



DERBYSHIRE



Derbyshire
Wildlife Trust

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday 30th
September 2023

SHIPLEY PARK,
HEANOR, DERBY

NOTIFICATION OF Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's 61st Annual General Meeting



We are happy to notify you that our Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday 30th September at Shipley Park, Heanor, Derby. Below is a brief agenda of what can be expected.

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 2023
- 6 Appointment of the Trust's auditors
- 7 Election of committee
- 8 Any Other Business – Question and Answer session



There will be a day of activities including walks, crafts and Forest School from 10.30am. The formal AGM proceedings will start at 4pm.

For more information see www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/wilder-shipley

www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/agm-2023

If you require information in another accessible format or via post please email enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk or call **01773 881188** so we can ensure the communications reach you.



Jo Smith
Chief Executive
Officer



Join the Conversation

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On the cover

Red Deer © Bertie Gregory

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Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

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www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

WELCOME

We have been working closely with Derby City Council recently to expand our rewilding plans beyond Allestree Park, by linking the park through the city centre along the river corridor. The River Derwent is already seeing otters and salmon return, and now we have ambitions to see beavers in the Derwent too.

We don't often think of rewilding in an urban context. But the rivers that flow through many town centres are prime sites for it. In Scotland, there are now beavers in central Perth, and in Dunkeld there are beavers in the river right outside the local pub.

But urban rewilding is not just about reintroducing large charismatic animals like beavers, otters and salmon into our cities. It's about finding pieces of land where it's possible to let nature take the lead, restoring ecosystems and generating clean air, water and soil.

The reason rivers make great rewilding sites is that they create large unbroken strips of land along their banks. Size is one of the greatest challenges in an urban setting, because when rewilding land there is a minimum scale at which natural processes can operate.

But we can also get many benefits from rewilding smaller patches of land in cities by ensuring connectivity between the patches. By linking green spaces via wilder stepping stones and new wild areas, including wilder gardens, wilder school grounds and wilder churchyards, we can create a wilder Derby, one where all communities and wildlife thrive.

Thank you for your continued support.

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SPOTTED

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

Little Owl – Grassmore Chesterfield

Photo: June 2023 © Sean Barnett



Grey Heron – Hope Valley

Photo: June 2023 © Nay Young



Brimstone Butterfly – Dovedale

Photo: May 2023 © Dave Hughes

Peregrines: and then there were three



Parent and chick © Dave Farmer

Earlier this year, excitement was high when a new pair of Derby Cathedral peregrines laid four eggs. People watched the Derby Cathedral Peregrine Project webcams intently for weeks as the female settled down to incubate, and we were thrilled to announce that the pair's first egg hatched on Thursday 27 April. The three remaining eggs were expected to hatch within 2–3 days of each other, but sadly these were infertile and did not hatch.

In the weeks that followed, the chick was lavished with attention and food, and some great photography and moments between the three were captured by the project's volunteers via the webcams and reported on the blog.

Watchpoint events were held on Saturday 27th May and Saturday 10th June, with our volunteers on hand to show visitors the birds, using their telescope and chat about the city's amazing peregrine falcons.



Peregrine on Derby Cathedral © Dave King

Peregrine falcons are the world's fastest animal, able to reach speeds of up to 200mph when diving down onto prey. They nest in high places such as urban towers and rural cliffs. They have excellent binocular vision allowing them to see prey from as far as 3km away.

The Derby Cathedral Peregrine Project is a partnership between Derby Cathedral, Cathedral Quarter, Derby City Council, and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, which manages the project. You can read more on the Derby Cathedral Peregrine Project blog and watch them on the webcams at: www.derbyperegrines.blogspot.com.



Next wave of Forest School leaders in training

We recently became an **accredited environmental education centre** with courses aimed at businesses, the education sector and individuals looking to develop their careers.

Our trainers have been delivering Forest School programmes to children in Derbyshire from schools, nurseries, youth and community groups for many years. Observing the growing need to promote an understanding of the natural world to young people led us to become accredited to provide several new courses aimed at teachers and leaders in educational settings, such as playgroups, and we are delighted to have now started running the courses, with our first forest school leaders training now.

