



WILDER

DERBYSHIRE



Derbyshire
Wildlife Trust

SPRING 2021

www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk



#30DaysWild

Save the date 1-30 June

We will be running #30dayswild again this year. We want you to do one wild thing a day throughout the whole month: for your health and wellbeing and for the planet. But don't just stop at the end of June – you can do *Random Acts of Wildness* any time!



Jo Smith
Chief Executive
Officer



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On the cover

Chaddesden Wood © Friends of Chaddesden Wood.

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Derbyshire
Wildlife Trust

WELCOME

In April 1951 – 70 years ago – the UK's first National Park was created by the government: the Peak District National Park. Our National Parks were born in a heady, post-war era, offering new opportunities for people who had endured six long years of conflict. Our most precious landscapes were finally to be protected, not just for nature, but for people to explore and enjoy.

70 years later the Peak District provides breathtaking scenery and space for a wide range of recreational opportunities, including the experience of dark skies, wilderness and tranquillity. Never has nature been more important than right now.

But our National Parks should also help protect nature; wildlife should be thriving in these protected landscapes. Yet, the wildlife in our National Parks is in rapid decline.

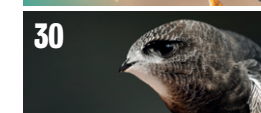
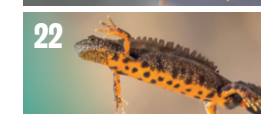
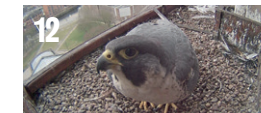
The huge variety of landscapes and habitats within the Peak District offers incredible opportunities for large landscape-scale recovery. Restoring and protecting the habitats and ecosystems as well as creating new wild spaces in the Peak District is absolutely crucial to addressing the current biodiversity crisis. We also need to create a Nature Recovery Network across the Park, one which extends into every part of our towns, villages and countryside. Letting flowers bloom along road verges, rewilding some of our gardens, creating wilder school grounds, parks and churchyards and encouraging whole communities to get involved. As well as protecting nature, this would provide brilliant natural solutions, including carbon storage and flood reduction. It would also provide us with cleaner water, fresher air and better wellbeing.

As we head towards COP26 (the UN Climate Change Conference) in the UK in November, now is the perfect time for the Government and the National Park Authorities to step up and commit to ensuring our National Parks are better for wildlife.

We will be working hard to ensure this happens – keep an eye out for ways you can help us!

Thank you for your support.

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SPOTTED




 Share your images with us
www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlife/record-sighting

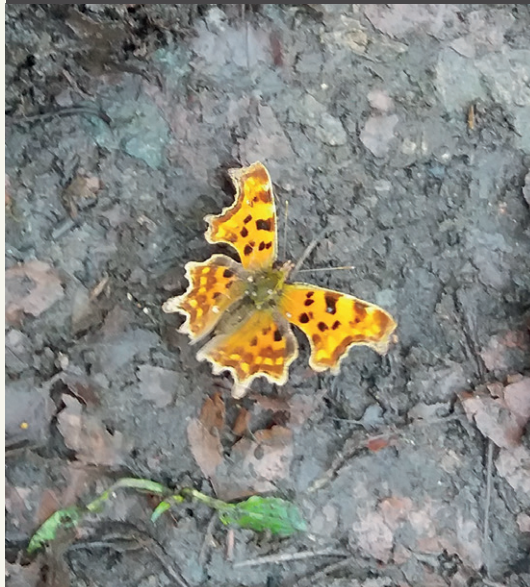
Redwing – Melbourne

Photo: January 2021 © Tony Davison



Comma – Hilton Nature Reserve

Photo: January 2021 © Nick Brown



Orange peel fungus – Findern

Photo: November 2020 © N Brown



Lesser Redpoll – Kedleston Park

Photo: November 2020 © Kevin Morris

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust receives a grant of £538,000 from the government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund

Wye Valley way-marking posts



The Wilder Derbyshire project is a nature-led recovery for people and wildlife with a focus on nature projects that have been delayed by the Covid pandemic. The funding has allowed us to employ new staff dedicated to the project and we will focus on rewilding bigger and better landscapes, biodiversity, decarbonising operations and project improvements.

Some of the projects include Wye Valley interpretations improvements, a badger hide at Sunart Farm, together with a Forest school, supporting nature-based solutions for flooding at Little Eaten Meadows, Crayfish protection at Kedleston and working with Chesterfield Borough Council community groups on biodiversity net gain.

Dr Jo Smith, chief executive of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, said:

“Our wildlife is facing huge pressure and declining at an alarming rate, but this incredible grant from Defra and the National Lottery Heritage Fund puts us in a much stronger position to support a green recovery, and help people living in, working in and visiting Derbyshire to have a better connection with the wondrous wild places on our doorstep.”

The Green Recovery Challenge Fund is a key part of Prime Minister's 10-Point Plan to kick-start nature recovery and tackle climate change. The fund is being delivered by the National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with Natural England and the Environment Agency.

For updates on this funding and the wilder Derbyshire project follow us on social, see page 3 for details.

‘Green Influencers’ Fund to inspire young people in Derbyshire

Young people in Derbyshire will be inspired to follow in Greta Thunberg's footsteps thanks to funding from The Ernest Cook Trust, a national educational charity. We have received funding to support the employment of a ‘Green Mentor’ who will enable young people to lead the way as ‘Green Influencers’ on social action projects in their communities.

The pioneering Green Influencers Scheme is a project match-funded through the #iwill Fund, which is funded by The National Lottery Community Fund and Department of Culture, Media & Sport, each of which are investing £25million seed funding to

support young people to access high-quality social action opportunities.

Green Influencers aged from 10 to 14 years will spring up across Derbyshire after we were among 36 host organisations awarded grants to support the employment of a total of 40 Green Mentor posts.

Together they will turn words into action with a wide range of measures to protect and enhance the local environment and tackle climate change.

Anyone interested in joining the Green Influencers Scheme should visit <https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/green-influencers>



Confusion around Government's plan to end Badger Cull

The Government has announced a new consultation which has caused confusion as some people now believe there will be a ban on culling from 2022. In actual fact they are just recommending that no new cull licences are issued after 2022. This means countless licences can be approved between now and then, each taking four years to complete. It also means new cull locations can be added and the cull will not end until at least 2026 at the earliest.

Jo Smith, CEO at Derbyshire Wildlife Trust explains, "We are delighted that the Government has committed to ending the Badger Cull. However we are concerned at the slow pace of change and we feel the cull must be phased out much more quickly and replaced with vaccination as a matter of urgency."

We have been the country's leading organisation for badger vaccination, having worked tirelessly for seven years.

Tim Birch, Director of Nature's Recovery at the Trust added, "Some of the information in the public domain is misleading and came the same day that the Government announced that almost 40,000 badgers have been culled across England, and devastatingly almost 3,000 have been culled in Derbyshire alone."

We have urgently called on the Government to stop and rethink their plans and find a way of implementing their own commitment to move from lethal to non-lethal methods of managing Bovine TB.

Our vaccination program will continue, as will our fight to protect badgers.

Badger. Photo: © Mark Davison

Happy 70th Anniversary Peak District National Park

April 17th this year will welcome in 70 years of the Peak District National Park – the first of the UK's now 15 National Parks to be formally recognised, closely followed by the Lake District, Snowdonia and Dartmoor National Parks who were also designated back in 1951. For some 20 years before, countless passionate groups and individuals had fought for the public access agreements we now take for granted in much of the countryside.

