

Danes Moss Breeding Bird Survey 2017

Last year's breeding bird survey at Danes Moss, our nearest nature reserve, was the first one carried out by the Local Group and 50 species of bird were identified, including blackcap, chiffchaff, garden warbler, goldcrest, great spotted woodpecker, little grebe, long-tailed tit, reed bunting, spotted flycatcher, treecreeper, water rail, whitethroat and willow warbler, all of which were either confirmed, or considered likely to be breeding on the reserve. Also reported during the survey period were grasshopper warbler, hobby, pied flycatcher, redstart and willow tit. A family of pied flycatcher were actually found to be using one of the nest boxes put up on the reserve only three months earlier as part of the *Macclesfield Big Bird Box Build* project and the young were ringed.

The information gathered during the survey not only provides valuable statistical information but also allows Cheshire Wildlife Trust who manages this important Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) to establish a more meaningful management plan for the future of the reserve.

The dates for this year's survey which starts in March and continues at 4-weekly intervals until the end of July are as detailed below. Each survey will start at 7.00 am prompt and should take approximately two hours to complete.

Survey dates:

Monday 13 March

Monday 10 April

Monday 08 May

Monday 05 June

Monday 03 July

Monday 31 July

We meet at Homebase Car Park, Lyme Green at 6.45 am for a prompt 7.00 am start from the picnic area at the entrance to Danes Moss Reserve, alongside the Macclesfield Canal.

Please contact me if you are interested in taking part or would like to know more.

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Please note that we will not survey in heavy rain, very poor visibility or strong wind so it is vital that you let me know in advance that you are planning to come and that I have your mobile number in case we have to cancel at short notice

Directions from Homebase to Danes Moss:

Facing Homebase from the car park there is a footpath to the canal just off the service road to the right of the store. Follow this footpath for approximately 150 yards to the canal, turn right and walk along the canal for approximately 400 yards. The entrance area and footpath to the reserve is on the right directly opposite a swing bridge on the canal where you will also see a small picnic area with wooden benches. This will be the starting point for the surveys. (Please note that to reach the main part of the reserve you will need to continue along the entrance footpath, away from the canal, and over a large metal footbridge which crosses the main railway line from Manchester to Stoke on Trent and London).