Diane Gould, Wilder Engagement Manager at Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, said: "Connecting people to nature is at the very heart of all the work carried out by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's Wilder Engagement Team, so we were thrilled to become accredited and reflect this ethos in all our training courses.

"It is really exciting to have started working with our future Forest School leaders

to achieve their awards and we look forward to running more courses to help people gain skills in leading outdoors, practical conservation and understanding sustainability in the coming months."

Elyse White is taking the Level 3 Certificate for Forest School Leaders. Speaking about the course she said:

"I have thoroughly enjoyed the course. The course leader, Diane, has been a great support. She emailed all of the appropriate information weeks in advance of the course starting so I could feel prepared and had time to ask any questions.

"Thought and consideration has been implemented into every resource and it was set out so clearly and very organised. The indoor and outdoor classroom space, equipment and resources are brilliant. It's all new, safe, well looked after and stored properly.

"I feel so much more confident teaching, demonstrating forest school skills and just an improved version of myself. I couldn't have asked for the course to be any better. I have made some amazing relationships and I am so excited to teach my new skills once completing the course."

For more information please visit: www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/wilderlearning.

10th anniversary celebrates growth of Coronation Meadows



Rose End Meadows in Cromford, Derbyshire, is one such Coronation Meadow. The sixteen small meadows which make up this reserve have never been treated with artificial fertiliser or herbicide. They create a vivid picture of how Derbyshire's limestone farmland looked around a hundred years ago, full of wildflowers through spring and summer, from buttercups and bluebells to orchids and great burnet.

Now the wildflower seeds from this meadow have been harvested and introduced to a recipient site at Clover Close in Elvaston, and it is hoped that they will bloom here in future years so that the distinctive character of Derbyshire flora is preserved.

Ten years ago, the former Prince of Wales launched Coronation Meadows in 2013 to honour the 60th year of the late Queen's accession to the throne.

In the face of the catastrophic loss of 97% of our wildflower meadows since the 1930s, the plan was to create new and restored meadows using donor seed from remaining fragments of ancient and traditional meadows.

The Wildlife Trusts and Plantlife – charities for whom the former Prince of Wales was patron – worked together to identify 60 species-rich meadows which are known as Coronation Meadows, one for every year of the Queen's reign at that time. These special places became donors to provide precious seed to increase the amount of valuable and beautiful wildflower habitat elsewhere.



You can find out more at www.coronationmeadows.org.uk.

Nature BASED SOLUTIONS

Working with nature to provide benefits to wildlife and our wellbeing

Matt Buckler – Director of Natural Solutions

Locally, nationally, and globally, humanity is facing multiple challenges from the collapse of natural systems and a warming global climate.

Even in landlocked Derbyshire, climate change is having an impact, with more intense rainfall through the year leading to localised flooding and longer periods of drought, both having significant impact on the plants and habitats around us.

There is also evidence of marked declines in the physical and mental wellbeing of people, particularly in more vulnerable parts of society. We will not be able to tackle these problems unless we let nature help.

DWT are currently working on a Nature Based Solutions for Climate project, funded by Natural England. But what are nature-based solutions? As readers of this magazine, I'm sure that you value nature for itself, whether that's the song of a robin, the beauty of an orchid or the feeling of being in the woods. If you are a gardener, you are probably pleased when you see a bee in your apple blossom, a blue tit eating caterpillars on your cabbages or a song thrush hitting a snail on its anvil. All of these are nature-based solutions: pest

management, health and well-being and pollination. They are things that nature does for us all day, every day. But some of the things that nature does for us are huge.

Plants and animals all remove carbon from the atmosphere and store it in their bodies and leaves, which is taken into the soil by fungi and micro-organisms when they die, removing it from the atmosphere. In Derbyshire, 8,028,901 tonnes of carbon are estimated to be removed from the atmosphere by nature, every year, although some is released by nature too. This means that a net total of 7,641,596 tonnes of carbon are taken from the atmosphere and stored in nature annually in a process called carbon sequestration.*

When rain falls onto the uplands of Derbyshire, plants slow the flow of water across the land, drawing much of it into the soil and increasing the length of time before it gets into our rivers. This reduces the risk of flooding downstream. But it also means that vegetation has water to grow during drought periods, which also means that it is less likely to catch fire. Keeping water on the land before it gets into rivers is a win-win-win!

