



DERBYSHIRE



Derbyshire
Wildlife Trust



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**Professor
Paul Lynch**

Chair of the Derbyshire
Wildlife Trust Board of
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On the cover

Badger © Terry Whittaker 2020VISION

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Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

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www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

WELCOME

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's Annual AGM next month at the amazing Museum of Making in Derby marks my first year as Chair of the Board of Trustees.

What a year it has been! Our 60th birthday has been marked by beavers returning to Derbyshire, released at our Willington Reserve and with two kits already, Allestree Park becoming the UK's largest urban rewilding project and the purchase of land to extend our Rose End Meadows...all thanks to our members and supporters.

Fundamental to Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is the ongoing incredible work of our volunteers who support so many of the Trust's activities. Helping us to take care of our reserves, supporting our shops and, importantly, helping us engage with the diversity of communities across Derbyshire, which is vital if we are going to achieve our goal of 1 in 4 people to be inspired to care and act for nature.

The Board of Trustees are also volunteers. Their skills and experience ensuring the Trust meets legal and governance responsibilities and working with our CEO Jo Smith and fantastic staff team support our strategic development and delivery.

It is the effectiveness of teamwork across the Trust which over its last 60 years has made it a primary force for nature across Derbyshire and will continue to drive the delivery of its ambitious strategy for a Wilder Derbyshire.

So, a huge thank you to all our members, supporters, volunteers and staff.

FEATURES

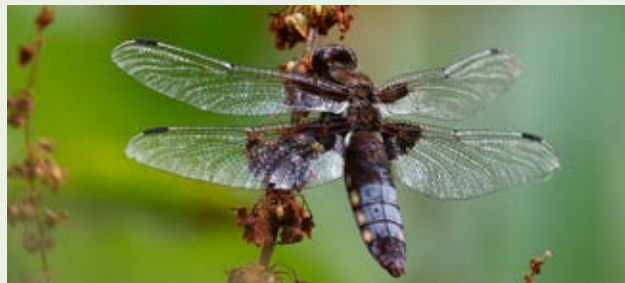
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SPOTTED

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

Swifts – Loscoe, Heanor

Photo: July 2022 © Robert Booth



Male broad-bodied chaser – Kedleston

Photo: July 2022 © Kevin Morris



Small copper butterfly – Hilton Nature Reserve

Photo: July 2022 © Rob Golding

Female banded demoiselle damselfly – Drakelow

Photo: July 2022 © John Portwood



Fox – Stainsby, Chesterfield

Photo: August 2022 © Josh Padley



Water rail

Photo: July 2022 © Maggie Campbell



DAM CUTE NEWS! Beaver kits born at Willington

The 800-year wait is over! The first beaver kits to be born in Derbyshire since the 13th century have been welcomed to Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's Willington Wetlands Reserve. Following the licensed release of beavers at Willington in 2021, one pair have now bred, and the first beaver kits have been sighted.

During the months running up to the kits sighting, we observed the beavers settling down in a lodge (a beaver's family home made from sticks and mud), grooming one another and caching extra food, which were all positive signs of them being a well-established pair. And it wasn't long before the new additions were captured on camera.

Beaver and kits © Mike Symes



Our team, partners and volunteers have all worked incredibly hard to create a safe and welcoming environment for them, so discovering kits is a dream come true. The little balls of fluff cannot yet dive for themselves, so for now their parents have to literally jump on them to help them get under the water due to the buoyancy of their fur! The growing beaver families will play a big part in making Derbyshire wilder, helping to manage the landscape within the Trent Valley.

For more information see: www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/about/projects/all-about-beavers

'All aboard' our newly refurbished Whistlestop classroom!



Whistlestop TV and Mural

The interior has been re-decorated with a fresh, modern design with newly built integrated storage, a 65-inch television that can be used for presentations and teaching, and a new kitchen area that enables users to prepare their own refreshments or serve catering provided by the neighbouring Whistlestop Café. The outdoor space has also been enhanced with additional seating and a new mud kitchen for children.

We have completed a £10,000 project to modernise our facility at Matlock Bath Railway Station and make it a space for all to use.

The project, funded with £5,000 from East Midlands Railway and match-funded with £5,000 from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, has seen the space transformed from a dated children's classroom into a modern and well-equipped learning and event space for all ages.

The aim is to encourage individuals, youth groups, businesses, voluntary and community organisations across Derby and Derbyshire to use the facility, which is easily reached by train.

To find out more about hiring the Whistlestop Classroom and catering options, please contact Shaun Smith, Visitor Centre Manager ssmith@derbyshirewt.co.uk.

RADICAL STEPS REQUIRED TO HELP NATURE ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN ORDER TO SURVIVE.

The Wildlife Trusts' first climate risk assessment, *Changing Nature*, examines the impacts of the changing climate across their estate.

The report assesses the risks and looks ahead at what is needed to help nature adapt and survive in the future. The findings come at a time when the UK is already one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world.

The research finds that, by the 2050s, under a future warming trajectory that reaches 3°C warming by 2100:

- Half of The Wildlife Trusts' nature reserves will have 30+ days of very high fire risk yearly
- Almost all reserves will see more than 1°C increase on hot summer days by 2050
- 55% of reserves will see nearby river flows drop by more than 30% during times of low flow

The report shows how extreme weather is already affecting many Wildlife Trust reserves, including:

- **Wildfires** – have destroyed valuable and rare habitats, affecting the availability of food for wildlife, and costing huge amounts of time and money
- **Flooding** – has impacted wildlife, damaged infrastructure, and increased river pollution
- **Droughts** – have lowered the water table on wetland nature reserves, dried out chalk streams and peat bogs, and concentrated pollution in rivers

The full report can be read: www.wildlifetrusts.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/AdaptationReport.pdf



© iStock

If we're really going to help nature thrive and tackle climate change though, we need to be bigger and bolder. We want to see increased effort from governments, business, and other landowners on climate adaptation, including greater investment in nature-based solutions and a specific focus on resilience.



LEGAL PROTECTIONS EDGE ENGLAND CLOSER TOWARDS WILD BEAVER RETURN

Defra has announced new legislation that will provide legal protections for beavers in England and could pave the way for the animals to be released into the wild under licence.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust welcome the protections for 'nature's engineers', calling for sensible management guidance and incentives for landowners to make space for beavers on their land.

Beavers are key to creating thriving wetland ecosystems – which are critical for climate adaptation – and provide a wealth of benefits for nature and people.

The change in legal status – scheduled to come into force in the autumn – will make it an offence to deliberately capture, kill, disturb, or injure beavers, or to damage their breeding sites or resting places without holding the appropriate licence.

In parallel, Natural England is developing guidance on the management of beavers, setting out which actions will or will not require a licence, and where people can go for advice.

The Wildlife Trusts urge the Government to:

- **Support ambitious and carefully targeted reintroduction projects**
- **Reward landowners who make space for wetlands created by beavers**
- **Develop management systems that protect beavers and resolve issues effectively**
- **Support local beaver management groups to deliver advice and assistance**

Beavers are a 'keystone species' and have a highly positive impact on their environment. The industrious herbivores are native to mainland Britain but were hunted to extinction in the 16th century by people who wanted their fur, meat, and scent glands. The end of beavers led to the loss of the mosaic of lakes, meres, mires, tarns, and boggy places that they were instrumental in creating.

