
<b>Sunday 5 September</b>	5 – 7pm	Don Cotton
<b>Saturday 18 Sept</b>	5 – 7pm	Ian Waite
<b>Sunday 3 October</b>	9 – 11am	Donald Campbell
<b>Sunday 17 October</b>	9 – 11am	Don Cotton
<b>Saturday 6 November</b>	9 – 11am	Don Cotton
<b>Sunday 21 November</b>	9 – 11am	Donald Campbell

Each of the above tram trips costs £10 per person.

Please book/pay on 01297 20375.

\*Part of the Wet and Wild Summer Weekend

**Also have a look at pages 27- 28 for tram trips during  
Wet and Wild Winter Weekend**

## Tram Trips for junior birders

Especially for younger birdwatchers, these trips are led by the Education Ranger, James Chubb, who will guide you on the key identifying characteristics of each bird. Binoculars available free of charge.

<b>Wednesday 7 April</b>	9 – 11am	James Chubb
<b>Wednesday 14 April</b>	9 – 11am	James Chubb
<b>Wednesday 2 June</b>	9 – 11am	James Chubb
<b>Saturday 23 October</b>	9 – 11am	James Chubb

Each of the above tram trips cost £7.50 per young person (under 16) with one accompanying adult going free. Please book/pay on 01297 20375

# Bluebell Day



## Saturday 1 May

### 6.30am Dawn Chorus followed by bacon butties

An early start, although not quite dawn! We will set off from Horriford Farm to spend an hour or so listening to the range of birds that can be found in Holyford Woods. On return to base, bacon butties will be available at a small charge. *Booking essential on 0781 4477 422*

### 10.00am, 12.00 noon and 2.00pm Bushcraft

Just turn up for one of the 90 minute sessions to find out how to make twine from nettles or start a fire using friction. *Charge: £2.50 per person.*

### 10.00am, 12.00 noon and 2.00pm A Walk in the Woods

Three guided walks to discover the plants and wildlife that live in Holyford Woods.

### 11.00am Landscape History

Discover the history of Holyford Woods using features in the landscape.

### 1.00pm Woodland Flowers

A look at the plants and flowers that live in Holyford Woods – not forgetting the bluebells, of course!

### 3.00pm Nut Detectives

Find nuts that have been gnawed and identify who the culprit was!

### 3.00pm Walk along the Brook

A walk along the Holyford and Stafford brook to Colyford Common.

*An SVCT event.*

### 7.30pm Bats in the woods

Holyford Woods is an exceptional place for bats. *Booking is essential if you'd like to come on this dusky walk into the woods. Remember your torches!*



*Free parking and shuttle bus from Colyford Memorial Hall (9:30am – 4:30pm) and for the Dawn Chorus (leaving at 6:15am) and for the Bat Walk (leaving at 7:15pm)*

- Craft Stalls
- Refreshments
- Self-guided walk

# Bushcraft



Bushcraft has proved to be so popular that this year we are extending our events so that you can try short, 'taster' sessions or experience a whole day of survival skills.

Short taster sessions are available during **Bluebell Day** (page 4) and **Wet and Wild Summer Weekend** (page 29) where you will be able to have a go at fire lighting using friction or making cord using plants.

If you'd like to try a whole day's survival skills then we will be running two separate days at **Knapp Copse Local Nature Reserve**. The day is likely to start with a wander around the nature reserve to look at some of the plants and materials that our ancient ancestors would have gathered for food, medicine and shelter. We will then get down to some of the practical survival skills.

If the day goes as planned, whilst you are having a go at den building, firelighting or cord making, our resident cook-cum-Education Ranger will be slaving over a hot clay oven to produce some 'wild' stew just in time for lunch!

Adults and children (10 to 16) with an accompanying adult are welcome to our Bushcraft days.

*Please book via our Events Hotline as numbers are limited. Cost £15 per person, payable in advance.*

**Saturday 3 July 10.00am – 4.00pm**

**Saturday 31 July 10.00am – 4.00pm**

# Exmouth & The Maer Local Nature Reserves



We've decided to resurrect the traditional dash to Bull Hill – but are you brave enough? For good measure, we've made it on April Fool's Day.

## Thursday 1 April

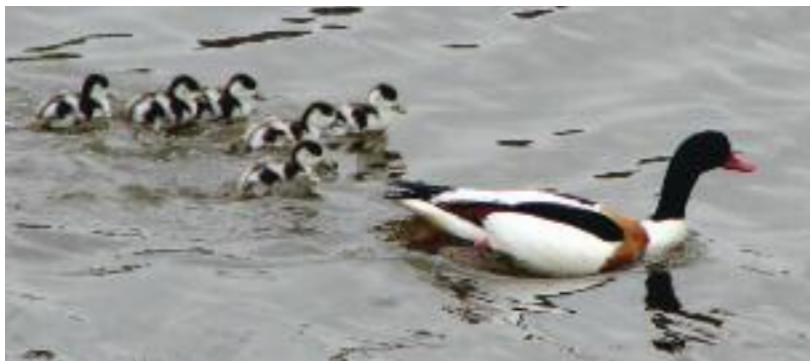
**Bull Hill Dash** 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Meet at the Imperial Recreation Ground, Exmouth, for this challenge – a wade across the estuary to Bull Hill. Shorts and sandals recommended. Not for the faint-hearted!