The Peak District National Park now covers 555 sq miles (about the size of Greater London) and reaches into five counties: Derbyshire, Cheshire, Staffordshire, Yorkshire and Greater Manchester.

It is the most 'accessible' national park – close to the cities of Manchester, Sheffield, Nottingham and Derby – and welcomes more than 13 million people

each year! With so many inspirational figures behind the Peak District, the National Park is celebrating across the year by recognising '70 people for 70 years,' a dedicated digital campaign to share the hard work of just a few of those who have cared for the area across the decades.

The Glover report in 2019 reviewed our National Parks and suggested that national landscapes should have a renewed mission to recover and enhance nature.

There is so much more to be done to help wildlife thrive in the Park. The 70th anniversary of the Peak District, as well as being a great celebration, is an opportunity to discuss how we can support a wilder Derbyshire.

Peak District National Park. Photo: © 2020 vision





Hidden Gems

Kate Lemon Regional Manager (Trent and Erewash)

In Derbyshire we are very fortunate to have so many beautiful open spaces to enjoy and to live in one of the most attractive counties in the Midlands. When we think about getting out to enjoy some wild spaces, it's very easy to plan a visit to the large, well-known locations such as Chatsworth House, Carsington Water, Dovedale or Calke Abbey, but there are many smaller versions, often right under peoples noses, that can be overlooked. Some of our own nature reserves are small and rarely visited, such as Risley Glebe and Barton Pool, both only 1 acre in size, and the diminutive Watford Lodge which blink and you miss it as you drive past into New Mills, but these little gems can host a wealth of wildlife and be far easier to visit and enjoy.

Risley Glebe

At just half a hectare, Risley Glebe Nature Reserve is one of the smallest sites we have but in this tiny area feature several important habitats and more than 150 plant species,

including some that are locally scarce. To find the reserve, park on the B5010 that runs through the village and take the footpath between the church and Risley Primary School.

As you walk up the track, on your right, you first pass a small area of semi-natural woodland that has many mature trees and, in the spring, a diverse understorey full of bluebells. Passing over the stile by a wooden 5-bar gate you come into the meadow part of the reserve, a local refuge for grassland plants and the insects that feed on them. In July, for instance, you will see the distinctive blue flowers of devil's-bit scabious among the grasses, while flitting between them are meadow brown and red admiral butterflies.

A brook flows through the reserve, forming an area of marsh. Pondskaters, freshwater shrimps and frogs all make use of the brook, and on warm summer days the wetland areas are a good place to see dragonflies and damselflies.

Kingfishers have been seen along this stretch of the brook, while other birds nest in the woodland areas. Willow warblers and blackbirds may be heard singing, and woodpeckers beat out rhythms on dead trees.

Watford Lodge. Photo: Ric McSherry

Risley Glebe

The Sanctuary

Pride Park was the original site of Derby's railway manufacturing industry as well as a gas and coke works, gravel abstraction and landfill, all of which left behind a cocktail of contaminants, including tars, phenols, heavy metals, ammonia and boron. Therefore it is hard to believe that ten hectares of site was transformed into Derby's first bird reserve, where today sand martins, skylark, reed bunting, stonechat and many other birds are

easily seen or heard, and in 2005 a Dartford warbler spent six weeks here – the first county sighting in 160 years.

Whilst there is no access onto the reserve itself, there are four viewing and information points, two of which are raised up and have ramped wheelchair access. One viewing platform gives excellent views of an artificial sand martin nest bank where around 30 pairs of birds have nested each summer since its construction in 2004.

Path through Chaddesden Wood. Photo: © Friends of Chaddesden Wood

The Sanctuary





Chaddesden Wood

Chaddesden Wood is one of only two ancient woodlands in the city of Derby. Acquired by Derby City Council in November 1990, it was declared a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in April 1991. Since 2010 it has been cared for by a group of 150 local people, the Friends of Chaddesden Wood. Their primary objectives are to implement the management plan, keep records of wildlife residing there, secure grants to deliver the work required and hold public awareness events.

The site is already very special, being wooded for over 400 years, but is also home to a small population of the uncommon purple hairstreak butterfly. This handsome butterfly

can be found where there are ancient oak trees; even a solitary tree may support a colony but it is frequently overlooked as adults remain largely in the canopy where the main adult food source is honeydew.

The white letter hairstreak butterfly is from the same family, but frequents the tops of elm trees in the same manner. The species declined during the 1970s when its food plants were reduced by Dutch elm disease. In December 2012 Derbyshire Wildlife Trust provided disease-resistant elms to the group to plant in the woods, working in partnership with the Butterfly Conservation charity.

For more information visit:
<http://www.focwood.org.uk/>

Chaddesden Wood. Photo: © Friends of Chaddesden Wood

What makes all of these sites even more special is that they are cared for by the people who live near them rather than just the landowner. In all cases members of the local community have realised the importance of these small areas and come together to share skills and advice to find ways to keep them in the best possible condition for wildlife. Whilst everyone who volunteers in this capacity is unique in their background or talents, there is a shared common aim of keeping their local patch in as good condition as possible in perpetuity.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust has facilitated and helped many such groups over the years to start up and keep going, and we support over 30 different 'Friends of' and management teams across the county today. We also offer free advice on all aspects of setting up and running a group, such as managing volunteers, gaining landowner consents and seeking funding for both capital and everyday running costs. We offer advice on practical land management, habitat including species-specific knowledge, wildlife identification and surveying, how to write and implement working management plans and facilitate accredited training for a wide range of skills. Our patronage of groups enables small teams to be taken seriously by Local Authorities and gain corporate support and we get groups talking to one another, sharing skills and experiences. Together we advertise their existence to many more local people, strengthening their connections and place in local communities.



For more information on local groups near you, for support for an existing group or to get started setting up a group please contact us via enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk

Summer Wood. Photo: © Friends of Chaddesden Wood





Peregrine, Belper. Photo: D Naylor

The Peregrine

The Fastest Bird On The Planet

Tim Birch – Director of Nature’s Recovery

Nick Brown – Derby Cathedral Peregrine Project

The fastest bird on the planet. That epithet neatly sums up the awe in which the peregrine falcon is held. So it is little wonder that its welfare receives such attention and inspires so many to follow its fortunes – fortunes that have been very mixed.

Peregrines were all but wiped out sixty years ago by the widespread agricultural use of persistent pesticides like DDT. In addition, these feisty falcons, along with other birds of prey, have always been targeted by gamekeepers, especially on moorland where grouse shooting prevails.

No wonder then that peregrines were virtually absent from the county for many years. Only in the 1970s did a few birds begin to return and breeding start to take place again.

Peregrines usually nest on ledges on natural cliffs or rocky outcrops, but where there are suitable ledges in quarries, the birds will happily nest even though extraction works may be continuing not far away.

Once suitable nest sites were again occupied, young peregrines began to adopt artificial structures like cathedrals, churches, power stations and even high-rise office blocks across the UK. Willington Power station south of Derby had nesting peregrines for a number of years in the 1990s, but the most famous site for a nest was right in the heart of Derby city on its Cathedral tower where a nest platform was installed in 2006.

A pair has nested there every year since (apart from 2020) with a high level of productivity; thirty chicks have fledged successfully so far. The project is managed by the Trust in partnership with the Cathedral, the city council and Cathedral Quarter.

Thanks to web cams, images of this pair and their chicks have been beamed over the internet across the planet. ‘Hits’ to the cams and to the project’s blog have reached four million from over 70 countries.

Unfortunately the cameras have been down for a while but we hope to be live again this year.