For more information on The Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's beaver reintroduction project, visit: <https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/about/projects/all-about-beavers>

SHARING SPACES

WITH NATURE

Allestree Park

Katherine Clarke, Strategic Lead – Urban Rewilding

As we approach the end of summer, the sun is lower, the air is cooler, children are back at school and students have returned to college. And still, Allestree Park is buzzing. Buzzing with the sound of excited toddlers exploring the long grass, parents chatting on a nearby bench and couples taking a stroll around the lake. Allestree Park is as busy as it has ever been, but something is slowly changing.

The once mown grasses are waving in the wind, tree saplings are pushing through the grass on the woodland edges; the first signs of a wilder park are emerging. Nature doesn't wait for decisions and handshakes. Whilst discussions between Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and Derby City Council continue, nature, with no need of an invitation, is beginning to rewild Allestree Park, gently and thoughtfully and

with its own long-term plan. A plan which fits nicely with our vision for a Wilder Derbyshire.

With a goal of 33% of Derbyshire managed for wildlife by 2030, we aim to deliver part of this through urban rewilding – seeing wilder towns and cities abundant with wildlife, and nature and people thriving together to lead nature's recovery, address the climate crisis and improve people's health and wellbeing.

Back in April Derbyshire Wildlife Trust presented Derby City Council with 'A Vision for the Urban Rewilding of Allestree Park'. We suggested that rewilding could include the creation of new habitats through minimal intervention, the creation of community orchards and community growing and the reintroduction of key species, such as water vole, harvest mice and tree sparrows.

THE VISION SUGGESTED THREE POSSIBLE REWILDING APPROACHES:

1. Passive Rewilding – letting the park rewild itself with little or no intervention.
2. Community Rewilding – having some intervention to kick start natural processes and enable new habitats to develop more quickly.
3. Commercial Rewilding – requiring significant infrastructure and capital investment.

These proposals were put to the residents of Derby in a 12-week consultation. Using Derby City Council's '**Let's Talk Derby**' consultation platform, people could take part through:

1. An online survey asking for views of the proposals
2. Quick polls updated once a month
3. Ideas board – inviting further ideas
4. Forums – asking for feedback on specific targets
5. Stories – inviting people to share stories of the park

In addition, further engagement was undertaken:

- During walks and talks with DCC Parks Team, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust staff and Friends of Allestree Park.
- Whilst engaging with groups of young people.
- Through delivery of online information and Q&A sessions



© Monica Monticelli

In total, 2,065 participants engaged through the Let's Talk Derby consultation portal from which the key findings were:

- **69.5% of respondents agree supporting nature recovery in the Derby region is the most important priority.**
- **Overwhelmingly, people want the park to be as close to nature as possible.**
- **All proposed habitats were agreed to be included in any rewilding, with wildflowers (89%) as the most popular.**
- **Water vole was the most popular (84%) species proposed for reintroduction.**
- **93% of respondents agreed that it is either very important or important to involve local communities with the rewilding of the park.**
- **Respondents want to see self-led nature trails (87%), wheelchair and wheeled opportunities (73%) and a visitor centre/toilets (70%)**
- **The least popular proposals included glamping/wilderness, adventure experiences (zip wires).**
- **An engagement programme was popular, with most interest in Junior Rangers (69%) and Forest Schools (66%).**
- **89% want to see the Community Rewilding option delivered at Allestree Park.**

In response to the consultation report and in line with our urban rewilding vision, we presented Derby City Council with a Vision for the Community Rewilding of Allestree Park, which we are delighted was agreed at cabinet at the beginning of August. Now the work begins!

Working together with Derby City Council and the University of Derby, the Community Rewilding project will:

- **Create and enhance biodiversity rich habitats.**
- **Introduce key wildlife species.**
- **Maintain and improve current accessibility and enjoyment of the park.**
- **Enable local communities and user groups to be involved in setting the vision for and planning the management of the rewilding project and be involved in the day to day care of the park.**

Dave Winslow has been a Parks Officer for the past 16 years, caring for Derby's parks, green spaces and nature reserves, including Allestree Park. Dave has been instrumental in driving the rewilding project and shares his thoughts with us.

“Upon allowing the grass to grow, the stark contrast between former golf course and nature reserve has softened into one landscape. There is a clear witness to its past use; however, nature is embracing its newfound freedom to roam. During the sunny summer mornings, the reds, oranges and yellows of the longer grasses create a sea of tranquillity that instantly calms the mood. It is wonderful to see families

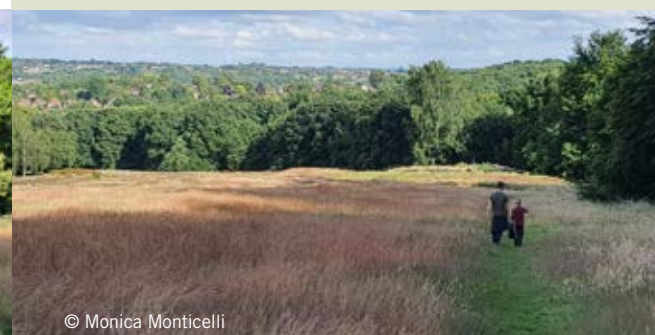
exploring areas once perceived to be off limits and the butterflies bobbing up from their new hiding places.

The messages of support I have received for the rewilding project have been heartening. The depth of feeling towards Allestree Park is strong and of course it belongs to the people of Derby so we need to get the balance right. The consultation was a huge success and engagement in events, presentation and the survey were encouraging. Friends of Allestree Park play a key role as the community guardians of the park and I am very much looking forward to continuing to work alongside them as the vision for a rewilded Allestree Park unfolds.”

For more information on this project see: www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/allestree-park



© Monica Monticelli



© Monica Monticelli



Allestree Park, Summer 2020

LIVING ON THE HEDGE

Andrew Jamieson,
Surrey Wildlife Trust

First light and an early winter mist lies softly on the fields. Along the track the low sun is backlighting frosted cobwebs and the frozen stalks of last summer's hogweed. Redwings and fieldfares, as well as our resident thrushes, take flight from the hedges as I approach. I have interrupted their gorging on a bounty of berries. Sloe, haw, hip and holly are all on the menu, these thorny thickets providing a rich larder for birds that have flocked from harsher climes to spend their winter with us.

Other birds take advantage of these hedges at this time of year, too. At sunset, hundreds of chattering starlings will take up their roosting stations deep within the intricate tangle of shrubs and climbers. Here they are protected from whatever the elements have in store over the long winter nights. Insects in various life stages are also holed-up. Some careful exploration and you may find dormant ladybirds tucked deep into bark crevices or the tiny eggs of the brown hairstreak butterfly lodged in the fork of a blackthorn branch. Meanwhile hidden away at ground level hedgehogs, toads, and newts are using the security of the dense vegetation for their seasonal slumber.

Later in the year our hedge will become a riot of colour, movement and aromatic scents with bees and butterflies visiting the flowers of campion, bramble and honeysuckle. Long-tailed tits, wrens and yellowhammers will be busily raising their broods; shrews and voles will be feeding, sheltering and defending their territories. But all that has yet to unfold, and for now much of life lies waiting.

Thousands of miles of hedgerows such as this criss-cross our country in a familiar and historical patchwork landscape. Rich in wildlife, this network of green highways links the habitats and populations of so many species, all living 'on the hedge'.



Fieldfare
Winter visitors from the semi-arctic regions where they breed, these grey-blue thrushes will often arrive in mixed flocks along with redwings to feed on berries.