## Tuesday 1 June

**The Maer Family Fun Day** 10.00am – 2.00pm

Come to The Maer for a day of insect safaris, face painting and circus skills. If we have been really lucky, the new environmental play trail might be ready by June, so keep everything crossed! This event is part of the Exmouth Festival which runs from 27th May until 4th June



EDDC is part of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership. If you would like information about any aspect of the Partnership's work, to volunteer or attend events organised by other partners please go to [www.exe-estuary.org](http://www.exe-estuary.org)



# Heathland Habitats



Lowland heath is one of the rarest habitats in the world and we are fortunate in East Devon to have significant areas of it. Two of our Local Nature Reserves are heathland: Trinity Hill (page 13) and Fire Beacon Hill (page 13).

At **Trinity Hill Local Nature Reserve** there are a number of opportunities to volunteer to help at practical work parties (see Muck in 4 Life). In addition, there are the following events:

## Tuesday 16 March

10.00am – 11.30am Led by *Fraser Rush*

Guided walk to look at some of the management undertaken on the reserve and to discuss changes planned under the Higher Level Stewardship scheme.

## Wednesday 2 June

9.30pm – 10.30pm Led by *James Chubb*

Strange things in the Night: a walk to look and listen for nightjars, moths and bats. Bring a white handkerchief!!

At **Fire Beacon Hill Local Nature Reserve** our Reptile Rambles are usually run with Junior Rangers in mind and last year's was so popular that we thought we'd run it thrice this year. We also thought, just for once, adults might enjoy a reptile ramble without the youngsters in tow ...

## Thursday 15 April

## Thursday 13 May (adults)

## Wednesday 28 July

## Tuesday 17 August

Please meet at the Bowd Inn at 9 am from where we will climb up the hill – quite a challenge for the very young. We expect to return to the Bowd just after 11 am.



East Devon Heath Week kicks off on Sunday 25 July with the Heathland Festival at Woodbury Castle – a day packed with activities from Landrover safaris to mountain biking and there are loads of wildlife events too. Events continue until Friday 30 July. Have a look at [www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk](http://www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk) to find out more.

# International Year of Biodiversity



The United Nations declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity. Sadly the current rate of loss of species around the globe is around 100 times greater than the natural rate of extinction – we are actually living in a period of mass extinction, a fact that rarely makes it into the news.

To mark the International Year of Biodiversity, the Countryside Service is launching its first ever Great Axe Wetlands Biodiversity Race where teams of three will identify as many species as possible (whether plant, insect, bird or mammal) over the course of a day. There will be prizes for professional, amateur and junior teams.

**Saturday 12 June**

**The Great Axe Wetlands Biodiversity Race**

9am – 5pm

Meet at Seaton Marshes Local Nature Reserve

Please have a look at [www.eastdevon.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/countryside) or ring our Events Hotline for more details.



Photo: T Whitaker

# Junior Rangers

Junior Rangers are young people (aged 8 to 15) who are keen to know more about wildlife. Members receive a quarterly electronic newsletter and, as well as being welcome to the events listed in this programme, are invited to exclusive events of their own.

The following events are arranged with Junior Rangers in mind, but you do not have to be a Junior Ranger to come along and take part.

All activities are led by James Chubb, the Education Ranger. Please note that Junior Rangers must be accompanied by a responsible adult or guardian. You might also be interested in the **Bushcraft** events on page 5.

## Wednesday 17 February

### **Nest Box Making** 10am – 12 noon

The Knapp Nature Reserve

Come along and build a nest box to take home. £5 for materials.

## Thursday 18 February

### **Watching Birds** 10am – 12 noon

Colyford Common Local Nature Reserve

Bring binoculars if you have them. If not, you can borrow ours.

## Friday 19 February

### **Watching Birds** 10am – 12 noon

Seaton Marshes Local Nature Reserve

A chance to test yourself to see what you remember if you came yesterday!

## Wednesday 7 April & Wednesday 14 April

### **Tram Trip for Junior Birders** 9am – 11am

Seaton Tramway Terminus

£7.50 for under 16s with accompanying adult going free.

*Please book/pay on 01297 20375*

## Thursday 15 April

### **Reptile Ramble** 9am – 11am

Fire Beacon Hill Local Nature Reserve

Meet at the Bowd Inn before climbing up the hill to see what reptiles are keeping warm under the 'traps'.

## Tuesday 1 June

### **Family Fun Day** 10am – 2 pm

The Maer, Exmouth

Come to The Maer for a day of insect safaris, face painting and circus skills.



### Wednesday 2 June

#### **Tram Trip for Junior Birders** 9am – 11am

Seaton Tramway Terminus

Cost £7.50 for under 16s with accompanying adult going free.

Please book / pay on 01297 20375

### Wednesday 2 June

#### **Strange Things in the Night** 9.30pm – 10.30pm

Trinity Hill Local Nature Reserve

Nightjars, bats and moths. Bring a white handkerchief!

### Thursday 3 June

#### **Wildfood** 11am – 1pm

Holyford Woods Local Nature Reserve

Nettle bread and wild garlic soup is on the menu!



### Thursday 22 July

#### **Dragons of the Ditches** 2pm – 4pm

Seaton Marshes Local Nature Reserve

Dragonflies and damselflies will be darting in the ditches

### Wednesday 28 July

#### **Reptile Ramble** 9am – 11am

Fire Beacon Hill Local Nature Reserve

Meet at the Bowd Inn before climbing up the hill to find some reptiles.

### Thursday 5 August

#### **Bagging bugs and beasties in the Borrow Pit** 2pm – 4pm

Seaton Marshes Local Nature Reserve

Our internationally famous pink grasshopper was caught at a similar event last year. Come along and see what you can catch.