*<https://democracy.derbyshire.gov.uk/documents/s202226/>

Kinder Scout. Photo: © Jordan Holmes



The more dense the vegetation is, and the more the land is covered by vegetation, the more water is slowed down. This is also good because the slower the water is flowing, the less soil it erodes and so the cleaner it is, in turn increasing the capacity of rivers, streams and reservoirs to hold water. Plants in rivers, such as reeds and fallen trees, through the work of our beavers, also slow the flow of water, which causes sediments in the watercourses to fall out.

All of these things can be done by people, and many of them have been. But quite often they require the input of energy and generally they only do one thing. Insecticides kill insects that eat crops, but they also kill insects that pollinate crops. Machines for carbon capture and storage take carbon out of the atmosphere, but they use energy and take up space. Water treatment works remove sediment from the water in reservoirs, but cost lots of money.

The fantastic thing about nature-based solutions is that nature does many things at

the same time. Peat bogs in good condition store huge amounts of carbon, clean drinking water and reduce the risk of flooding. And they do all this whilst providing homes for animals and plants, all of whom play their part in the process.

And this benefits us from a personal point of view as well. Access to nature is really good for our health and wellbeing, reducing anxiety and depression.

In this edition of Wilder Derbyshire there are some fantastic examples of nature-based solutions at work. In the north of Derbyshire, we are doing work to restore and protect our peatlands; in the south, in the Derwent Valley, we are doing work on natural flood management; and in Derby, we are working with our local communities on how nature can benefit wellbeing.

At the Wildlife Trusts, we are trying to create more space for nature, and that not only benefits nature, it also benefits us.

Rewilding the Meuse River

I was really lucky to visit some fantastic nature-based solution sites in the Netherlands last week. The Border Meuse site spans the border between the Netherlands and Belgian provinces of Limburg. It was formed through gravel extraction, like many of sites in the Trent Valley. The Dutch NGO Ark Nature worked with gravel extraction companies to redesign how they undertook their gravel extraction operations about 25 years ago. Rather than digging a straight-sided, metres-deep hole in the ground, they extracted the same amount of material over a much bigger area, expanding and reprofiling the river channel and connecting it to the floodplain. This means that at periods of high flow, huge volumes of water are stored outside the main channel, reducing the risk of

flooding in the cities downstream. The river channel itself meanders within a much wider central space, allowing dynamic processes to operate, creating a whole series of new spaces for nature.



PEATLANDS

Dr Jordan Holmes – Nature Recovery Advisor



Slow worm found during peat survey © Issy Spoerry



Frog found during survey © Issy Spoerry



Staff on survey site © Jordan Holmes

Over the past few months, DWT has been lucky enough to be involved in a national project with Natural England. The England Peat Mapping project is measuring the extent, depth and condition of peatlands, and data from our surveyors is used to train an AI model to identify types of habitat and vegetation from satellite imagery (Prince, 2023).

Peatland is a vitally important habitat because it acts as a sponge for carbon.

Because of fossil fuel emissions, there is now more carbon in the atmosphere than there should be naturally, with current average global concentration of carbon dioxide at 421 parts per million (ppm) compared to a pre-industrial average of 280 ppm (NOAA, 2022). Methane, another carbon-containing compound, is responsible for around 30% the current rise in global temperatures and has around 25x the warming power of the better-known carbon dioxide (IEA, 2022). These two gases are not only dangerous in the atmosphere because of their climate-changing properties, but also happen to be captured by our precious peatlands. Therefore it's really important to know what's going on with our peat, what condition it's in, and whether it is healthy enough to continue capturing carbon. Mapping peat depth can indicate how old a peatland is and its general condition, while the habitats and vegetation present can be used to model how well the soil is absorbing greenhouse gases.