Brimstone
One of a handful of UK butterflies that overwinter as adults, tucked away in ivy. They can even be seen flying on sunny days in winter. The caterpillars feed on alder buckthorn.

Hedgehog
Hedgehogs will often choose the base of a thick hedgerow to site their hibernaculum to sleep away the colder months. In milder winters they may be seen out and about as late as December.

House sparrow
Both house sparrows and tree sparrows use dense hedges for roosting spots, protection from predators and even as nest sites when favoured holes and crevices aren't available.

Ivy
This late-flowering evergreen has much to offer wildlife in autumn and winter. Autumn nectar sustains bees, juicy berries feed birds long after other fruits have been snapped up, and dense foliage provides a home for hibernating bats and insects.

Orange ladybird
This distinctive ladybird is among the many insects that hibernate in leaf litter at the base of hedges. Other species of ladybird will be under bark or nestled within thick beds of lichen.

Stoat
These fierce predators are active all year round. They use hedge lines to hunt small rodents and rabbits, although when food is scarce may resort to foraging for earthworms.

Dormouse
Well-managed hedgerows are vital corridors for many species and none more so than the dormouse. As well as a secure hibernation site, the hedge will provide them with many of the fruits, nuts and insects in their diet.

DERBY CITY FOREST

Becky Noakes, Community and Communications Trainee

This summer Derby City Centre has enjoyed a 'green face-lift'

For six weeks the Market Place saw the creation of a new urban woodland, with 125 trees and 300 shrubs installed at the heart of Derby. This new urban forest was part of four urban woodlands designed by Scotscape, leaders in green urban solutions worldwide and most recently notable for their exhibition at COP26 in Glasgow. Derby's urban forest featured as part of the Forest for the Future, a series of events that were held across Derby City Centre, organised by Derby City Council. Organisations, including Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and Down To Earth Derby, were there to raise awareness about the climate crisis, biodiversity and the environment with local residents and visitors.

The urban forest provided an exciting al-fresco entertainment hub to Derby over the summer months, offering visitors a natural arena to take part in events, witness live music and partake in a series of conservation-focused workshops. As part of these events we were there to discuss our plans for a wilder Derby,

our Derwent Connections project and to share our Team Wilder actions!

An urban woodland in the heart of the city centre really helped to showcase the amazing potential Derby has to offer in tackling the climate and ecological emergency. With hundreds of much-loved green spaces across the city from Allestree Park to the Derwent Meadows nature reserve south of the city. These parks will play an important role in tackling the climate and nature crisis by drawing down carbon, helping to reduce flooding and helping create a dynamic landscape capable of supporting a rich and diverse range of habitats from which species can spread.

After the event, the plan is for the 425 trees and shrubs from Derby's urban forest to be rehomed in one of Derby's many parks as part of the ongoing Queens Green Canopy Project, a unique tree planting initiative asking people to plant a tree for the Jubilee.

© Averil Photography

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Danielle Brown, Mobilisation Officer said:

"Derby's urban forest is a fantastic representation of the vision for a greener Derby. The benefits of the urban forest are important for both people and wildlife, ensuring that our urban spaces are a haven for wildlife and provide mental wellbeing and health benefits to the local population."

Team Wilder

If you feel inspired by a greener Derby, the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is working on a number of projects that can support you on this journey. **Check out our Team Wilder pages to see how you can take action for nature: www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/teamwilder**



An interview with TEAM WILDER CHAMPIONS

Kayleigh Wright,
Communications
Assistant

Our Communications Assistant, Kayleigh, took a visit to Chris and Shelia's butterfly haven to hear about their ambitious plans to work with the community to reintroduce rare species of butterfly in Darley Dale.

As soon as I set foot in Chris and Sheila's garden, I was blown away by the colours, textures and many different features. I immediately felt a sense of 'wild' as I walked beside the long grasses and colourful blooms surrounded by bumblebees. It didn't feel like I was just in someone's garden; it felt like I was truly out in nature.

How did it all begin and what inspired you to start your project?

CHRIS: We've always loved butterflies. I then got into recording butterfly transects and that's where it started, which then moved on to looking at how we can make a difference. What we have done here is fantastic as a focal point, but butterflies need a lot of space, and you need corridors and the community involved for it to become feasible.

Our vision and plan is to work with the community to create wildlife corridors for butterflies to travel freely.

The next step is to work with local councils and we have recently had a consultation with Northwood Park to discuss with them how they can become part of the larger wildlife corridor needed.

How have the community reacted to your project?

CHRIS: We had two open days for butterfly conservation and an open day for the community, and everybody who came was enthusiastic. People are taking on board growing elm trees, which are important for the white letter hairstreak colony, which we need to protect.

SHEILA: There are people around here who have got wildlife friendly gardens, particularly with ponds.

CHRIS: Many people around us have ponds, which are one of the best features you can have in your garden to help support a wide range of wildlife. It would be great to connect them to this project and show them other ways they can help insects.

What tools and resources have you used to get you started?

CHRIS: Hands, feet and a big shovel! Derbyshire Wildlife Trust have given us that support and got us involved. Jim Steele, who was from Butterfly Conservation East Midlands, has also been excellent, giving us the thought of what we can do and how practically we can do it. There was a lot of trial and error. For example, you're not supposed to grow kidney vetch here, as it's supposed to be on limestone or chalk, but it does grow here now. These are all experiments and we are carrying on experimenting.



Summer flowers and native grasses 2021.



2004



February 2019



January 2020



2022



Peak Brown Argus © Chris

What can people do to encourage butterflies in their garden?

CHRIS: I would advise people to just think about what they want and what they want to achieve. Look at what plants give them that opportunity to attract butterflies and other wildlife. Even if it's just a pot, you can start small and simple. We'd also like to encourage people to use wildflowers rather than commercial which offer more benefit to insects.

What is your end goal and ultimate dream?

CHRIS: We had a vision on how long it would take and I think we're on track. Then it was increasing the number of butterflies using the haven. The important thing was to have them breeding here. So now I've got 16 species that breed here. We would like to ensure the community is involved and committed to working together and sharing ideas that ultimately lead to creation of sustainable wildlife corridors. More butterflies are going on the red list and so it is crucial we start looking at building these corridors. We would also like to develop a 3-5 year plan to assess the feasibility of introducing suitable species to our butterfly corridors.

Rare butterfly sighting

CHRIS: We spotted this rare butterfly this summer and it has been identified by the experts as Peak Brown Argus. It is only found in the Peaks at a few sites.

I believe this totally vindicates our corridor vision, coupled to rewilding. We are only a small site making a difference.