### Tuesday 17 August

#### **Reptile Ramble** 9am – 11am

Fire Beacon Hill Local Nature Reserve

Meet at the Bowd Inn for another chance to come looking for reptiles.

### Saturday 23 October

#### **Tram Trip for Junior Birders** 9am – 11am

Seaton Tramway Terminus

Cost £7.50 for under 16s with accompanying adult going free.

Please book / pay on 01297 20375

# Muck in 4 Life

Work parties are open to anybody over 16 who would like to help with practical tasks on Local Nature Reserves. A variety of tasks are undertaken such as scrub bashing, bridge building, nest box making and fencing. The exact nature of the task is decided about a week beforehand, so please ring the Events Line to see if you would like to know what activities are planned.

Days run from 10am until 4pm but you are welcome to come for as much or as little as you wish. If you are going to stay all day remember a packed lunch. Stout footwear or wellingtons, gloves and clothing appropriate for the time of year are also required. All of our sites can be exposed, wet and cold in winter!

<b>Wednesday 13 January</b>	<b>Trinity Hill</b>
<b>Thursday 21 January</b>	<b>The Knapp</b>
<b>Wednesday 27 January</b>	<b>Trinity Hill</b>
<b>Friday 29 January</b>	<b>Axe Wetlands</b>
<b>Friday 12 February</b>	<b>Axe Wetlands</b>
<b>Friday 12 March</b>	<b>Axe Wetlands</b>
<b>Friday 9 April</b>	<b>Axe Wetlands</b>
<b>Friday 14 May</b>	<b>Axe Wetlands</b>
<b>Friday 11 June</b>	<b>Axe Wetlands</b>
<b>Friday 9 July</b>	<b>Axe Wetlands</b>
<b>Friday 13 August</b>	<b>Axe Wetlands</b>
<b>Friday 10 September</b>	<b>Axe Wetlands</b>
<b>Friday 8 October</b>	<b>Axe Wetlands</b>
<b>Friday 12 November</b>	<b>Axe Wetlands</b>
<b>Saturday 20 November</b>	<b>Trinity Hill</b>
<b>Wednesday 1 December</b>	<b>Trinity Hill</b>
<b>Friday 10 December</b>	<b>Axe Wetlands</b>



*The above Volunteering events are led by Dave Palmer, Countryside Ranger.*

*Phone our Events Hotline 0781 4477 422 for more details, meeting points and in case of bad weather. The same number can be used the evening before and on the morning of these work parties for last minute enquiries.*

### **Devon Water Vole Recovery Project**

The Devon Water Vole Recovery Project has volunteering opportunities along the River Axe and the River Otter. This includes practical riverside management and pond restoration work or the regular checking of mammal monitoring rafts.

*Please phone project officer Mervyn Newman on 07766 526209 for details.*

### **Holyford Woods Trust Work Parties**

Regular work parties are organised in Holyford Woods in association with the Axe Vale & District Conservation Society. Two dates are available at the time of going to press.

**Saturday 13 February**

**Meet at Horriford Farm, Holyford 10am – 4pm**

**Saturday 27 November**

**Meet at Horriford Farm, Holyford 10am – 4pm**

*Contact Donald Campbell on 01297 552945 if you would like to come along.*

### **Undercliffs National Nature Reserve Work Parties**

The Undercliffs National Nature Reserve is managed by Natural England. Please note that these work parties often take place in remote, isolated and inaccessible parts of the reserve and so terrain is very rough and walking guaranteed to be strenuous. You must be fit, able and in good health.

Work parties are from 10am until 4pm so bring a packed lunch and a drink. Stout footwear, gloves and appropriate outdoor clothing essential.

**Meeting point: Whitlands**

(SY306911) DT7 3XY

**Saturday 16 January**

**Saturday 20 February**

**Meeting point: Stepps Lane**

(SY265903) EX12 4AS

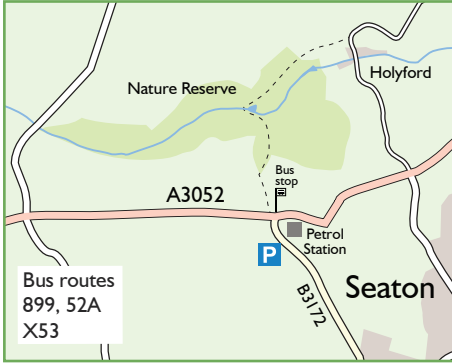
**Tuesday 2 to Thursday 4 March**

**Saturday 13 March**

**Tuesday 14 to Thursday 16 September**

*Contact Donald Campbell on 01297 552945 if you would like to come along.*

## Holyford Woods LNR



EX12 2TH

## The Maer LNR



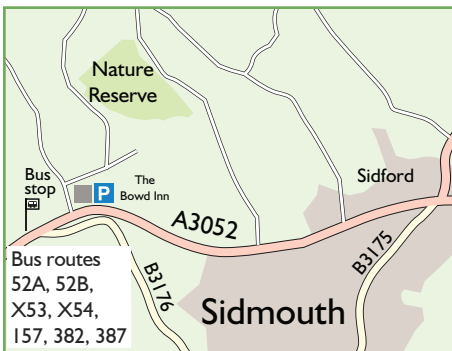
EX12 2TH

## Exmouth LNR



EX12 2TH

## Fire Beacon Hill LNR



EX10 0ND

*Parking by kind permission of the Bowd Inn, please use the unsurfaced area*

Please use post code shown if registering on Car Share Devon [www.carsharedevon.com](http://www.carsharedevon.com)

## Trinity Hill LNR



EX13 5SS



[carsharedevon.com](http://www.carsharedevon.com)  
08703 11 99



Save the Planet. It's Right in Front of Us.