Peat is a nationally and globally important habitat, and covers 10% the UK, making us one of the top ten countries globally for peatland cover (IUCN Peatland Programme, 2023). However, not all of our peat is in healthy enough condition to capture carbon out of the atmosphere. To absorb carbon, the sphagnum moss community must be healthy and growing, and the water table must be very high to keep the soil and plants waterlogged. This means that when the vegetation dies off, it sinks into the water and develops into a special kind of soil over a very long time. The water layer means that the breakdown of vegetation takes much longer, and takes place without oxygen. This means that the carbon that makes up the plants' tissues can't react with oxygen and make CO₂. As a group of microorganisms called 'methanogens' (that generate methane) break down the organic matter in the absence of oxygen instead, the greenhouse gas they produce can't reach the atmosphere because it is trapped by that layer of water (Bräuer et al., 2020; Huang et al, 2021). This is how carbon can slowly be moved from the atmosphere, via the plants, under the water, and get trapped in the soil.

Peat grows extremely slowly – it can take a thousand years to build up one metre of peat, but it is much quicker to lose it if it dries out and erodes away. Therefore it's important to find out the health of peat,

target efforts to care for it if we find that it needs improvement, and make sure it's a priority both in Derbyshire and nationally. The UK is fortunate to be steward of so much of this fantastic resource. Not only is it valuable for carbon capture, but it also has high value for biodiversity with some fantastic bog-specialist species, and for natural flood management because of the amount of water that it holds.

As DWT adds to the national store of knowledge on peatlands, your help and support has allowed us to build our own Discovery and Restoration projects, to help save this resource for future generations in our own county too.



Jordan taking veg survey © Issy Spoerry

Bräuer, S.L., Basiliko, N., Siljanen, H.M.P., Zinder, S.H. (2020) Methanogenic archaea in peatlands. *FEMS Microbiology Letters*, 367(20)172

Huang, Y., Ciais, P., Luo, Y., Zhu, D., Wang, Y., Qiu, C., Goll, D.S., Guenet, B., Makowski, D., de Graaf, I., Kwon, M.J., Hu, J., Qu, L. (2021) Tradeoff of CO₂ and CH₄ emissions from global peatlands under water table drawdown. *Nature Climate Change* 11:618–622

International Energy Agency (IEA). (2022) Methane and climate change. Accessed Methane and climate change – Global Methane Tracker 2022 – Analysis – IEA 26/6/23

IUCN Peatland Programme. (2023) UK Peatlands. Accessed UK Peatlands | IUCN UK Peatland Programme (iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org) 26/6/23

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). (2022) Carbon dioxide now more than 50% higher than pre-industrial levels. Accessed Carbon dioxide now more than 50% higher than pre-industrial levels | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (noaa.gov) 26/6/23

Prince, M. (2023) Working towards a Peat Data Standard. Natural England. Accessed Working towards a Peat Data Standard - Natural England (blog.gov.uk) 26/6/23

Natural FLOOD MANAGEMENT

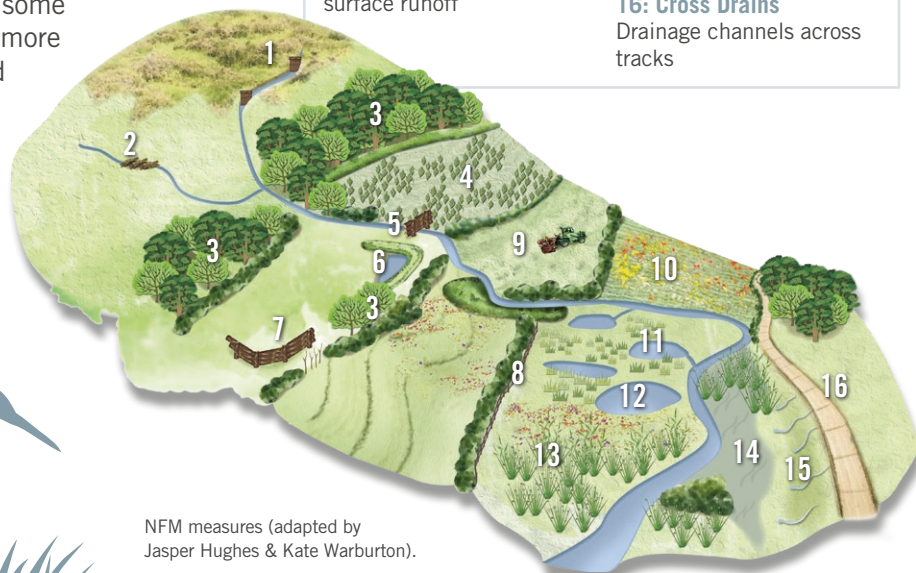
Daniel Blake – Nature-based Solutions Officer

In the face of increasing severe flood events, Natural Flood Management (NFM) has emerged as a promising solution to mitigate the devastating effects of floods on communities and ecosystems. NFM approaches focus on using and enhancing the natural processes and features of landscapes to manage floodwaters. Rather than relying solely on traditional engineering structures, such as solid dams and levees, NFM harnesses the power of nature itself.