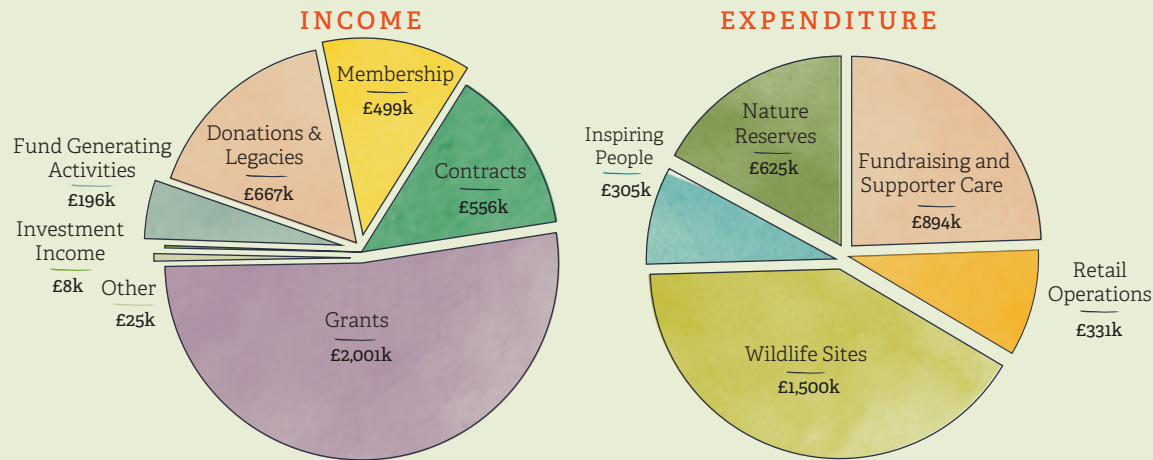
TOGETHER, WE CAN DO IT

Across these page you'll see the impact of our work for nature - made possible by you. From the places saved, wildlife protected or the people inspired & acting for nature. Yet, our natural world is still in trouble. Wildlife is disappearing at an alarming rate & there's a huge threat of climate catastrophe. That is why we're calling for at least 33% of Derbyshire be connected & protected for nature's recovery by 2030.

Join us on that journey: derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/support/join

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2021 - 2022

For full accounts, annual report, trustee list and funders' information, visit: derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/accounts



THE TRUST GROWS TO £5M BY 2025

Increase membership income
 2025 aim: £944,408
 21-22 aim: £596,000
 actual: £499,000



Map highlights areas with highest density of memberships

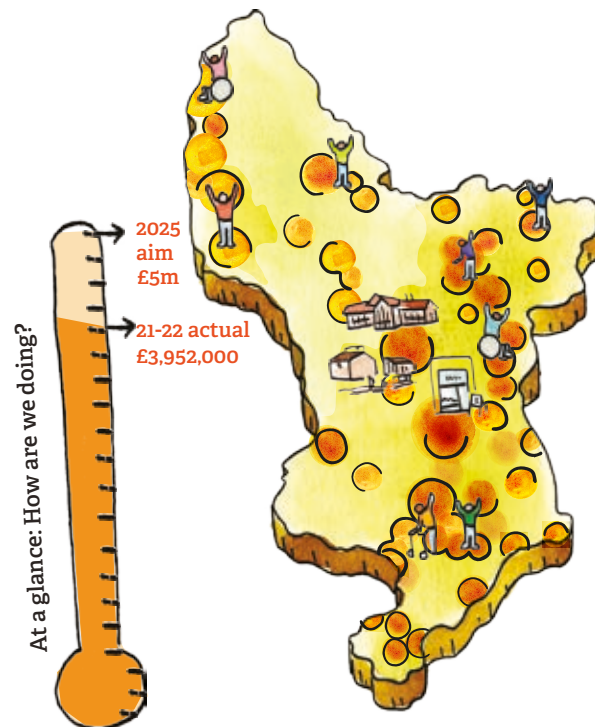
Increase commercial income
 2025 aim: £580,000
 21-22 aim: £289,532
 actual: £195,000



Commercial income

Increase income from all sources
 2025 aim: £5,000,000
 21-22 aim: £4,048,892
 actual: £3,952,000

Key showcases this year's data.
 Map layers data from 2020 onwards to show our impact between 2020-2025



33% OF DERBYSHIRE IS MANAGED FOR WILDLIFE BY 2030

Ha of land we have direct influence over
 2030 aim: 7000 | 21-22 aim: 1400 | actual: 2430ha ↑

We achieve this in two ways, see points 1 & 2
 We are working with RSWT to map this more accurately

1. Total % of land managed for nature in Derbyshire
 2030 aim: 33% | 21-22 aim: 8% | actual: 8% ✓

- DWT Nature Reserves
- Local Wildlife Sites
- SSSI's in favourable condition

2. Ha of new land being rewilded that we have influence over
 2030 aim: 700ha | 21-22 aim: 300ha | actual: 1079ha ↑

Land pledged for rewilding

Successful DWT projects which ensure vulnerable species are in local recovery
 2030 aim: 10 | 21-22 aim: 4 | actual: 3 ↓

- Badgers
- Peregrines
- Water Voles

Number of successful species reintroductions
 2030 aim: 5 | 21-22 aim: 3 | actual: 1 ↓

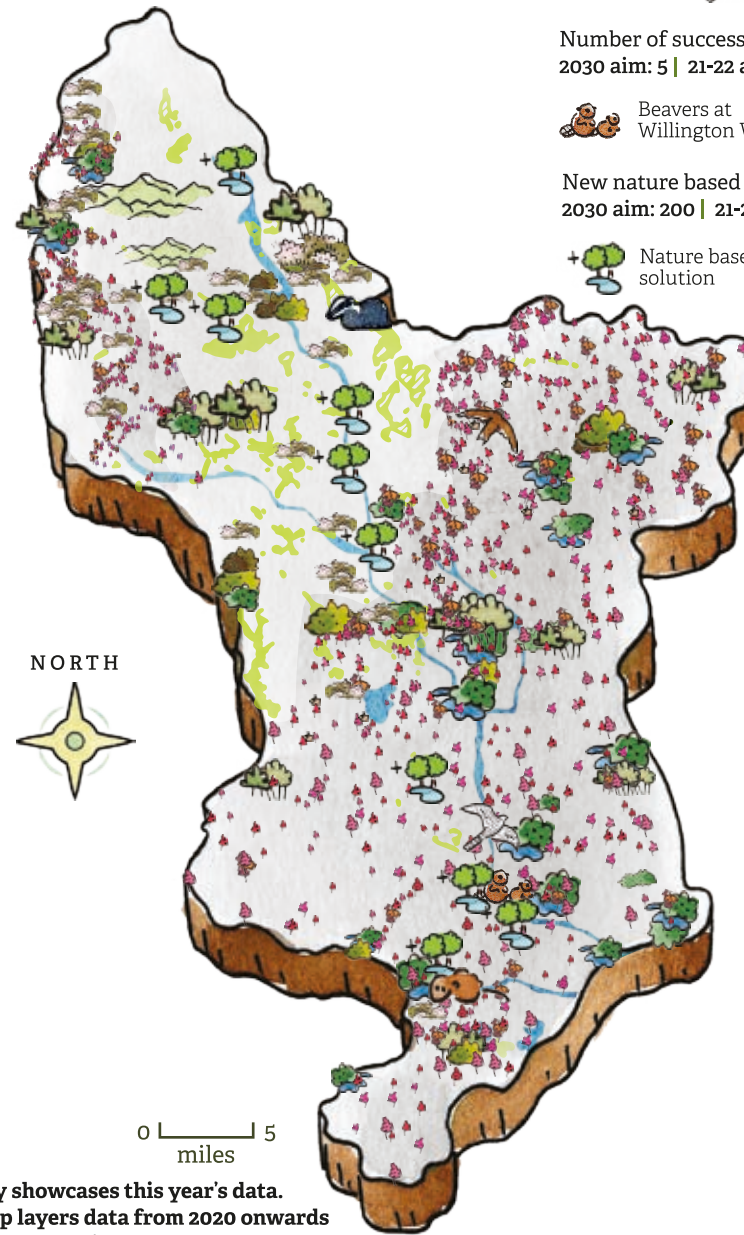
Beavers at Willington Wetlands

New nature based solutions initiated
 2030 aim: 200 | 21-22 aim: 50 | actual: 7 ↓