Subsequently, a few other urban or industrial sites in the county now have nesting peregrines but these are still outnumbered by pairs nesting on natural cliffs or in quarries.

Although urban sites are generally less prone to disturbance, persecution continues elsewhere despite efforts to control it.

Young UK-bred peregrines fetch a very high price in the Middle East where falconry and, more recently, falcon racing prevail. This encourages the theft of eggs and chicks from accessible nest sites; for example, in quarries and on remote crags in the Peak District. Wild UK peregrines have developed a reputation for being amongst the fastest peregrines in the world so they are much sought-after unfortunately.

Similarly, and along with the persecution of other raptors such as goshawks, hen harriers, red kites and buzzards, peregrines are still being targeted by some gamekeepers. There are still areas within

the uplands of the Peak District National Park where peregrines have continued to suffer from illegal persecution. This persecution is strongly linked to moorland where driven grouse shooting takes place.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust continues to work closely with other organisations – such as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Derbyshire Police, the National Trust and the Peak District Raptor Groups – to ensure a brighter future for our peregrines across the whole of Derbyshire. 2021 will see us stepping up our efforts with partners to protect our precious peregrines. We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to see these incredible birds wherever you are in Derbyshire. Working together we can achieve this.

Peregrine on Derby Cathedral. Photo: Dave King

We Need Your Help

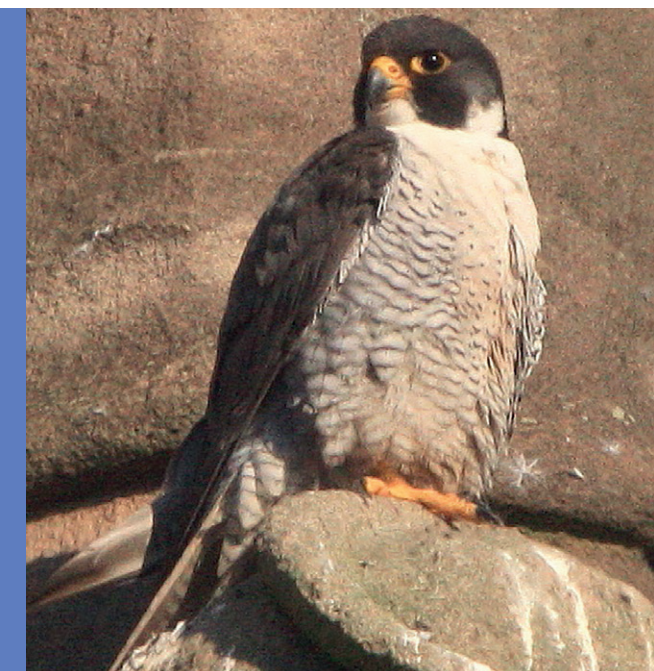
If you go walking on moorland, especially where grouse shooting takes place, and see suspicious behaviour, see a bird shot or find a corpse or injured bird of prey then here’s what to do:

Phone the police on 999 if there is wildlife crime taking place or 101 for a non-emergency call, giving details of your exact location. Make sure you keep yourself safe, record what you have seen, take photos and record the date and times of what you have witnessed. If there is a nearby vehicle you suspect is linked to the crime, take down the registration number and pass to the police. Do let Derbyshire Wildlife Trust know as well to ensure we are aware of the incident. You can also contact the RSPB’s confidential Raptor Crime Hotline on 0300 999 0101.

Do not touch a dead bird, just photograph it and note its location as carefully and accurately as possible (using GPS, grid references or landscape features).

If you find an injured bird of prey miles from a road, then if you feel confident to catch it and take it to a vet or phone for help, this may be the best thing to do. Try not to touch the bird directly but cover it with an item of clothing and carefully enclose it such that it can be carried off site, e.g. in a rucksack.

Similarly, if you suspect a poisoning incident and you find a dead bird, again do not touch it but take photos and contact the authorities mentioned above as soon as possible.



Peregrine with its leg broken by a spring trap. RSPB.

WILD WELLBEING

Lisa Witham Wilder Communities and Wellbeing Manager

One of the few rays of light during 2020 was that while we explored our local areas for walking, exercise and escape, we also discovered the nature on our doorstep. Many people found themselves asking 'Why didn't we come here before?' More people have begun to feel that the natural world is important to them. There is increased awareness of getting out and preserving nature and wildlife for the future.

For those who couldn't get out, virtual sessions, webinars and live webcams helped us to find comfort in watching new life through the hatching of chicks, or the activities of beavers and badgers.

You don't need a nature reserve to experience the joy of nature; it can be found in window boxes, in gardens and parks, or through virtual engagement. People have reported that nature is important to their mental health. They have found increased awareness of their local surroundings, more connection to nature, and experienced the joy of watching things grow and flourish. There is a wealth of evidence to show that connecting with nature has positive benefits for mental health. Simply being in wildlife-rich natural surroundings, or seeing wildlife through a window, can help to support good health. Daily contact with nature is linked to better health, reduced levels of chronic stress, reductions in obesity and improved concentration.

Green Social Prescribing

We have been working with local NHS providers to ensure that we connect as many people as possible with nature, including through green social prescribing. Social prescribing enables GPs, nurses and other NHS professionals to refer people to a range of local, non-clinical services to support their health and wellbeing. In 2019 we set up a Wild Wellbeing Alliance with Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Trust, and this has led to us delivering a programme of nature-based activities to service users of voluntary and community groups in Derby City.

Working with other NHS and environmental organisations, we're excited to be part of a national pilot project for Green Social Prescribing. Over the next two years we will be working with communities throughout the county to demonstrate the positive benefits of using green social prescriptions to improve mental health. We know that there are enormous health benefits to being in nature and we're working with social prescribing professionals to ensure that people are offered a range of activities with us to improve their wellbeing.

The impact of these activities will be that people have better connection to nature. We will provide information and advice needed to care about their local environment. This in turn will lead to an increased awareness of the issues facing nature and wildlife. From this, we will encourage people to start looking after their local area for the benefit of their own health, wildlife and the local community.



Running. Photo: © 2020 vision

What can you do?

We want everyone to feel the benefits of nature as we come out of what has been a long and difficult year. No matter where you live or the size of your home. There are some simple steps that we can all take to improve our mental resilience and experience the joy of wildlife watching.

Below are the 5 routes to wellbeing and some practical ideas to try for yourself:



GIVE Doing something to help our local places and the people that live there gives us purpose. People who develop a genuine interest in helping others, and nature, are more likely to rate themselves as happy.

TAKE NOTICE Stopping and using all our senses to tune in to wildlife and nature on our doorstep relieves stress. Being more aware of what's going on around us helps us to make positive decisions and choices.

KEEP LEARNING Education has no age limits. Trying or learning something new helps with self-esteem. This broadens the mind and lifts our mood. Learning also helps connect people to each other.

BE ACTIVE Regular physical activity and raising the heart rate keeps us fit and lowers rates of depression and anxiety across all age groups. Going outside for a walk helps us feel revitalised.

CONNECT Meeting people when out and about, or virtually, and sharing wildlife experiences combats feelings of loneliness.

Activities such as trying a new route or walk, putting up wildlife feeders and bird boxes, joining a webinar or online talk, starting a wildlife blog or sharing stories and photos on social media can all have a positive effect on our wellbeing. Finally and most importantly, take notice – don't just look but *notice* the changing species, the variety of colours in nature, the waking up of pollinators and hibernators in spring, the increase in birdsong. These small actions can have a big effect on our health and wellbeing and help us feel more positive about the future.