# Countryside Service



## 2010 Calendar of Events

### January

	Category	Location
13 January	Muck in 4 Life	Trinity Hill
14 January	Birds for Beginners	Colyford Common
16 January	Muck in 4 Life	Undercliffs NNR
21 January	Muck in 4 Life	The Knapp
27 January	Muck in 4 Life	Trinity Hill
28 January	Birds for Beginners	Seaton Marshes
29 January	Muck in 4 Life	Axe Wetlands

### February

4 February	Birds for Beginners	Colyford Common
6 February	Muck in 4 Life	Trinity Hill
8 February	Trees & Woodland	Holyford Woods
12 February	Muck in 4 Life	Axe Wetlands
13 February	Muck in 4 Life	Holyford Woods
	Wet & Wild Weekend	Axe Wetlands
14 February	Wet & Wild Weekend	Axe Wetlands
15 February	Wet & Wild Weekend	Axe Wetlands
17 February	Junior Rangers	The Knapp
18 February	Junior Rangers	Colyford Common
19 February	Junior Rangers	Seaton Marshes
20 February	Muck in 4 Life	Undercliffs NNR
25 February	Birds for Beginners	Seaton Marshes
28 February	Birds from the Tram	Axe Wetlands

### March

2 March	Muck in 4 Life	Undercliffs NNR
3 March	Muck in 4 Life	Undercliffs NNR
4 March	Muck in 4 Life	Undercliffs NNR
	Birds for Beginners	Colyford Common
6 March	Undercliffs	Undercliffs NNR
7 March	Birds from the Tram	Axe Wetlands

<b>12</b>	<b>March</b>	Muck in 4 Life	Axe Wetlands
<b>13</b>	<b>March</b>	Muck in 4 Life	Undercliffs NNR
<b>16</b>	<b>March</b>	Heathland habitats	Trinity Hill
<b>18</b>	<b>March</b>	Birds for Beginners	Seaton Marshes
<b>25</b>	<b>March</b>	Trees & Woodland	Holyford Woods
<b>27</b>	<b>March</b>	SVCT	Undercliffs NNR
<b>28</b>	<b>March</b>	Birds from the Tram	Axe Wetlands

## April

<b>1</b>	<b>April</b>	Exmouth & The Maer	Exmouth LNR
<b>7</b>	<b>April</b>	Birds from the Tram (J)	Axe Wetlands
<b>8</b>	<b>April</b>	Birds for Beginners	Colyford Common
<b>9</b>	<b>April</b>	Muck in 4 Life	Axe Wetlands
<b>10</b>	<b>April</b>	Birds from the Tram	Axe Wetlands
<b>14</b>	<b>April</b>	Birds from the Tram (J)	Axe Wetlands
<b>15</b>	<b>April</b>	Junior Rangers	Fire Beacon Hill
<b>24</b>	<b>April</b>	Ringing Breakfast	Seaton Marshes
<b>24</b>	<b>April</b>	Wildlife & History on the Axe Wetlands	Colyford Common
<b>29</b>	<b>April</b>	Birds for Beginners	Seaton Marshes
<b>30</b>	<b>April</b>	Undercliffs	Undercliffs NNR

## May

<b>1</b>	<b>May</b>	Bluebell Day Trees & Woodland Seaton VCT Undercliffs	Holyford Woods Holyford Woods Holyford Woods Undercliffs NNR
<b>2</b>	<b>May</b>	Undercliffs	Undercliffs NNR
<b>3</b>	<b>May</b>	Birds from the Tram	Axe Wetlands
<b>4</b>	<b>May</b>	Seaton VCT	Seaton Town Hall
<b>13</b>	<b>May</b>	Heathland habitats	Fire Beacon Hill
<b>14</b>	<b>May</b>	Muck in 4 Life	Axe Wetlands
<b>20</b>	<b>May</b>	Wildlife & History on the Axe Wetlands	Colyford
<b>29</b>	<b>May</b>	Undercliffs	Undercliffs NNR
<b>30</b>	<b>May</b>	Birds from the Tram	Axe Wetlands

## June

<b>1</b>	<b>June</b>	Exmouth & The Maer	The Maer
<b>2</b>	<b>June</b>	Birds from the Tram (J) Heathland habitats	Axe Wetlands Trinity Hill
<b>3</b>	<b>June</b>	Junior Rangers	Holyford Woods
<b>8</b>	<b>June</b>	Seaton VCT Trees & Woodland	Undercliffs NNR Lymptone

(J) = Junior Ranger Tram Trip

11	June	Muck in 4 Life	Axe Wetlands
12	June	International Year of Biodiversity	Axe Wetlands
14	June	Birds for Beginners	Holyford Woods
15	June	Seaton VCT	Beer
19	June	Wildlife & History on the Axe Wetlands	Colyford Common
20	June	Undercliffs	Undercliffs NNR
22	June	Trees & Woodland	Chardstock

## July

3	July	Bushcraft	Knapp Copse
6	July	Trees & Woodland	Ottery St Mary
7	July	Wildlife & History on the Axe Wetlands	Seaton Marshes
9	July	Muck in 4 Life	Axe Wetlands
13	July	Seaton VCT	Axmouth Bridge
22	July	Junior Rangers	Seaton Marshes
24	July	Undercliffs	Undercliffs NNR
25	July	Woodbury Castle	Heath Week Festival
28	July	Junior Rangers	Fire Beacon Hill
31	July	Bushcraft	Knapp Copse