Nature based solution
 Primarily throughout Derwent catchment

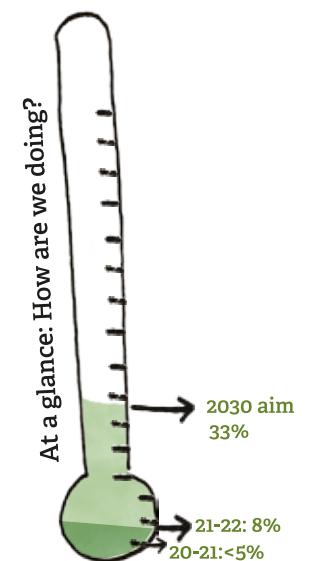
Published State of Nature Reports
 2030 aim: 10 | 21-22 aim: 1 | actual: 1 ✓

State of Nature report




Key showcases this year's data.
 Map layers data from 2020 onwards to show our impact between 2020-2025

33% OF DERBYSHIRE IS MANAGED FOR WILDLIFE BY 2030



MORE PEOPLE NOTICE AND CARE

Wilder community engagements that improve people's connection between nature & wellbeing
 2030 aim: 100,000 | 21-22 aim: 25,000 | actual: 16,473

 Wilder community engagements **Each one of these icons represents 1000 engagements**

New programmes to connect new audiences
 2030 aim: 12 | 21-22 aim: 9 | actual: 9 ✓

 New programmes

Developers/corporates who commit to biodiversity gain
 2030 aim: 1000 | 21-22 aim: 200 | actual: 200 ✓


 Developers & corporates **These are plotted randomly on map but exclude the Peak District National Park**

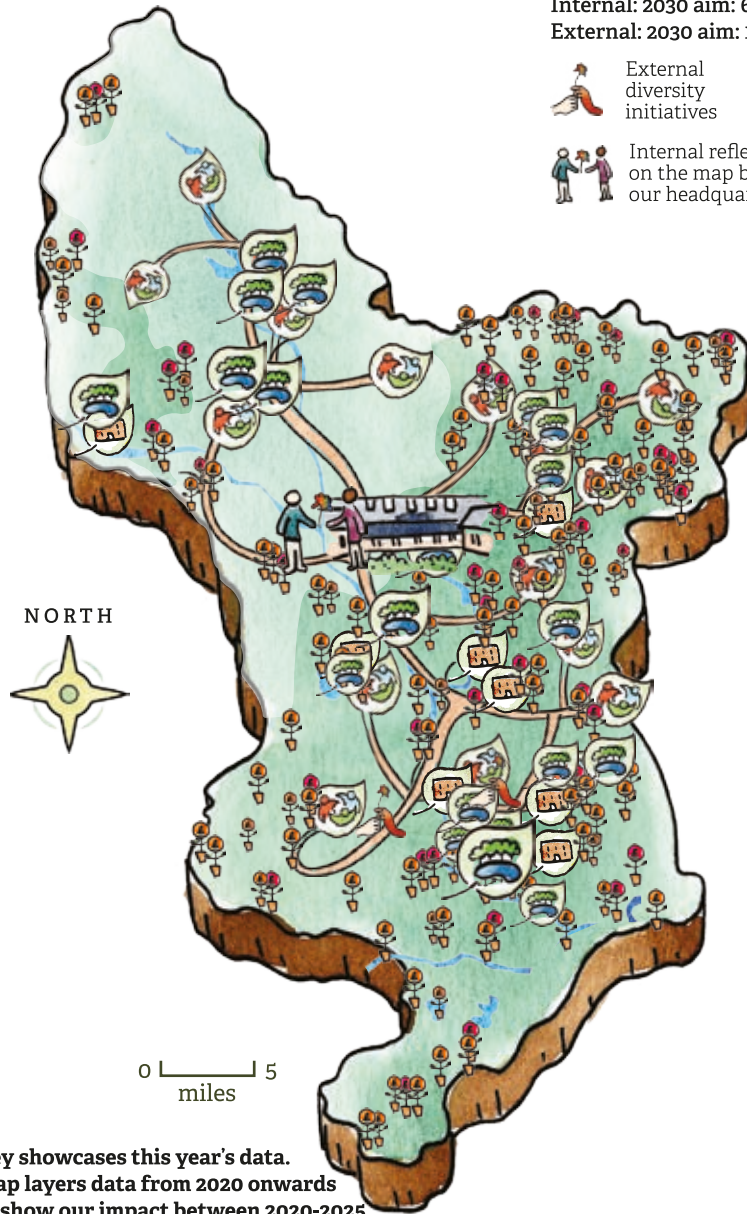
Wilder initiatives established in schools/public spaces
 2030 aim: 100 | 21-22 aim: 18 | actual: 30 ↑

 Wilder initiatives

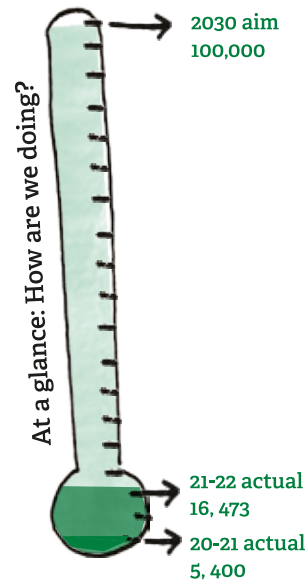
New initiatives to improve diversity & inclusion
 Internal: 2030 aim: 60% | 21-22 aim: 35% | actual: 32% ↓
 External: 2030 aim: 15 | 21-22 aim: 10 | actual: 5 ↓

 External diversity initiatives

 Internal reflected on the map by our headquarters



WILDER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS



Key showcases this year's data.
 Map layers data from 2020 onwards
 to show our impact between 2020-2025

1 IN 4 PEOPLE ACT FOR WILDLIFE BY 2030


People in Team Wilder
 2030 aim: 100,000 | 21-22 aim: 10,000 | actual: 2,800 ↓

 Team Wilder **Each icon represents 1000 people**

Team Wilder Champions
 2030 aim: 300 | 21-22 aim: 50 | actual: 30 ↓

 Team Wilder Champions **Plotted randomly**

Corporate & agency relationships
 2030 aim: 160 | 21-22 aim: 40 | actual: 36 ↓

 Corporate & agency relationships **Some may be based outside of Derbyshire so not mapped**