For hints and tips of ways you can get wild at home and find your inner peace with a daily dose of wellbeing, visit <https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/wild-wellbeing>



The Avenue Washlands and Country Park COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Henry Richards Living Landscapes Assistant

Taking on management of a country park was always going to be a different kind of challenge for us at Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. We of course already have some sites with a lot of visitors, busy shops and people engagement programmes across the county, but many of the sites our staff manage are small quiet pockets set aside for wildlife. With this site the aim was to try to roll all those different aspects into one whole.

In partnership with site owners *The Land Trust*, we hoped to spend the first year on the park working with local communities, getting people involved and developing ideas that would benefit both the wildlife and the people that used the site. Unfortunately, as with so many other things, our plans were put on hold by the coronavirus outbreak.

As it happened, we didn't need all of our plans to engage with the communities around the park, as they engaged with us. We already had a team of hard-working volunteers who helped us with all aspects of managing the existing

Avenue Washlands nature reserve, which since its inception in 2005 has become a sanctuary for a wide array of wildlife who don't seem to mind the noise of trains going through the middle of the reserve. With the opening of a large and visible new site next door we gained even more volunteers to add to this experienced group, with people from Tupton, Wingerworth and Chesterfield joining us at work parties at both sites, arriving on foot and by bike, as well as many driving in from slightly further afield.

National lockdowns of course put a stop to work parties early in the year, but instead of this stopping people helping, it just changed how they did it. With staff on furlough from April onwards, a small group of the volunteers who lived closest to the Avenue took up regular checks of both the Washlands and Country Park on their daily exercise. These checks by the volunteer wardens have continued, and with staff having returned to work the warden team have been invaluable in helping us as staff maximise the work we can get done during our still reduced time on site by carrying out odd jobs and pointing us in the right direction.



The return of livestock to the Avenue Washlands in the autumn has seen the return of the livestock checking volunteers. By keeping a close eye on the health and condition of the cows and sheep, these volunteers have allowed the livestock to get on with the difficult job of eating, and, by extension, managing the grasslands and wildflower meadows for the multitude of species that rely on these habitats. This hard work will soon be extended on to the Country Park, where we will have three resident cows maintaining the grasslands. The commitment of the livestock volunteers makes all this possible.

Work parties restarted sporadically towards the end of the year, allowing volunteers to get stuck

in to some important habitat management and infrastructure work.

On top of the massive help from our official volunteers at the site, we have had an extra helping hand, or several: throughout our own changing working patterns there has been a consistent support from the users of the park and nature reserve – both those who have been present since it opened and those who have discovered it more recently while exploring their local patch. Reports of wildlife sightings, friendly emails alerting us to issues, and litter picking on walks have been regular occurrences. It has been great to hear how beneficial people have found their time in nature.

Caterpillar Sound Sculpture



Get involved

There are a lot of things we want to do when things settle down. We have some of our own ideas, but we also want to hear from you. We will be developing the volunteer opportunities already mentioned and also setting up a Friends group to get more input from the local community in to The Avenue Country Park and Avenue Washlands Nature Reserve. If you would like to get involved, please get in touch at enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk



A broad-bodied chaser female. Photo: © S. Frith



URBAN WILDLIFE

– Hidden in Plain Sight

**Sarah Frith
Ecologist**

Derbyshire's towns and cities might not be the first things that come to mind when you think of nature – surely that's all in the countryside, isn't it? Well, no, there is wildlife, both plants and animals, just about wherever you are, sometimes in unexpected places and often overlooked. A huge variety and abundance of species live alongside us in towns. City parks and gardens are a fantastic resource that is free, local and available for us all to enjoy. However, there are also numerous small random patches of 'wildness' in any urban area. Wildlife is always keen to invade our built landscapes and share the environment we have created. There is an unstoppable momentum in plants to rapidly colonise every nook and cranny.

Photo: © S. Frith



There are 4 good reasons for plants to be in a town or city:

Photo: © S. Frith



Bluebells in woodland at Sunnydale Park Derby

1. They were there first:

All towns and cities have remnant habitat, wild spaces that have been there for centuries, be it a meadow, a wood, a single tree or an old hedgerow, and the urban development simply surrounded it.

Photo: © S. Frith



This site near Chesterfield has metal-rich soils toxic to most plants, but being colonized by spring sandwort, known locally as 'leadwort'.

2. The new environment mimics the natural world:

A wall (particularly an old one with lime mortar) can be seen as an imitation cliff face; a pile of rubble is similar to scree; a newly dug allotment or garden recreates a natural event such as a landslip, a fallen tree or erosion exposing the soil. Plants don't distinguish if the conditions are right. Walls are said to be 10% of the area habitable by plants and animals in urban areas – a fantastic resource often going unnoticed. An Exeter survey revealed over 100 species in just 2 hours in the overlooked gaps, cracks, pavements and walls of the city.

3. Some plants are particularly good at spreading from the habitats they are in

For example ponds don't last long in ecological terms; filling up, drying out and giving way to marsh and eventually dry land. Pond plants and animals have to be able to 'hitch a lift' and try somewhere else.

Many new ponds dug in wildlife sites within Derby have been wisely left to colonise naturally with no deliberate additions of plants or animals. All have done so, astonishingly well in most cases. Some new ponds have had the first arrival of water beetles within hours – how do they do that? Other insects including dragonflies and some water plants turn up in summer. It isn't quite by magic, as it appears to be, as plant seeds may be carried by ducks, swallows and house martins stopping by for a snack, or by amphibians, who can travel up to 1 kilometre over land.

Photo: © S. Frith



Ploughman's spikenard, The Sanctuary, Derby



Photo: © S. Frith

A male palmate newt - widespread in Derbyshire but not very common in Derby City.

4. Early colonisers

Derelict sites – for example, old tips, former railway lines and industrial sites, or in fact any bulldozed area – gravestones, old cracked concrete and roof tiles are ideal blank canvases for plants adapted to colonizing bare ground, including algae, lichen, mosses and annuals.



Don't mow me. Long grassy areas in urban areas can become favourite habitats for pollinators – and children!



Bee orchid at Chellaston Brickworks

Cities almost invite wildlife in, partly because they provide slightly higher temperatures than the surrounding countryside. This means more food for birds and mammals and an earlier start to the growing season for plants.

Some wildflowers, like the oddly named ploughman's spikenard can grow on almost any open stony ground, including recently cleared land. It is flourishing on the Sanctuary bird reserve in Derby city. It is an old medicinal herb, the word 'spikenard' meaning aromatic ointment.

Poppies famously flourish on old battlefield and bombsites. Their seeds can live for 100 years, so they can appear in the most unexpected places if land is cleared and simply left.

If only we could learn not to treat plants popping up all over as weeds, and to resist the temptation to spray them and tidy up. If only more people could think of long grass in their town as more of a fine place for wildflowers and butterflies to live, for mice to hide and for owls to hunt rather than as an untidy mess.

When we stop seeing native wild plants as enemies of neatness and actually help them, we can significantly improve the biodiversity of the places where people live, work and play. For example, there is awareness lately that not all road verges, entire parks and open public spaces have to be mown all over so frequently. There is huge potential in road verges and other managed areas for wildflowers and their pollinators to flourish.

If we go a step further and draw up long-term plans with a specific emphasis on improving biodiversity and make a commitment to manage places for the benefit of nature, fantastic wildlife areas can be created. Some incredible Local Nature Reserves on former tips, contaminated land or industrial sites include Chesterfield's Avenue Washlands, and Chellaston Brickworks, Darley and Nutwood, and the Sanctuary in Derby. In less enlightened times all these sites might have become developed and/or made inaccessible, but instead are a resource for all to enjoy, so very much needed in these difficult times.



