



INSIDE TRACKS



Derbyshire
Wildlife Trust



Beautiful walks

Wildlife to spot

Great days out

Start your local
adventure now!



Reserves featured in this guide:



Peak Village



This reserve is a joint project funded by Peak Village shopping centre in Rowsley and created by the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. Since the autumn of 2019, DWT's staff and volunteers have been working hard to turn this field into a rich haven for wildlife.



What to spot



Hidden away on site you can find a wildflower meadow, a new home for bees, butterflies, and bugs. A newly planted native woodland, heritage orchard and dry stone walling which will attract a wider variety of birds, animals, and insects. There is also a pond, transient wetland areas and frontage into the River Derwent, for various water and wetland species.



Did you know?

There are lots of engagement days and activities on the reserve and there is even a giant otter sculpture! Children can run in and around a living willow spiral and play on the balance-bumble-bee.

Location

Peak Village
Chatsworth Road
Rowsley
Derbyshire
DE4 2JE

Access

Accessibility for all.

Parking

At the Peak Shopping Village car park.

Facilities

Toilets and shops.

Dogs

Please keep on a lead.

Willington Wetlands



In 2021, the first beavers in Derbyshire for around 800 years were introduced onto the reserve, with visitors getting the chance to go inside the beaver enclosure that surrounds the whole site. This is part of a pioneering project to try a more natural approach to managing nature reserves and habitats, which will be desperately needed to increase the area of habitat for wildlife across the county.



What to spot

The site currently has three platforms and a hide for viewing the reserve. Try stopping at platforms 2 and 3 on a winter day and you might be lucky enough to see a bittern sneaking across the open channels between the long reeds.

In spring the reserve is an excellent location for warblers, dragonflies, damselflies, amphibians and sometimes even water voles and otters. Walk down Meadow Lane to hear a variety of song birds particularly in summer.



Did you know?

Beavers are secretive creatures, for the best chance to spot them visit at dusk.

Location

Willington Wetlands is a 44 hectare site situated down an unmade lane (Meadow Lane) which comes off the Repton Road just before the bridge over the River Trent.

Address

Meadow Lane
Burton upon Trent
Derbyshire
DE65 6YB

OS Map Reference

SK 2913 2761

Facilities

Bird hides.



Dogs

Please keep on a lead.

Access

The best way to get to the reserve is by public transport – buses and trains both service the site.

Willington Wetlands is in a floodplain so can get very muddy. We would recommend wearing wellies in the winter.



Visit our website for full details about travel

Parking

Visitors are recommended to park in the free DCC car park next to the Dragon Pub in the village – a 10 to 15 minute walk away.



Coming in summer 2023!

A new bridge over the Eggington Brook to create a 5 mile circular walk.



Thornhill Carrs



© Tim Birch

This 30-hectare area of former farmland is a unique site, rare within The Peak District National Park for its unmanaged wildness. It is currently home to a fantastic array of wild woodland, scrub, beautiful wildflower meadows.

What to spot

A mixture of broad-leaved woodland, hawthorn scrub and open meadows on a steep hill side in the Upper Derwent Valley overlooking Ladybower Reservoir.

Hawthorn blossom in spring, wildflowers in summer, numerous butterflies including two fritillaries (dark green and silver washed), plus many summer migrants, warblers and resident woodland birds, and plenty of hoverflies, bumblebees and other insects.

Did you know?

The sculpture trail highlights our 'missing animals' such as pine marten, wild boar, red squirrel and osprey; all of which have suffered from habitat loss or persecution and are animals we would love to see make their way back to Derbyshire.

Location

Carr Lane
Bamford
Hope Valley
S33 0AJ

Parking

Please only use designated parking area which can be found on Carr Lane and walk north across the road onto the trail. The reserve is either side of the trail.

Dogs

Please keep on a lead.

Walking trails

The sculpture trail is an out and back along the bridleway – nice and easy, but you can make several circular walks of different levels with tougher ones (but not too tough), in and outside the reserve (wider landscape) up to Win Hill or over to Bamford Edge to look back onto the reserve and spot Ladybower Wood nearby.

Top tip!
If you'd like a pub lunch then why not visit the Yorkshire Bridge Inn, postcode S33 0AZ



Access

Thornhill Carrs is great for walkers and cyclists who want to fall in love with the wild nature around them. There is good access on the main trail for mobility scooters and walking access on a number of footpaths west up the hill.

If you're lucky you may even find cows grazing, carefully chosen for rewilding conservation and their docile nature towards visitors.



The Avenue Country Park



© Jamie Hall



The location of The Avenue Country Park on the outskirts of Chesterfield makes it a great place for people to visit and enjoy. Previously The Avenue coking works, this site has been restored to provide space for both wildlife and people.

The waterways and grasslands are home to kingfishers, small mammals and grass snakes, whilst the big open skies give views of kestrels and skylarks. The large multi-user paths and easy access make this a great place for a family day out with the crooked spire and Chesterfield skyline as a backdrop.



What to spot

Regular sightings of kingfisher, lapwings and goosander are reported in the wetland areas by visitors, while flocks of species such as goldfinch feed in the large meadow areas.

Grass snakes may be spotted disappearing from view in the wet grassy environments, and great crested newts are recorded on site.



Did you know?

We have another fantastic reserve right next door called the Avenue Washlands.

For more information scan the QR code



Location

Hornbeam Drive
Wingerworth
Derbyshire
S42 6FY

OS Map Reference

SK3887 6806

Parking

Parking is available at the Country Park car park.

Access

Access at all main entrances is via squeeze stiles which allow access for wheelchairs and smaller mobility scooters. Larger mobility scooters may not fit.

Dogs

Please keep on a lead.

Walking trails

There are a variety of large multi-user paths suitable for walking, cycling and horse riding year-round.

Fab fact!

once one of Europe's most polluted sites, The Avenue is now an award winning parkland and wildlife reserve



© Gillian Day

Derwent Meadows



© Kayleigh Wright

This 18.5-acre site is an important wildlife area next to a business park in Alvaston, with a riverside walkway linking with the local footpath and cycle network.



What to spot

The nature reserve is a mosaic of habitats comprising of wet and dry grassland, reedbed, hedgerows, ponds and deciduous woodland. In the grasslands you'll find knapweed, bedstraw, sneezewort and birdsfoot trefoil in abundance.

Listen out for the often heard but rarely seen Cetti's warbler with its staccato song 'chewee-chewee-chew-chew-chewee-chewchewchewchew'.

A number of bat species can be seen flitting along the tree lines and across the water during the summer and autumn months, feeding on insects emerging from the ponds and wet ditches.

The River Derwent is home to a number of wildlife species – take a walk along the river and you might see grey herons, goosanders (pictured above) and kingfishers.

Location

Fernhook Avenue
Derby
DE24 0YZ

Parking

There is no official parking at the site.

Dogs

Please keep on a lead.

Walking trail

Start at the western side (access from national cycle route 6). The total loop is approximately 1.8 miles and will take between 40 minutes and an hour, depending on how leisurely you take it!

Access

Access to the reserve is via Fernhook Avenue. There is a riverside path that leads from Alvaston Park through to the site. The site is approximately 2 miles walk from Pride Park. There is an excellent cycle path that runs from Derby City Centre.



© Amy Lewis

Top tip!

Visit in summer to see the wild flowers and pond life!





Derbyshire
Wildlife Trust

Get in touch

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

Sandy Hill, Main Street,
Middleton, Matlock DE4 4LR

Telephone 01773 881188

Email enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk

Website www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

 @DerbyshireWildlifeTrust

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