## August

2	August	Trees & Woodland	Holyford Woods
5	August	Junior Rangers	Seaton Marshes
8	August	Seaton VCT	Branscombe Mouth
9	August	Rockpooling	Sidmouth
10	August	Wildlife & History on the Axe Wetlands	Seaton Marshes
11	August	Rockpooling SVCT	Sidmouth Undercliffs NNR
12	August	Rockpooling	Sidmouth
13	August	Muck in 4 Life	Axe Wetlands
14	August	Undercliffs	Undercliffs NNR
15	August	Birds from the Tram	Axe Wetlands
17	August	Junior Rangers	Fire Beacon Hill
20	August	Wet & Wild Weekend	Axe Wetlands
21	August	Wet & Wild Weekend	Axe Wetlands
21	August	Seaton VCT	Seaton
22	August	Wet & Wild Weekend	Axe Wetlands
23	August	Rockpooling	Beer
24	August	Rockpooling	Beer
25	August	Rockpooling	Beer

## September

2	September	Birds for Beginners	Colyford Common
4	September	Undercliffs	Undercliffs NNR
5	September	Birds from the Tram	Axe Wetlands
10	September	Muck in 4 Life	Axe Wetlands
14	September	Trees & Woodland	The Knapp
		Muck in 4 Life	Undercliffs NNR
15	September	Muck in 4 Life	Undercliffs NNR
16	September	Muck in 4 Life	Undercliffs NNR
17	September	Seaton VCT	Beer Head
18	September	Ringing Breakfast	Colyford Common
		Birds from the Tram	Axe Wetlands
23	September	Birds for Beginners	Seaton Marshes
30	September	Wildlife & History on the Axe Wetlands	Seaton

## October

3	October	Birds from the Tram	Axe Wetlands
7	October	Birds for Beginners	Colyford Common
8	October	Muck in 4 Life	Axe Wetlands
17	October	Birds from the Tram	Axe Wetlands
23	October	Birds from the Tram (J)	Axe Wetlands
25	October	Trees & Woodland	Holyford Woods
28	October	Birds for Beginners	Seaton Marshes

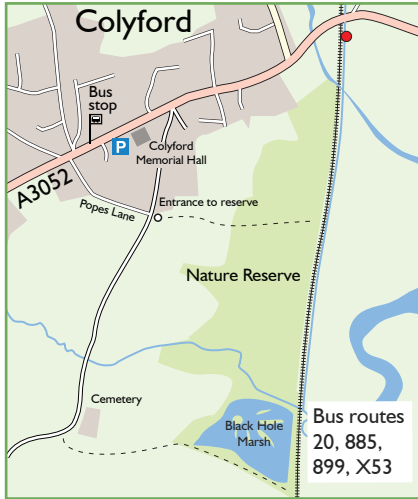
## November

4	November	Birds for Beginners	Colyford Common
6	November	Birds from the Tram	Axe Wetlands
12	November	Muck in 4 Life	Axe Wetlands
20	November	Muck in 4 Life	Trinity Hill
21	November	Birds from the Tram	Axe Wetlands
25	November	Birds for Beginners	Seaton Marshes
27	November	Muck in 4 Life	Holyford Woods

## December

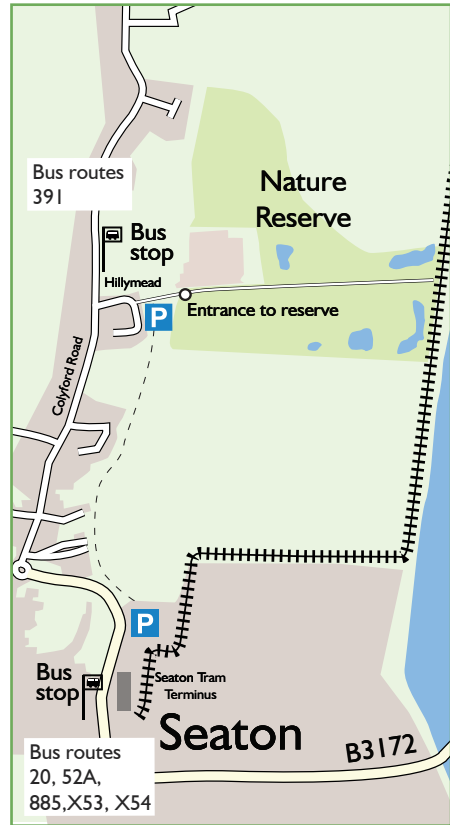
1	December	Muck in 4 Life	Trinity Hill
2	December	Birds for Beginners	Colyford Common
10	December	Muck in 4 Life	Axe Wetlands
16	December	Birds for Beginners	Seaton Marshes

## Colyford Common LNR



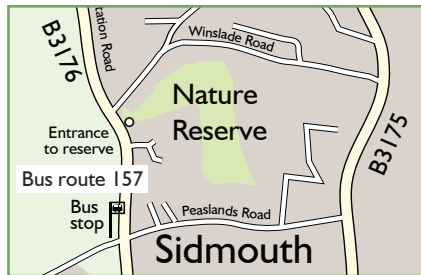
EX24 6QW  
From the Memorial Hall please walk via Popes Lane

## Seaton Marshes LNR



EX12 2DF

## Knapp Nature Reserve



EX10 8XP

## Knapp Copse LNR



EX10 0QH

Please use post code shown if registering on Car Share Devon  
[www.carsharedevon.com](http://www.carsharedevon.com)



# Ringling Breakfast



The **Axe Estuary Ringing Group** undertakes regular bird ringing sessions along the Axe Wetlands to monitor the birds using the nature reserves. In particular, this provides valuable information about the migration habits of species which may fly thousands of miles to visit the wetlands and contributes to the evidence gathered from ringing groups around the world. Four times a year, the ringing group invite the public to see them at work. On these occasions mist nets are used to catch birds which are then identified, aged, measured and weighed before a light weight ring which carries a unique identity code is attached to one of their legs. The bird is then released.