Pyramidal orchids at Darley and Nutwood LNR and early purple orchid at Sinfin Moor, Derby.



GREAT CRESTED NEWTS

– more than just the scourge of developers

Dr Scott McKenzie Living Rivers Programme Manager

It's springtime in Derbyshire. The nights are drawing out and three layers of knitwear are no longer essential attire. Nature, too, is throwing off the shackles of those long, cold, winter days. Sure, the snowdrops and celandines have made their presence known and the birds have started puffing out their chests and shouting at their neighbours, but I'd like to draw your attention underwater. Our ponds are starting to receive an influx of prehistoric-looking visitors.

During April and May great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*) are making their way from their hibernation grounds to their breeding ponds. Shine a torch into a pond at night and you may spot one – suspended in the water – as if playing musical statues. Then, with a flick of its tail, it disappears into the darkness.

Great crested newts are the largest of the UK's three native newt species – reaching up to 15cm in length and having a dark and

warty appearance. Once widespread across the country, their ranges have shrunk due to the usual suspects of agricultural intensification and habitat fragmentation and loss, some areas of Derbyshire have lost over 78% of their field ponds. Consequently, they have European protected species status, which helps to safeguard existing populations from further decline. As they are a protected species, it's important to remember you must not touch or disturb them if you are lucky enough to find them. Nor must you damage their habitat.

FUN FACT – The patterns on the bellies of each newt is unique – like a vivid orange and black fingerprint.



Great Crested Newt. Photo: © Philip Pecey

Whilst they may be perceived as aquatic organisms, newts spend much of their time on land in tussocky grassland, marshes and even woodlands, hunting for invertebrates. For such a small and slow-moving creature they have a surprising range. They can travel up to 1km from their breeding ponds to find food and shelter (though usually only up to 200m) – so the habitat surrounding ponds is as important to the newts as the ponds themselves. Newts will spend spring and summer in and around their breeding ponds before wandering off to find somewhere appropriate to hibernate for the winter – beneath logs, under walls, in animal burrows and, more controversially, railway sidings! Providing a pile of logs or stone in your garden is therefore a great way to keep newts happy all year round.

What makes a good great crested newt pond? Firstly, it will not contain fish – whilst koi carp may look pretty in your pond they will simply devour the eggs and efts (juvenile newts). Marginal and aquatic vegetation is also vital for the newt life cycle. Females lay up to 200 individual white gelatinous eggs on the leaves of these pond plants, then fold them over to form a protective envelope. Look out for this tell-tale sign on plants such as water forget-me-not – a particular favourite for great crested newts.

So, you've ventured out at night and spotted a newt in your pond or turned over a rock in your garden and discovered one curled up tightly – like a tiny dormant dragon. Before thinking "Hooray, we have great crested newts!" there are a few things to consider.... Are they definitely great crested newts?! Don't be fooled into thinking that just because the newt has a crest, it's a great crested newt! Our smooth newts also have a crest during breeding season – but this species are much smaller (about 10cm) – and, as their name suggests, smooth. The great crested males will also have a silver flash along their tail during the breeding season, which smooth newts lack.

But what if you don't have a garden pond?! Where can you see great crested newts then?! Firstly, why do you not have a pond?! Build one! They're great! Secondly, worry not, there are some great sites across Derbyshire for this species. Hotspots include Bee's Nest Claypits in the White Peak which is a Special Area of Conservation specifically for great crested newts. Our Avenue Washlands reserve in Chesterfield – once one of the most polluted sites in western Europe – also supports a strong population. Elsewhere there are populations at Arkwright Town Reclamation site,



Killamarsh and Rother Valley Country Park. Moving further south in the county, Elvaston Country Park, Hilton Gravel Pits, Willington power station and sites around Swadlincote all support this protected species. Within Derby City, there are established populations around Mickleover, Chellaston, Elvaston and Sinfin – the Sinfin Depot tank has been known to support great crested newts for around 30 years.

Great crested newts rarely receive good press. They are often used as a scapegoat for delays in development or a "crippling" example of environmental "red tape". Indeed, in the summer of 2020 even Boris Johnson had a pop at them, claiming, "Newt-counting delays are a massive drag on the prosperity of this country", whilst providing no evidence to support this. Again, it's worth noting this species is the warty newt – so not even conservationists put them in the best light.

So let's change their reputation and give our warty friends a chance. The best way of doing that is conserving what we already have. Unfortunately, large development projects (including HS2) pose a significant threat to many breeding sites – for example, around Swadlincote, Chesterfield, Bolsover and Cinderhill. Derbyshire has many pockets of great crested newt ponds – but these are often fragmented. Pond creation is an important way of linking and expanding these populations and increasing their distribution across the landscape. A potential positive to come out of recent changes to planning policy is the introduction of District Licensing and the potential to create new wetlands through Biodiversity Net Gain which should start providing new habitat for great crested newts. We will be keeping a watchful eye on how this process progresses and how it benefits wildlife.

It is also likely that this species is under-recorded – therefore your sightings are extremely valuable in establishing the distribution of great crested newts across the county. So this spring, shine a light in your pond and let us know what you find!



MAKING A CHANGE CAMPAIGNING

Danielle Brown
Mobilisation Manager

Do you feel strongly about an issue affecting your local area? Ever wondered what it takes to start a campaign? How a group of people come together and create change? This article will ask some basic campaigning questions and perhaps inspire you to start your own.

What is a campaign?

A campaign is when a group of people work together in an organised and active way towards a goal. This can range from improving your local environment, such as protecting a green space, or it could be saving a valuable service, such as your local library or it could even be to influence or change local and national policy.

In wildlife terms, campaigns are collective and sustained efforts toward a specific outcome and should inspire people to take further action, in addition to helping to protect green spaces and the wildlife surrounding them.

On page 26 you will see how one family brought a community together, by raising awareness and helping to save not only green spaces and the wildlife surrounding them, but making their community a safer place to live.

Why campaign?

Campaigning is one of the key ways that change happens today. Campaigning has been a core part of holding the powerful to account, and changing the way our society works for centuries. A great recent example of that is the 'End child food poverty' petition that Marcus Rashford started, gathering over 1,109,000 signatures which was enough support for it to be debated in Parliament. This resulted in the government U-turning and on the 8th of November 2020 the Government announced a comprehensive support package to help families through winter and beyond.

But it's not just celebrities that can start or create a successful campaign. Anyone can be a campaigner; all you need to do is want to change something. All over the world everyday people are campaigning for things they believe in. In fact, throughout history, some of the biggest changes have happened because of a group of passionate people who work together to bring about change.

The power is in your hands, if you feel passionately about a cause then why not start your own campaign?

Preparing a campaign

Five key questions to consider when thinking about starting a campaign:

1. What is it that you want to campaign about? Be clear about the issues involved and what you want your campaign to achieve.
2. Do others want the same as you? It would be very hard to make a successful campaign about an issue that only affects you, e.g., a campaign to stop litter being dropped in your garden is unlikely to get many other people on board compared to a campaign to stop litter in your whole street or neighborhood.
3. Do you really know your issue? Read up on the background, key stakeholders, relevant legislation and council or government policy. Showing those you are trying to influence that you are well informed will mean that they are more likely to listen and respond to you.
4. Are you committed to it? Running a successful campaign may take up your time, test your perseverance and mean that you have to deal with people who disagree with you.
5. Are you realistic about what you want to achieve? It is often better to start small. For example, campaigning for a small amount of money to redecorate your local community centre has more chance of being considered than asking for a large sum of money to knock it down and build a new one.