NFM involves a range of techniques, including the restoration of wetlands and floodplains, the creation of leaky dams along rivers, and the strategic planting of trees and vegetation. Sometimes, we simply need to nudge existing natural processes along. In some locations, however, more major or widespread NFM interventions may be preferable, especially where humans have drastically modified rivers and surrounding areas in the past.

KEY

- 1: Moorland Grip and Gully Blocking**
Dams in moorland channels
- 2: Headwater Leaky Dams**
Leaky wooden dams in upland streams
- 3: Cross-slope Woodland & Hedgerows**
Woodland and hedgerows across slopes
- 4: Cover Crop**
Crops to reduce erosion and surface runoff
- 5: In-channel Leaky Barriers**
Leaky wooden dams in rivers and streams
- 6: Flow Pathway Bund**
Sloped embankment to catch and hold surface runoff
- 7: Overland Leaky Barrier**
Wooden structures to slow surface runoff
- 8: Field Boundaries**
Vegetation between fields
- 9: Reducing Soil Compaction**
Permeable and improved soil structure
- 10: Mixed Species Herbal Ley**
Mixed species grassland
- 11: Online Storage Pond**
Storage pond connected to watercourse
- 12: Offline Storage Pond**
Storage pond disconnected from watercourse
- 13: Wetland Creation**
Wetland creation
- 14: River and Floodplain Restoration**
River and floodplain restoration or reconnection
- 15: Swales**
Shallow, vegetated drainage channels
- 16: Cross Drains**
Drainage channels across tracks



NFM measures (adapted by Jasper Hughes & Kate Warburton).



down and store water, reducing the risk of downstream flooding to protect vulnerable communities and wildlife. So far, through the first project in the programme, Derwent Connections, NFM interventions covering 92 hectares have been implemented. NFM measures covering a further 74 hectares (and growing) are in the pipeline.

We are excited to share with you the efforts underway in the Derwent River catchment in Derbyshire to implement NFM strategies. With its picturesque landscapes and rich biodiversity, the Derwent River catchment is not only a cherished natural asset, but also an area prone to flooding during intense and prolonged rainfall events.

Three large-scale floods occurred in the catchment in November 2019, February 2020 and February 2022, causing damage to buildings and land, and resulting in a loss of income for landowners and businesses. One town that was severely impacted in these floods was Matlock, with a 20m section of wall along the edge of the River Derwent also collapsing. A new wall has now been built, but it is crucial that we also use other techniques, such as NFM, to reduce flood risk in the future.



Flooding in Matlock

In response to recent flooding, the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, along with local authorities, communities, and other organisations have come together to embrace NFM as a sustainable solution.

The Derwent Living Forest Programme started in 2022 and is led by the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. It supports landowners with NFM measures in the Derwent River Catchment. Initiatives, such as the restoration of peatland and wetland, the creation of leaky wooden dams, and the reconnection of rivers to their natural channels, are continually being planned and implemented. These approaches slow

By working with nature, NFM not only helps reduce flood risk but also brings many other benefits alongside. This includes improved water quality, enhanced biodiversity, and increased carbon storage within soils and vegetation.

The impacts of drought can also be reduced through NFM. Ponds and wetlands store water and provide a buffer against drought conditions by gradually releasing water during dry periods. Slowing down and spreading out the flow of water in rivers and natural habitats allows more time for water to infiltrate into soils. This helps maintain moisture levels in soils for longer and recharges aquifers beneath the surface. During severe droughts, wetland habitats also provide refuges for wildlife and maintain critical ecological functions.