Ringling Breakfasts all start at 8.00am and continue until all the caught birds have been recorded. This usually takes until around 12.00 noon. As it's an early start, bacon butties and tea/coffee are available at a small charge. Please note that if the weather is very wet then this activity will be cancelled for reasons of bird welfare.

**Saturday 24 April**  
**Seaton Marshes**  
**Local Nature Reserve**

**Sunday 22 August**  
**Seaton Marshes**  
**Local Nature Reserve**

This session is part of the Wet and Wild Summer Weekend (see page 29)

**Saturday 18 September**  
**Colyford Common**  
**Local Nature Reserve**



*The Axe Estuary Ringing Group will also be demonstrating its work during the Wet and Wild Winter Weekend (see page 27).*

# Rockpooling



Rockpooling never fails to fascinate. Wildlife in pools appears so different to what we see on land: 5-armed starfish, tentacled snakelock anemones and nearly see-through shrimps give us a brief glimpse of the amazing wealth of wildlife that exists in our seas.

*Led by James Chubb, the Education Ranger.*

**Sidmouth:** *meet at Jacob's Ladder (SY121 869) EX10 8RZ*

**Monday 9 August** 11.30am – 1.30pm

**Wednesday 11 August** 1.30pm – 3.30pm

**Thursday 12 August** 2.00pm – 4.00pm

**Beer:** *meet on the beach (SY230 892) EX12 2RH*

**Monday 23 August** 12.00 noon – 2.00pm

**Tuesday 24 August** 12.30pm – 2.30pm

**Wednesday 25 August** 1.00pm – 3.00pm



# Seaton Visitor Centre Trust

Seaton  
Visitor  
Centre  
Trust



SVCT is a registered charity which works to raise awareness and funds to support the development of the proposed Seaton Visitor Centre.

For all of the following events please book with Donald Campbell on 01297 552945

## Saturday 27 March

### **A long walk before Breakfast** 7.30am – 11.00am

A walk through the Undercliffs National Nature Reserve to Lyme Regis for a well deserved breakfast before returning on the bus (costs not included).  
*Please meet at Axmouth Bridge.*

## Saturday 1 May

### **A walk along the Holyford and Stafford Brook** 3.00pm – 5.00pm

A walk from Horriford Farm along the Stafford Brook, to Colyford Common. This event is part of **Bluebell Day** (page 4).

## Tuesday 4 May

### **Biodiversity Symposium, Seaton Town Hall** 2.30–5.00pm

2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity so SVCT's annual Biodiversity Symposium has particular significance this year.  
*Entrance charge applies.*

## Tuesday 8 June

### **Art on the Undercliffs** 5.30pm – 8.00pm

An opportunity for artists to bring their materials onto the Undercliffs NNR to interpret the famous landslip. Please note that the terrain is challenging so you have to be fit, able and healthy for this event.  
*Meet at Stepps Lane (SY265903 EX12 4AS).*

## Tuesday 15 June

### **Botany at Beer** 10.00am – 1.00pm

Beer Head boasts an amazing array of flora, including some rather special orchids.  
*Meet at Beer Head car park (parking charge applies).*

## Tuesday 13 July

### **Plant life on the Axe Estuary** 2.00pm – 4.00pm

A stroll along the Axe Estuary to look at some of the salt marsh plants. Wellies recommended.  
*Meet Axmouth Bridge.*

### Sunday 8 August

#### **Butterflies at Branscombe** 11.00am – 2.00pm

This is your chance to improve your butterfly identification skills.

Meet at Branscombe Mouth car park (parking charge applies).

### Wednesday 11 August

#### **Rocks of Geological Time** 10.00am – 3.00pm

A walk to look at rocks of three geological periods. You must be fit, able and in good health as the terrain is challenging.

Meet at Stepps Lane (SY265903 EX12 4AS).

### Saturday 21 August

#### **Winefred Walk** 2.00pm – 4.00pm

A walk tracing the course of Winefred's adventures in the best selling novel of that name.

Meet at Seaton Tourist Information Centre.

### Friday 17 September

#### **Bird migrants at Beer Head**

9.00am – 12.00 noon

Jutting out into the sea makes Beer Head a good vantage point from which to look for migrants.

Meet at Beer Head car park.



# Trees and Woodlands

## Walks in Holyford Woods Local Nature Reserve

For all Holyford Woods (except 1 May) walks please meet at the lay-by at the top of Seaton Down Hill, just off the A3052.

### Monday 8 February

**Winter walk** 10am – 12 noon

*Led by James Chubb*

### Thursday 25 March

**Early spring walk** 10am – 1pm

*Led by Mike Lock of the Axe Vale & District Conservation Society*

### Saturday 1 May

**Late spring walk** 10am – 11am

Part of Bluebell Day (see page 4).