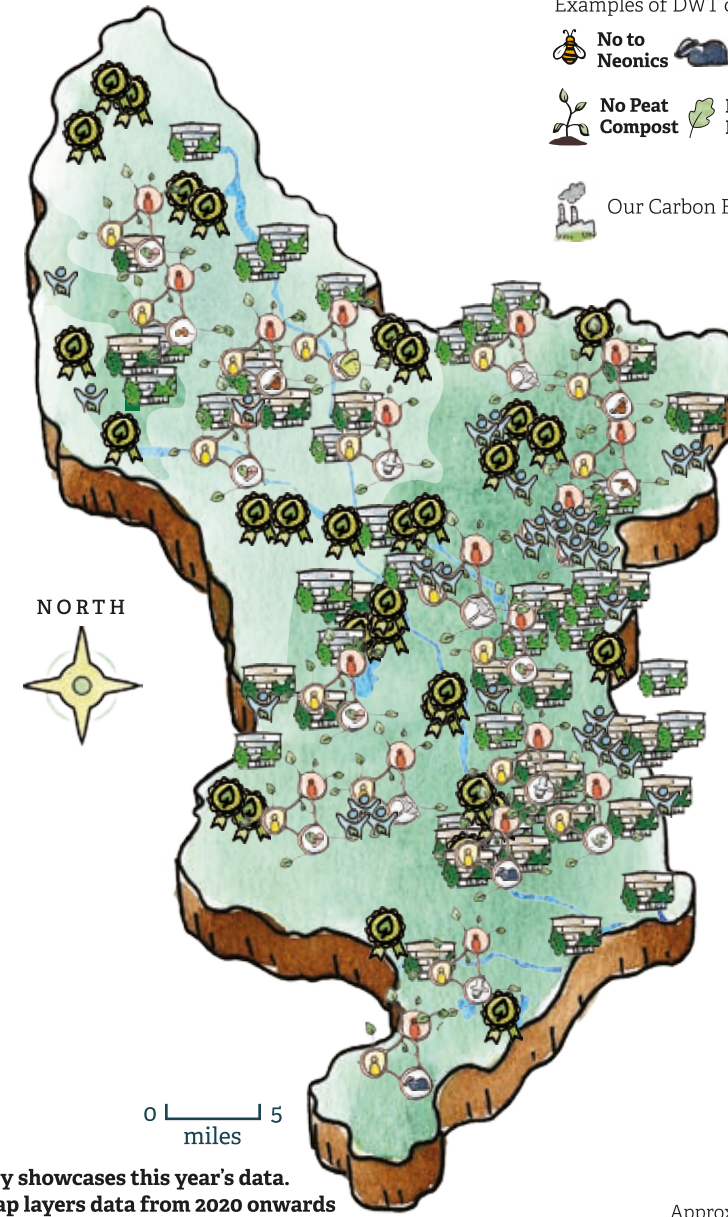
No. of people engaging in campaigns
 2030 aim: 100,000 | 21-22 aim: 30,000 | actual: 11,849 ↓

 People engaging in our campaigns locally & nationally

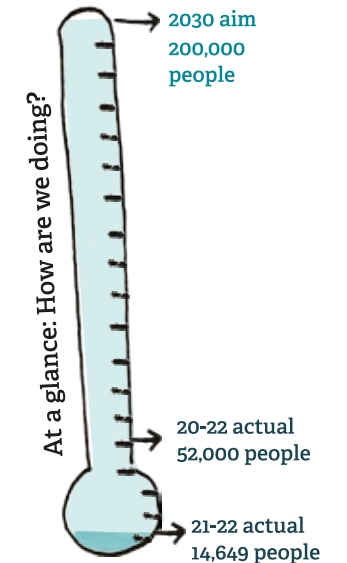
Examples of DWT campaigns

-  No to Neonics
-  Campaigned against the badger cull
-  Took part in 30 Days Wild
-  No Peat Compost
-  Have your say on National Parks

 Our Carbon Footprint for 20-21 is 112 tonnes CO₂e



1 IN 4 PEOPLE ACT FOR WILDLIFE



Key showcases this year's data.
 Map layers data from 2020 onwards
 to show our impact between 2020-2025

Approximate population of Derbyshire: 800,000

WILD ABOUT

Come together to celebrate the nature in our city and take part in a day of activities, followed by our 60th Annual General Meeting.

This year we would like to welcome you to the Museum of Making in Derby to celebrate the nature in our city and take part in the growing of our future!

When in the secret places in our city, nature is waiting. Wildflowers push up through cracks in pavements. Butterflies flit through verges left to grow. Bats sleep in eaves, then own the sky at night. Peregrines nest in our cathedral.

If you know where to look, wildlife is all around us. Imagine what could happen if we let nature free to thrive across the city. Imagine a Derby that is alive and growing, a green city in which we, and future generations, thrive.



DERBY



**Saturday 8th October 2022,
10.30am – 4pm (and AGM starts at 4pm)**

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Guided urban nature trails
- Free minibus ride to Allestree park to walk and learn about rewilding plans
- Urban wildlife graffiti artists
- Help create a giant nature sculpture and take a mini sculpture home
- Cathedral Quarter Treasure Trail (with cool prizes)
- Craft activities for all the family
- Join Team Wilder; plant seeds, recycle pots, grow your own grub
- A range of stalls from local groups
- Grow your own city – see the city grow wild in front of your eyes
- Exciting speakers throughout the day
- Face painting
- Children's fancy dress competition
- Hidden nature photography competition exhibition
- Team Wilder Go Potty competition exhibition

For more information and to book your place visit: www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/wild-about-derby

OUR 60TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL FOLLOW 4-5PM

To register your interest and keep updated visit:
www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/agm-2022

If you require information in another, accessible format or via post, please email enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk

AGM AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Welcome and introductions
3. Achievements and future plans
4. Approval of previous AGM minutes
5. Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022
6. Re-Appointment of BHP Chartered Accountants as the Trust's auditors for the year ending 31st March 2022
7. Election of committee
8. Any Other Business – Question and Answer session



Badger © Terry Whittaker 2020VISION

URBAN WILDLIFE

Kieron Huston, Biodiversity Planning & Policy Manager, and Nick Brown, Wildlife Enquiries Officer

Contrary to what you might think, our towns and cities can be surprisingly rich in wildlife. The network of parks, small woods, rivers and streams as well as gardens, buildings and individual trees, can all provide places for wildlife to forage and nest. Amongst the larger animals that can be encountered are the fox, badger and otter. Foxes have adapted remarkably well to urban life. They are typically active at night, roaming the streets for food and many successfully raise their cubs even in the centre of a busy city. Badgers are scarcer, preferring areas with access to green spaces where they can forage for worms, roots, bulbs and berries. The otter has returned fairly recently and hunts fish in the rivers, often commuting back and forth through cities in the early hours when only fishermen are there to see them. Hedgehogs are becoming rarer but can still be found around the edges of towns and cities or in places where they can escape into larger parks or green spaces. In some locations

water voles still burrow into riverbanks or the edges of canals. They have declined in part due to mink, an unwelcome predatory animal that is not native to the British Isles and can have a devastating impact on water vole and other wildlife. One of the more successful groups of mammals found in urban areas are bats. They roost in buildings and at night hunt for moths along ribbons of woodland or over well vegetated gardens. They are fully



Hedgehog © Gillian Day



Swift © Nick Upton



Robin © Jon Hawkins - Surrey Hills Photography



Wren © Adam Jones

protected and whenever a roost is destroyed due to building work, new sites must be provided to compensate.

A surprising amount of birdlife can be found in gardens. The 'usual suspects' include robins, wrens, blackbirds, dunnocks, but rarities, such as waxwings, may also appear in some years to feed on winter berries. In the woodlands, tawny owls can be heard at dusk, and kestrels will feed over grassy verges and areas of longer grass. Kingfishers and grey wagtails often occur along watercourses and may even nest within the urban boundary.

Houses themselves may provide swifts, house sparrows and house martins with nest sites, though the renovation of older properties often block up the tiny gaps in the mortar through which the first two gain access to their nests.

These home-loving species can have significant beneficial effects on the wellbeing of urban residents, and the springtime arrival of swifts and martins in particular gives great joy to those who appreciate them.

All three of these species have declined by over 50%, placing them on the red list of

species threatened with extinction. Wherever possible new buildings now include swift 'nest bricks' built into the external walls.