Setting up a campaign

It is important to get a core group of committed people together to help you organize the campaign. This way you will have lots of resources and skills to draw upon, and support when needed. You also need to decide on the best way to communicate your campaign to those you want to influence.

Organize a petition

This is one of the most simple and effective ways to demonstrate the level of support for your campaign. With the permission of local shops and businesses, you can have copies for people to sign in your local area. You can create a free online petition at Change.org

Gathering support

The more people you have on board the more your campaign will have to be taken seriously. There are several ways of gaining supporters:

- Set up a Facebook group: this is the simplest and most effective way to share your message and gather support
- If you can, get the local or national media to run a story on your campaign which will help you reach thousands of people.

So, what are you waiting for? Get involved! Why not sign a petition that supports something you believe in, or start your very own campaign today and help make a change that will benefit wildlife on your doorstep!

Don't forget to tell us what you're up to at enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk



Taking Action for Wildlife



We invited Allison Briers to talk us through her Lock Lane Campaign to highlight how a local community can be mobilised to take action for wildlife and make a big difference

Sawley, a small village tucked within the Borough of Erewash, in south east Derbyshire has been home for 47 years to Allison and her family. During that time, they have continued to protect and look after key green spaces vital to the community of Sawley.

During the 1970s Sawley experienced localized dust pollution, and they soon discovered that Lock Lane Ash Tip was responsible. Allison's father, Ken, led a successful campaign to get the tip closed. Progress was slow but the council eventually announced it was to instate public amenities

on this disused site, including football pitches, a 9-hole golf course and cricket pitches, a nature reserve, a park and a picnic area. In addition to this, an area of that land was sold privately, and in 1991 a private Golf Club opened.

The nature reserve and meadow (Sawley's only wildflower meadow) were left to grow from strength to strength through the 90s, 00s and 2010s. Allison has visited the site daily, watching the wildlife thrive, nesting tawny owls, redwings, woodpeckers, fieldfare, and even a family of badgers.



In June 2019 things were about to threaten the nature reserve's oasis and tranquillity. One day, during her daily visit, Allison noticed some of the burrows and dens had been deliberately blocked, and a rabbit and fox were found shot dead on the nature reserve. A local came forward and reported a gunman had been found on the golf course the day before, with an instruction to "get rid of the wildlife".

In Dec 2019 Erewash Borough Council (EBC) shared details about areas of the borough and their suitability for housing. One of these sites, a greenbelt land north of Lock Lane was included as being a preferred option for 318 large luxury homes as part of the local plan. It was the 27ha golf course. This would

seriously impact the health of the adjoining nature reserve.

With the news that Sawley's precious wildlife was under threat, Allison set out to rally the troops and began campaigning to save Sawley's green spaces from development. The Facebook group Save Lock Lane Nature Reserve was launched and within a week over 600 people joined. This support highlighted how important this small habitat was to its residents.

The local Parish Council soon noticed the Facebook group and got in touch to support the campaign. They set up a Change.org petition. The Derby Evening Telegraph also noticed the group and ran a story on the campaign.

Community litter picking



Allison Briers at lock lane

The campaign group organised information sessions for locals to come along and sign the petition and find out more about the proposal. They even went door-knocking around the streets. It quickly became apparent that hardly anyone had seen the announcement, as locals were devastated to hear the news.

Allison compiled a report detailing the reasons why the land would be unsuitable for development and the report was taken to the local council's planning department. Allison invited them down to the nature reserve, showing them the onsite flora and fauna along with footage from her wildlife camera.

In early 2020 the campaign gathered momentum in preparation for the public consultation event. Door-knocking and information sessions continued, and a protest march was planned for the spring.

Allison attended a mobilisation training session at the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust head

office. One of the key activities was to get in touch with local councillors, so, armed with this new information, Allison collected councillor data from the EBC website, updated her report and sent a copy to each councillor. Many replied, some sympathetic, some neutral.

Members of the group started to come forward with expertise and knowledge. Local historians shared stories about how the site used to be a boating lake, and how there were some cottages with an orchard. Nature enthusiasts advised about an old flint mine. A natural historian shared an image showing how the original path of the River Trent was moved, and how the ancient palaeochannels are seriously close to the proposed development. Sharing memories and knowledge has shown to be a very effective way of mobilising people!



Unfortunately Covid hit and a national lockdown was announced, so all of the activities were placed on hold. This made it incredibly hard to access the services that were needed, such as the microfiche at the library, and the surveys the group had planned were not possible before the planning consultancy period was due to end. This did not deter Allison and the campaign group, who continued to share information to support people in writing their objections to the plans. In July the group had over 3000 signatures and hundreds of objections had been sent to EBC.

The decision regarding Lock Lane has been postponed again until after the local elections in May this year but the social media campaign continues. The Facebook group has now got over 1000 members! The group rallies around, litter picking, fixing, tidying and reporting sightings.

The strength of the campaign is that people have many different reasons for objecting but they came together. For some, like Allison, its natural history, for others its infrastructure, for others still it's traffic concerns. Not everyone agreed with each other, but it doesn't matter. They have one common goal, and they respect each other's personal fight.

 To join this group see [/savelocklanenaturereserve](https://www.facebook.com/savelocklanenaturereserve)





SWIFTS IN THE HEART OF DERBY

Nick Brown Swift Project Manager

While swallows are exclusively rural birds, swifts, by contrast, often nest right in the heart of our cities, and Derby city is no exception.

Swifts lead very different lives to swallows too.

They only ever land when they are accessing their nests so you will never see them on telegraph wires or trees. Indeed, so aerial are they that they feed, drink, sleep, preen and even mate on the wing, only touching down as they approach their nests!

They are bigger than swallows and martins, and unlike them, are dark underneath. The only white on them is a tiny patch on their chins.

The other distinguishing feature of these charismatic birds is their screaming calls as they fly in small group low above our rooftops.

Swifts are very late returning from their winter quarters in Africa. It is not until the second week of May that the bulk return and by the end of July, most will have left once more.

They nest inside buildings, usually gaining access through tiny gaps in the mortar behind guttering or sometimes under tiles. The speed with which they enter and leave makes it hard to locate nest sites but if you have swifts flying at low levels over your house or street, then you can be pretty sure that they are nesting somewhere nearby.

Survey work in Derby has shown that they nest in several inner city areas, as well as in suburbs such as Chaddesden and Alvaston. Often they choose older building stock, including social housing.

The Derbyshire Swift Conservation Project, which began in 2014, attempts to encourage individuals and corporates to make provision for swifts by installing special swift nest boxes. It has also engaged with the city council's social housing agency, Derby Homes (DH). DH has some 13,000 tenanted properties in the city and a rolling programme of renovation involving putting new roofs on, new cladding, soffits etc all of which threaten to block up those small gaps in the mortar which swifts use to get into their nests inside.

Last summer, the project was alerted to a big DH re-roofing programme already underway in Chaddesden. Some houses were already scaffolded and roofs were being ripped off – and this in an area where we knew swifts were nesting.

By contacting staff at DH, as well as speaking to the roofers on site, we established a good working relationship such that work on properties where we knew or suspected swifts were nesting would either be halted or not started until after the breeding season.

Swift. Photo: JP Cornuet



Swift. Photo: David Naylor

At one house where a pair of swifts was definitely nesting, despite scaffolding being in place and re-roofing being due to start any day, the tenants were happy that their new roof would be delayed by a couple of months to enable the chicks to fledge.