*Please park at Colyford Memorial Hall for free shuttle bus to Horriford Farm.*

*Led by James Chubb*



*Photo: Pauline Rook*

### Monday 14 June

**Looking and listening for woodland birds** 10am – 12 noon

### Monday 2 August

**Summer walk** 10am – 12 noon

*Led by James Chubb*

### Monday 25 October

**Autumn walk** 10am – 12 noon

*Led by James Chubb*

## Trees at The Knapp Nature Reserve

A variety of native trees were planted at The Knapp in 1993, some of them being locally rare or unusual. Having lost the original plans, we would really like to identify what trees remain and plot their location. This event is a great chance to improve your tree id skills and to help us get a job done at the same time!

### Tuesday 14 September

**The Knapp, Sidmouth** 10am – 12 noon



## Trees in Villages

The tree officers are responsible for a range of tree related matters – from advising on planning applications to making Tree Preservation Orders. David Colman and Stuart Baker will be leading three evening walks to look at village trees and the issues surrounding them. These walks are particularly aimed at volunteer Tree Wardens and members of Parish Councils, but anybody with an interest in trees is very welcome to come along.

All walks start at 7.00pm and are planned to finish around 9.00pm, but from past experience, we can only stop ‘talking trees’ once darkness falls!

### Tuesday 8 June

#### Lympstone

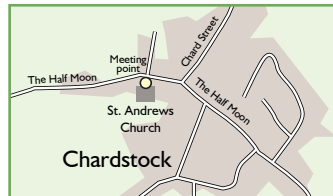
Meeting point & parking at Underhill, Lympstone just to the east side of the railway line



### Tuesday 22 June

#### Chardstock

Meet at St. Andrews Church at Chardstock, just opposite the George Inn



### Tuesday 6 July

#### Ottery St Mary

Meet at Land of Canaan car park



# Undercliffs National Nature Reserve

The Undercliffs National Nature Reserve (NNR) is managed by Natural England. All Undercliff walks are led by local experts and frequently take in remote, isolated and inaccessible parts of the reserve well away from the coast path. Terrain is very rough and walking guaranteed to be strenuous, demanding and hard going so consequently you must be fit, able and in good health. You must also inform us of any medical conditions that may need emergency medical treatment when booking on these walks.

Bring a packed lunch and a drink. Stout footwear (walking boots) and appropriate outdoor clothing essential. Booking essential as places are limited and walks may be cancelled in the event of bad weather.

## Saturday 6th March

### **Wild Daffodils through the Chasm** 10am - 2pm

Meet Stepps Lane (SY265903) EX12 4AS

Explore the remote and forbidding Chasm and enjoy the spectacle of carpets of wild daffodils in this pristine and undisturbed part of the reserve.

Led by Donald Campbell

## Friday 30th April

### **Rocks and Fossils of Monmouth Beach** 2pm – 4pm

Meet by the Lifeboat Station near the start of the Cobb (SY338916)

Join local expert Richard Edmonds from the World Heritage Site team to explore Monmouth beach and look at the wide range of fossils and rocks found here. Led by Richard Edmonds from the WHS

## Saturday 1st May

### **Spring Flowers in the Undercliff** 10am - 2pm

Meet Whitlands (SY306911) DT7 3XY

Enjoy the Undercliffs at this special and colourful time of year and learn about the many spring flowers and other wildlife found within the reserve.

Led by Dr David Allen

## Sunday 2nd May

### **Birds in the Undercliff** 9am – 2pm

Meet Holmbush Car Park

Join local expert Donald Campbell to investigate the range of birds found in the Undercliff. Good hearing essential because many of the birds can be heard but not seen! Led by Donald Campbell



### Saturday 29th May

#### **To the Plateau to find the Early Gentian** 10am – 3pm

Meet Whitlands (SY306911) DT7 3XY

Expedition to the Plateau to learn about chalk grassland, a rare habitat in Devon. We will also search for the scarce endemic Early gentian on this prehistoric landslip. *Led by Dr David Allen*

### Sunday 20th June

#### **Goat Island orchids** 10am – 2pm

Meet Stepps Lane (SY265903) EX12 4AS

Visit Goat Island, perhaps the most famous and spectacular part of the reserve. Learn about chalk grassland and the associated plants and animals, including a wide range of stunning orchids. *Led by Dr David Allen*

### Saturday 24th July

#### **Culverhole, Coast and Chasm** 10am – 3pm

Meet Stepps Lane (SY265903) EX12 4AS

A true jungle adventure guaranteed to some of the most remote parts of the NNR. We will be trekking to some relatively unknown but truly stunning parts of the reserve to look at the impressive geology, wildlife and fossils. *Led by Donald Campbell*

### Saturday 14th August

#### **Humble Glades, Butterflies and the Wood White** 10am – 2pm

Meet Whitlands (SY306911) DT7 3XY

Explore these isolated and tranquil glades within the reserve. Hot and sheltered they provide excellent conditions for invertebrates and butterflies, including the rare Wood White butterfly. *Led by Dr David Allen*

### Saturday 4th September

#### **Veterans and Invaders – Trees in the Undercliff** 10am – 3pm

Meet Whitlands (SY306911) DT7 3XY

A tour looking at some spectacular older trees in the reserve and their associated rich culture and history. We will also look at the wide range of non-native invaders and the associated management problems. *Led by Donald Campbell*

Please book for all Undercliffs events on 0781 4477 422

# Wet and Wild Winter Weekend



## Saturday 13 February – Monday 15 February

Following on from the success of the Wet and Wild Summer Weekend at Seaton Marshes Local Nature Reserve we thought we would try a Wet and Wild Winter Weekend slightly further up the Axe. Yes, the weather could be awful, but the birds will be brilliant!