Over the last twenty years, peregrine falcons have begun to nest on tall buildings in town and city centres. The buildings mimic their ancestral cliff homes and the birds feel quite safe perching high above the hustle and bustle of the streets below.

By chance, these falcons have inadvertently shown us the huge range of birds that routinely fly over our cities at night, unseen by any of us. Using the floodlighting, the Derby Cathedral peregrines, for example, have become expert night-hunters catching species which only migrate at night, such as water rails, quail and a whole raft of wading birds, such as golden plover, knot, turnstones and whimbrel, which regularly overfly urban air space on their travels across the UK in autumn and spring.

In Derby, over fifty species have been identified, including an arctic tern which was ringed as a chick on an island in the Baltic five years before it was caught by a peregrine when blown inland by strong spring winds.



Great crested newt © John Bridges

Holly blue © John Bridges



Insects, too, can thrive in an urban environment where there are foodplants, nesting opportunities and not too much disturbance. Gardens are often excellent places to find common butterflies like peacock, small tortoiseshell, ringlet and comma, as well as the tiny holly blue that uses both holly and ivy for larval food and shelter. Hundreds of species of moth can be present in gardens and parks, especially where there are a few mature native trees and shrubs growing, such as oak and birch. Right in the centre of Derby there is a group of wych elm trees that support a colony of white-letter hairstreak butterfly, a species that has greatly declined over the last few decades. The humble garden pond also plays a critical role for many species, such as frogs and aquatic insects and even rarities such as great crested newt. The urban environment can be more of a challenge for some species and though, for example, common lizard and grass snake still survive in Derby and Chesterfield they

are typically very rare away from their 'core' habitat which may be a nature reserve or railway cutting.

The buzz and hum of bees is not an uncommon sound in cities. Small patches of flowery habitat in a park, garden or the middle of a roundabout can support dozens of bee species. Some small urban gardens might help support over 50 bee species during a single spring and summer. Finally, we shouldn't forget the harmless garden ant, probably one of the most widespread insects that prosper under our patios and lawns, toiling away through the spring before the winged females and males emerge on warm, sunny summer days to mate and fly off in search of new locations.

Don't forget to send us your sightings:
www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlife/record-sighting



Peacock Butterfly © Bob Coyle

Water boatman © iStock

Derwent MEADOWS

Lisa Witham, Head of Wilder Communities



Derwent Meadows © Kayleigh Wright



Derwent Meadows © Kayleigh Wright

Little egret © iStock

Access to quality green space is important for our physical and mental health. As part of the Nature for Everyone campaign, we're calling for a legal right to local nature for everyone. People want to access nature on their doorstep and less than 20 minutes' walk away, so we're thrilled to have our first Derby City nature reserve – Derwent Meadows.

Derwent Meadows is a 18.5 hectare site situated at Derby Commercial Park at Raynesway. Derby City Council has taken on the 99-year lease of the nature reserve and has entered into a 10-year partnership with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to manage the area for the benefit of wildlife and people. The site is owned by Goodman, who invested in local infrastructure and the creation of a dedicated wildlife area when work on Derby Commercial Park was completed in 2007. The new partnership between Derby City Council and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is an important step in the Trust's vision for a Wilder Derby and is one of many new projects throughout the city.

It's a great site to access by foot or bicycle. Around a quarter of the Derwent Meadows site is a dedicated wildlife area, with a

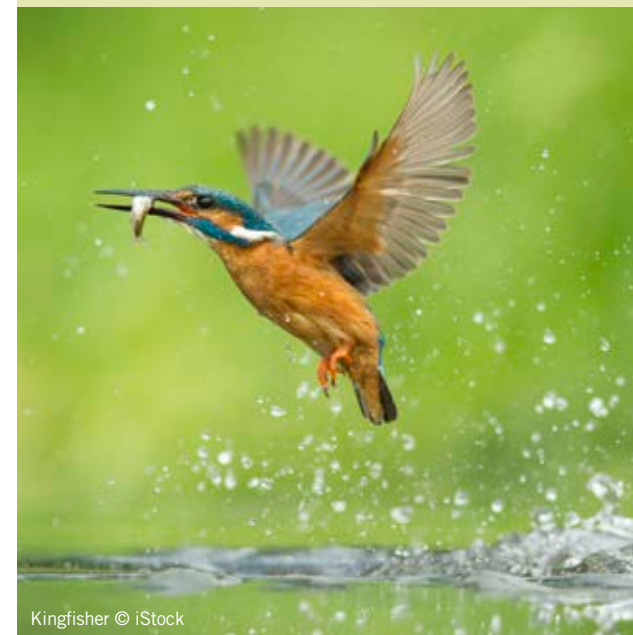
riverside walkway linking with the local footpath and cycle network. You can walk from Derby City centre or Elvaston Castle along the Route 6 cycleway. From Alvaston Park you can enjoy the riverside path and be at Derwent Meadows in under 20 minutes.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust has been managing the site since April 2022, and we've been undertaking surveying and monitoring to develop a 10-year management plan. We want to improve the biodiversity by clearing overgrown areas, improving the wetlands and creating new habitats to encourage as many species as possible, including installing bat and bird boxes. We will also provide interpretation boards so that visitors gain a better understanding of the nature around them.

While visiting you'll be able to see and hear a wide variety of birds such as song thrush, blackcap, chiffchaff as well as sedge warblers and cetti's warblers in and around the reedbeds. We have evidence of foxes and bats on site in the woodland. There are several waterbodies throughout the site and our first findings show signs of great crested newts. The River Derwent runs through the site and is home to grey herons, little egrets and kingfishers.

We also want the site to create a space for local businesses and the community to use. As part of our plans we'll be holding engagement events, school visits, and community events. The Courtaulds Wood area of the site will be used for nature-based activities and sessions. Our new Nextdoor Nature project is working with organisations and communities in Alvaston ward, and we'll be bringing people along to Derwent Meadows to take part in practical conservation and wellbeing activities to connect with nature and inspire them to develop their own community projects.

We'll be supporting local people and businesses to get more involved with our work at Derwent Meadows so if you would like to be part of this please contact lwitham@derbyshirewt.co.uk.



Kingfisher © iStock



The hidden spectacles of DERBYSHIRE'S BATS

Ady Cox, Living Landscapes Advisor

Natters © Alan Roe

Bats are difficult for us to get to know. Aside from the inconvenience of their nocturnal routine, they are not as noisy (at least to our ears) as birds, nor as colourful as butterflies. But for those dedicated enough to sacrifice their sleep, bats in their natural environment is every bit as rewarding and exhilarating as any other species.

Probably because of their nocturnal nature and a host of superstitions and myths, bats have always been shrouded in an air of mystery. They appear apparently from nowhere in the twilight, the pattern of their flight at first appearing strange and erratic when compared with most birds, but their agility on the wing is unrivalled. Pipistrelles dart to and fro, hunting midges and mosquitoes, capable of twisting 180 degrees mid-flight in an extraordinary display of aerobatics.

This can be captivating enough when it is only one silhouette but becomes breathtaking when it is tens or even hundreds. Over summer, females gather in numbers in so-called maternity roosts and often, humans won't even know they are there. But venture out in the hours before sunrise, as dawn gathers and the darkness retreats, and you would witness the unmistakable sight of

bats swarming outside their roosts. Because bats largely communicate at ultrasonic frequencies, to us it appears mostly a silent spectacle and there is an ethereal quality to a sky full of bats pitching and rolling against the colours of an impending sunrise in the still of the dawn before the diurnal world stirs.