In a nearby street, we managed to delay work of a number of houses where we were sure swifts were nesting also. And we were delighted when DH agreed to buy and install 34 double nest boxes supplied by Peakboxes, a small company based in Hathersage which makes excellent boxes at reasonable prices.

We also managed to get lists of streets and house numbers where DH intend to work over the following year. This enabled us to tour round all the streets and assess whether swifts were nesting or were likely to be nesting, and to report back on the understanding that any house in a 'swift nesting street' would not be worked on in summer 2021 and that nest boxes would be installed where possible.

Back in 2014, we contacted Derby Homes for the first time over a new build in Sinfin. The house in question had been burned down in a terrible fire but after consultation with the community, it was decided to put up new housing in its place. The neighbours next door have at least one pair of swifts nesting and were sure that the house that was destroyed also had swifts, so they pressurised Derby Homes to build new swift nest boxes into the walls of the new build to compensate for the loss.

The swift project also helped with this and suggested the best type of (internal) nest box available on the market. Two were purchased and installed in the block walls. Once the walls had been rendered, only the small entrance holes were visible – something the architects were happy to accept.

Beyond Derby, much has happened in the county to help swifts.

A few local groups have been set up, for example in Hathersage, Bradwell and Chaddesden, specifically to promote swift conservation and many individuals have put nest boxes on their houses, both in towns and in the countryside, in an effort to reverse the fortunes of this declining bird.



Swift with bolus. Photo: Nick Truby



How you can help swifts



If you would like to learn more about swifts email swifts@derbyshirewt.co.uk to be added to the emailing list for a series of newsy 'Swift Updates' and to access free advice about where and how to install swift nest boxes and where to report swift nest sites.

Working together for wildlife

50/50 Club winners

Congratulations to recent winners!
Margaret Taylor, Elaine Selkirk, Eileen White, Mrs Margaret Howe, Christine Berry, Mrs Blanche Maclean, Mrs J M Edwards, Ms Anne Rice, Marion Rider, Maveen Norton, Peter Date and Dr Graham Brodie.

Feeling lucky?

The Wild Dreams 50/50 club raises funds which will be paid to a Landfill Operator to release Landfill Communities Fund monies for Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. Please note that these funds are not eligible for Gift Aid. The funds could generate 10 times their worth.

To join at just £12 per year please fill out the form below and send a cheque (made payable to Wild Dreams) to the Trust office or complete our online form at:

www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/raffles-and-clubs

Name (s)

Address

.....

Telephone number Email address

Number of subscriptions at £12 each Total amount enclosed

Because of you

The Trust is very lucky to receive funding from a number of grant-making trusts who are supportive of our work. We are also grateful to the many members of the public, our local groups and businesses who help us by hosting donations boxes, as well as the many activities and events that raise funds for the Trust, all of which are very valuable sources of income for us.

A big thank you to Big Wild Thought who donate 10% of every sale of their badger merchandise to us.



In memory of



We would like to show our deep appreciation to families who have sent us "Gifts In Memory" donations. If you would like to know more about how to remember a loved-one through a donation, please send an email to: enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk



To make a donation, please visit: derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/donate

Working in PARTNERSHIP

We work with businesses across all our living landscapes in different ways, from supporting the delivery of community projects to managing land for wildlife, with a lot going on in between! We love working with all our Corporate Partners as we believe that together we can enable a greener recovery for Derbyshire.



If your business would like to get involved, please get in touch with Anita Darashah-Borman, our Philanthropy Manager. Email adarashah@derbyshirewt.co.uk

We are proud to be working in partnership with:

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| | Nestle Waters | |



Citizen Science at Willington



Watervole. Photo: Andrew Woodhouse

George Bird
– Living Landscape Officer

What is Citizen Science?

Carried out partly or solely by amateur scientists, citizen science is a great way to carry out scientific research. The support of these volunteers increases our capacity to carry out work and research, whilst in return we provide training and opportunities for the public to increase their understanding of and involvement in the science of wildlife.

Unfortunately we have found that even those living in close proximity to nature reserves and wild spaces can still feel disconnected from nature and their local landscapes. Therefore we want to involve the community as much as possible with our project. Monitoring forms a major part of all the work that we do, and our beaver reintroduction project highlights this. The careful study of the reserve pre and post beaver release will allow us to assess the impacts of beaver activity. To open up our project we reached out to our current members and volunteers, the local community, and local interest groups in the hopes of generating a beaver volunteer team.

Volunteers are vital to the functioning of the Trust; they allow us to continue to carry out our amazing work across Derbyshire, and to support projects and campaigns across the UK. With a broad spectrum of skills, expertise, knowledge, and experience, our volunteers take on a number of roles within every department at the Trust.

Where are we now?

We have generated a great deal of interest and support at Willington, which has enabled us to develop an amazing and growing volunteer base. The first steps of our monitoring plan was to map out the reserve in order to assess the current conditions. Whilst doing this by ground is common practice, we have taken a novel approach to this, and have taken to the skies! We are fortunate enough to have drone pilots on our volunteer team. Utilising their expertise, we are mapping out the reserve, creating incredibly detailed images of the whole reserve. From these images we can look at how the reserve is changing, from the extent of open water, to habitat composition, to vegetation structure. Once the beavers have settled in we will be able to use these images to find beaver lodges and dams, so stay tuned.

Feet back on the ground, we have a small team equipped with camera traps and enthusiasm, working rain or shine. The camera traps are placed at strategic points on the reserve in order to capture the more secretive wildlife found at Willington. All the footage has to be viewed individually, recording anything captured. Take 5 cameras, each with over 30 videos, with some well into the mid-hundreds, and each lasting for 20 seconds, this adds up to a lot of work. However, reviewing footage of otter, water vole and bittern make this very rewarding.

Fixed point photography is another tool for assessing habitat change: at key points on the reserve, our team of photographers have installed a series of posts, which allows 360-degree images to be captured monthly. As with the drone maps, these images can and will be compared to record any changes on the reserve.