There will be a number of 'drop-in' type activities where you just turn up:

- Birds from the hide at Colyford Common
- Axe Estuary Ringing Group at Stafford Marsh
- Birds around 'Black Hole'
- Beasties of the estuary

There will be an experienced guide to help you identify the birds and free binoculars and telescopes will be available. We strongly recommend that you wear boots or wellies and warm clothing!

Drop-in activities will run between the following times:

<b>Saturday 13 February</b>	1pm – 4pm
<b>Sunday 14 February</b>	10am – 4pm
<b>Monday 15 February</b>	10am – 4pm

As there is no car parking in very close proximity to the sites we have arranged for Seaton Tramway to run trams on the hour at a reduced rate from Seaton to Black Hole Marsh where a temporary 'halt' will be created especially for the Winter Wet and Wild Weekend. Return trams will be leaving at approximately 10 minutes past each hour. Car parking for the trams is available in the Pay and Display car park adjacent to Seaton Tramway (follow brown tourist signs).

If you would prefer to park and walk there is limited parking at Colyford Memorial Hall on Saturday 13 and Monday 15 February only (see map on page 18)



# Wet and Wild Winter Weekend Feature Event



## Nature@Sundown

The feature event of the weekend will be the chance to take the tram from Seaton along the edge of the Axe estuary **free of charge** as the light is closing in. The estuary is a magical place as darkness falls - all your senses will be heightened as you look and listen to the birds coming in to roost. A procession of trams, each with an experienced guide, will wend their way along the estuary, stopping at intervals to allow passengers to experience the dusk. Remember it is February, so wrap up warmly!

Nature@Sundown is organised by Ambios Ltd, a not-for-profit company. Nature@ Sundown offers people the opportunity to explore Devon's wildlife and it is funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills through their Transformation Fund.

## Saturday 13 February

Trams depart 5pm, return 7pm

## Sunday 14 February

Trams depart 5pm, return 7pm

*Book in advance with Ambios Ltd on 07915 488 374  
or [www.natureatsundown.com](http://www.natureatsundown.com)*



Free Trams generously sponsored by Nature@Sundown

# Wet and Wild Summer Weekend



## Friday 20 August – Sunday 22 August

Welcome to the third year of Wet and Wild! The proposed schedule is outlined below, but there will almost certainly be some 'extras' on the weekend .....

### Friday 20 August

10am – 4pm	Pond dipping
10am – 4pm	Meet the birds*
11am – 12 noon	Muddy history for kids*
2pm – 4pm	Water vole and otter walk
6pm – 8pm	Birding at Black Hole Marsh**
8pm – 10pm	Bat walk

### Saturday 21 August

8am – 10am	Moth breakfast*
10am – 4pm	Meet the Birds*
10am – 4pm	Pond dipping
10am – 3pm (hourly)	Willow weaving*+
11am – 12 noon	Axe history walk
6pm – 8pm	Birding at Black Hole Marsh**

### Sunday 22 August

8am – 10am	Bird ringing with breakfast*
10am – 4pm	Pond dipping
10am – 4pm	Meet the fish
10am – 4pm	Meet the birds*
10am – 4pm	Wild Art and storytelling
10am & 1.30pm	Bushcraft – twine making+
11am – 12 noon	Muddy history for kids*
11.30am & 3pm	Bushcraft – firelighting*+

*Refreshments available 11am – 2pm*

*+ Charge applies £2 per child for willow weaving & bushcraft*

*Sorry but no dogs      \*Accessible for people in wheelchairs*

*\*\*Requires booking on 01395 517557 or 0781 4477 422*

*Please park at Underfleet/TIC Pay and Display and follow marked path for 800m*

# Wildlife and History on the Axe Wetlands



## Saturday 24 April

**Common Interests** 10am – 12 noon

A walk around Colyford Common to discover the fascinating story of the ancient Borough of Colyford accompanied by some of the current Burgesses of the Borough. *Park/meet at Colyford Memorial Hall*

## Thursday 20 May

**Stop Line Way Talk and Walk** 2pm – 4pm

Have you ever noticed those little brick pill boxes scattered along the Axe Valley? They form part of the Stop Line Way, a line of defences which run from Seaton to Weston-super-Mare. This walk will be led by archaeologist Bill Horner, who will explore the southern section of the Way. *Meet at Colyford Memorial Hall.*

## Saturday 19 June

**Marsh plants across a salinity gradient** 3pm – 5pm

Organised by the Devonshire Association. Botanical expert David Allen will lead this walk to help you identify some of our rarest plants. *Meet at the White Hart Inn, Colyford from where car share to SY256927 where there is limited parking.*

## Wednesday 7 July

**Dragons of the Ditches** 2pm – 4pm

Explore the ditches for dragonflies and damselflies. *Meet at Seaton Marshes Local Nature Reserve.*

## Tuesday 10 August

**A walk on the muddy side** 1pm – 3pm

Meet at Seaton Marshes Local Nature Reserve for a walk along the edge of the estuary. Wear shorts and sandals and bring a towel and a change of clothes as getting muddy is a certainty. Sorry, but participants must be over 10 years to take part. *Booking essential on the events hotline.*

## Thursday 30 September

**A walk around the Underfleet** 2pm – 4pm

A walk to discover the history and archaeology of the Underfleet. *Meet at Seaton Tourist Information Centre.*



Find out what birds you will see and when and where to see them!

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- All photos taken on the reserves

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Sidmouth  
EX10 8HL**

**01395 517557**

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[countryside@eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto:countryside@eastdevon.gov.uk)**



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