In autumn, swarming of a different kind occurs in remote locations far from prying eyes. Species like Natterer's and brown long-eared eschew the twilight in favour of the pitch black of the dead of night, migrating from their summer roosts to hibernation sites such as caves or abandoned mines, often deep in woodland. Here, hundreds of bats spend hours chasing one another around the natural arenas of woodland clearings and in and out of caves, the air filled with the muffled chaos of hundreds of fluttering wingbeats and (if you have a bat detector handy) a cacophony of calls. The phenomenon is still not fully understood, but is likely to be connected to mating, with other possible theories including information transfer between generations about hibernation sites.



Daubentons © Alan Roe

Soprano pipistrelle © Alan Roe



Brown long-eared © Alan Roe



Noctule © Alan Roe



Noctule © Alan Roe

Not all species of bat swarm in this way in autumn. Noctule bats offer a spectacle of a different kind, one that requires a little help from technology to fully appreciate. During the mating season, males occupy a hole in a tree and, hidden from sight, they sing. For humans to truly appreciate this, bat song must be slowed down using a full spectrum bat detector. The reward is a haunting, plaintive song, with intricacies and trills reminiscent of whale song and every bit as impressive as birdsong. By hearing this, it's hard not to wonder what other natural wonders we are missing simply through the limitations of our sensory perception.

So this autumn, as bats begin to flicker over the garden, remember that the lives of much of our more secretive wildlife can provide a source of just as much beauty and intrigue as better known events. With this in mind, we might begin to wonder what other natural events we are yet to discover, and which could be lost before we have had the chance to truly appreciate them.

For events, including bat walks, roost counts and bat box checks, visit the website of the Derbyshire Bat Group, a voluntary conservation group that run events and opportunities to see bats up close and contribute to their conservation. <http://www.derbyshirebats.org.uk/>

Urban Wildlife Bats



Extracts from 'Top Tips to Save the Planet'

DERBYSHIRE'S YOUNG 'GREEN INFLUENCERS' IN DERBY!

Young people in Derby working with our Green Influencers team have been awarded £20,000 to launch their own projects to reduce plastic waste and tackle sustainable travel and littering, thanks to The Ernest Cook Trust's Green Influencers Scheme.

Under its Green Influencers Scheme, The Ernest Cook Trust is helping 36 Host Organisations – including Derbyshire Wildlife Trust – to fund the employment of 44 Green Mentors. Each Green Mentor's role is to enable young people to lead the way as 'Green Influencers' on environmental social action projects, and the aim is to recruit 5,000 across the country.

The scheme is match-funded through the #iwill Fund, which is a £54 million joint investment between The National Lottery Community Fund and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to support young people to access high-quality social action opportunities.

A group of pupils at the David Neiper Academy in Alfreton started out conserving water by installing water butts for the gardening club to use. Since then, they have become concerned

by the number of single-use plastic water bottles being used in their school and applied for funding to provide every pupil with a reusable water bottle and install recycling bins in all classrooms.

With more than 600 pupils in the school, this project has the potential to save 600 single-use plastic bottles being used every day and the group now has plans to secure more funding from local businesses to continue the water bottle scheme for future school years and to start new projects.

Another group of Green Influencers from Allestree Woodlands aim to encourage sustainable transport to and from school. The 'Super Cyclists' plan to purchase a fleet of bikes to allow pupils to learn to ride safely. Teachers will also become trained on how to maintain the bikes and share these skills with pupils, so that the scheme can continue to benefit pupils for years to come.

Pupils at Arboretum Primary School in Derby have also got involved in the Green Influencers Scheme and found a way to make recycling plastic fun by designing and manufacturing their own gamified recycling bins. The bins placed in the school's three main entrances include basketball nets



Students from David Neiper Academy



Students from Arboretum Primary © Graeme Green

Allestree Woodland Super Cyclists



above, so that pupils and parents can turn recycling plastic containers from break time and lunch into a game.

To engage as many pupils and parents as possible at the multi-lingual school, the Green Influencers group has also written and designed a booklet titled, 'Top Tips to Save the Planet' printed in two languages, and created a display panel which says 'Thank you for recycling your plastic' in several other languages.

Each group of these inspiring young people designed their own project and worked with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to apply for the funding. The Derbyshire Wildlife Trust has so far supported more than 100 Green Influencers in the county.

Emma Wood, Green Mentor here at the Trust said: "These incredible young people are an inspiration and a joy to work with. They are dedicated to taking action to improve our environment and I have been so impressed with their commitment to the scheme, from coming up with the initial ideas and writing their own funding bids, to actually driving the projects forward."

"My hope is that this encourages more young people, schools and groups to join in and take action for wildlife."

David Gould, Communications Support Worker at Allestree Woodlands School, added: "Our students are loving their cycling club, immersed in nature and learning and mastering new skills whilst they grow in confidence as individuals and as a group."

Find out more about joining the Green Influencers Scheme and taking action for wildlife, www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/education-activities/green-influencers

In memory of



Gerald Williams

Passed away peacefully on 1st March 2022 aged 85.

Pioneering paraglider, instructor and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust volunteer.

After many years developing paragliding and teaching others to fly, Gerald 'retired' and volunteered at the Trust. He volunteered with us for over 16 years, energetically helping out on the practical reserve work parties across the county. His stamina and enthusiasm was

endless, sometimes helping out more than four times a week in all weathers and whatever the task. Cheerfully retelling many stories with his quirky sense of humour throughout the day. Gerald was also a member of Combs Sailing Club and Chapel Choir.

Well known for always wearing his famous green wellingtons, he will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by all who knew him.

An absolute legend!

Working together for wildlife

50/50 Club winners

Congratulations to recent winners!

Lynette Baker, Mary Sutton, Ken Hales, Amy Cotterill, Lesley Parkinson, Anne Williams, Sarah Ward, Wallace Gowing, Peter Date.

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

Working in Partnership

We work with businesses of all sizes 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.

We are proud to be working in partnership with:

Absolute Networks Ltd	Lubrizol Limited
Aggregate Industries Ltd	M A Broughton Electrical Contractors Ltd
BASF	NAL Plant Hire
Big Wild Thought	Nestle Waters
Bowmer Bond Narrow Fabrics Ltd	Network Rail
Breedon Group Ltd	Peak Holiday Cottages
Buxton & High Peak Security Services Ltd	Platinum Electrical Ltd
Buxton Brewery Co Ltd	Porter Pizza
Castle Cliffe	Rock Fall UK
Eagle Securities	RSK Adas Ltd
East Midlands Airport (MAG)	Tarmac
East Midlands Railway	The Land Trust
Environment Agency	Toyota Motor Manufacturing (UK) Ltd
G F Tomlinson Group Ltd	Vine House Farm
Granger's International Ltd	Ward Recycling
Henry Boot Plc	Weleda UK
Holiday Cottages.co.uk	White Peak Distillery
Longcliffe Quarries Ltd	

If your business does not work with us already then why not join?

- Work with us to engage staff and customers in becoming wildlife champions
- Support your staff to reconnect with nature and bolster their resilience and wellbeing
- Join a growing business network, meet at engaging events and share opportunities
- See the impact of your membership in the environment around you



If your business would like to get involved, please get in touch on: enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk





Derbyshire
Wildlife Trust

Leave a gift FOR NATURE

“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.

01773 881188
enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk
www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