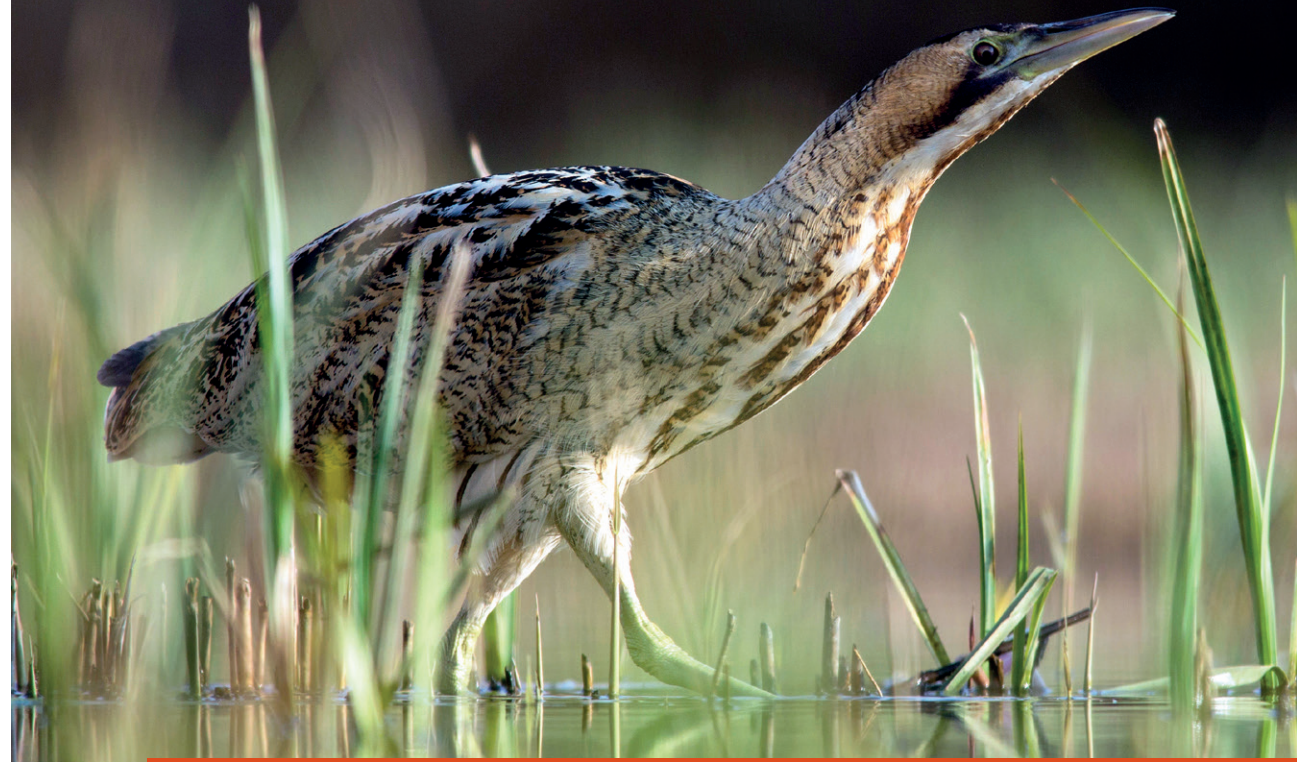
Next steps

We already have a great volunteer base, but this is just the beginning. We still have a lot more to do and are always looking for more help. Sifting through camera trap footage is very time consuming and we are therefore developing a system for the public to view our footage online and record what they see. This will enable volunteers to sit down at home and check our camera footage for any exciting sightings.

Andrea Ford, a local ecologist, reached out to us to offer her time and expertise to take the lead on invertebrate monitoring within the brooks found on reserve. As part of this Andrea will be training a team of local wildlife enthusiasts giving them the skills and knowledge to carry out sampling and data capture. This will enable us to assess any changes brought about through beaver activities in, on and next to the brooks. We still wanted to create a larger reach, and to work other

organisations, and therefore we contacted local and national interest groups, including Butterfly Conservation, Derbyshire Bat Group, and British Dragonfly Society. The offer of support has been 100% positive, with all groups on board to lead on the monitoring of their interest groups. This year we will be developing our monitoring protocols with all of the groups and setting up training days to enable even more people to get involved in our exciting project, from counting butterflies and dragonflies, to pond dipping.

All of this monitoring is going to be generating vast amounts of data, which will be collected via different groups and individuals, which could lead to headaches when processing data. We are fortunate to have amazing Data Analytics and Derbyshire Biological Records Centre Officers, in addition to a team of tech-savvy volunteers, who are creating a standardised method of data collection, storage and analysis.



Bittern. Photo: © Jamie Hall



Would you like to get involved?

If you feel like you have any skills you would like to offer to the Trust, or simply would like to get involved in the beaver project or any other aspect of the work that we do, please forward your interest to: volunteering@derbyshirewt.co.uk. All necessary training can be provided.

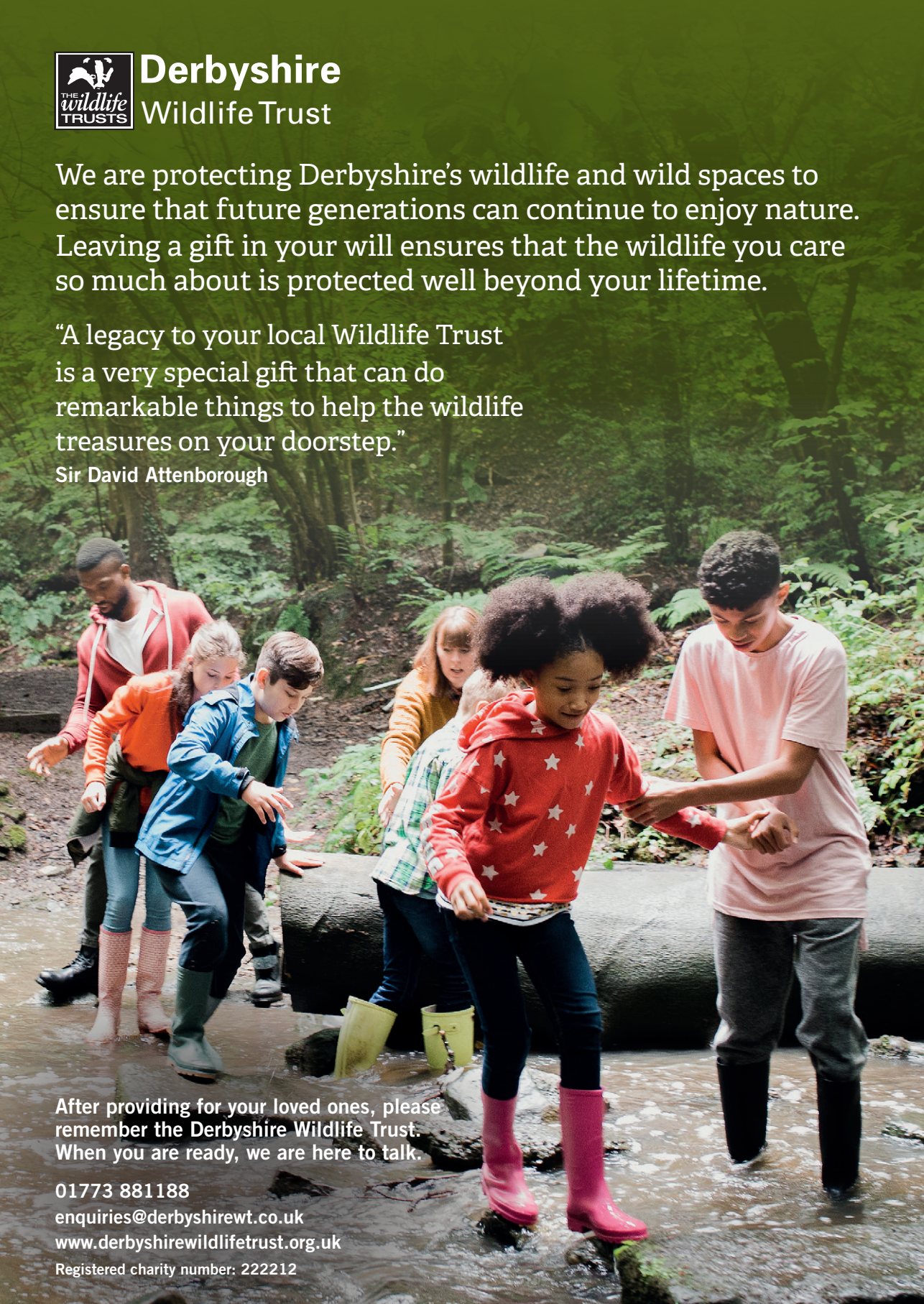


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"A legacy to your local Wildlife Trust is a very special gift that can do remarkable things to help the wildlife treasures on your doorstep."

Sir David Attenborough



After providing for your loved ones, please remember the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. When you are ready, we are here to talk.

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