The multiple benefits of NFM are becoming ever more critical as Derbyshire faces extreme weather events more frequently due to our changing climate. NFM is a compelling strategy that brings us closer to a resilient and sustainable future.

Leaky dam installation in the Derwent River Catchment. Photo: © Mark Young



Wetlands

in the Trent and Erewash regions

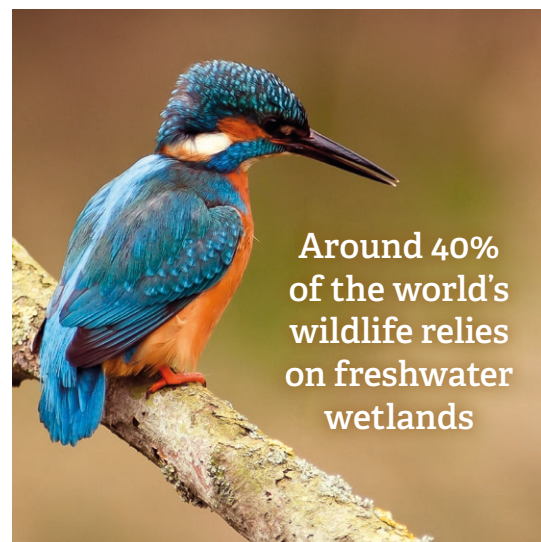
Kate Lemon – Landscape Recovery Manager (Trent and Erewash)

Wetlands

A nature-based solution is an action that restores or replicates a natural activity, to address socio-environmental problems. For example, the nature of house building sees fields built upon, and hard, impermeable surfaces replace grass and natural vegetation. Rainfall now moves more quickly into the drains, running across tarmac or roof tiles and being channeled away quickly, which is great for the homeowner who doesn't want a lake outside but not so good for those living downstream where the water now reaches far quicker and in larger volumes than before development upstream.

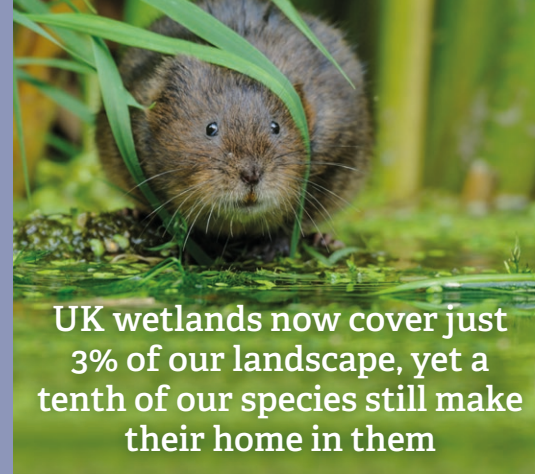
never reduced by percolation or uptake from vegetation, and the waterways it flows into become full so much more quickly. Equally these large volumes of water move fast: the sheer weight of it increases the speed of flow and so the water reaches downstream areas much more quickly. There is increased power in a fast moving, large body of water so erosion of banks and stream beds increases and the material dislodged is moved downstream too, leading to more erosion or blockages.

There is a missing step here, where water once diffused slowly through the soil, remaining in the landscape for days in one form or another. When rain falls on fields or agricultural land, it takes days for the water to reach drainage ditches, brooks and streams, percolating slowly, losing its pollutants, saturating land and sequestering carbon as it goes. Imagine an out-of-town shopping centre: acres of land that previously had a porous surface is now concrete and tarmac with features built in to prevent water puddling and to encourage fast movement away. The volume of water that falls is now



Around 40% of the world's wildlife relies on freshwater wetlands

Kingfisher, wetlands. Photo: © Mike Snelle



UK wetlands now cover just 3% of our landscape, yet a tenth of our species still make their home in them

Lost wetlands. Water vole. Photo: © Terry Whittaker

These situations are now the norm and need to be addressed to combat the devastating effects flooding has on homes and businesses, as well as the cumulative loss of natural spaces and processes. We cannot avoid the need to build homes, improve roads or create shops and services, but we can take inspiration from nature to find solutions to the problems created.

Nature-based solutions can vary from large-scale interventions, such as tree planting on all the grass margins of a road widening scheme, or constructing a new wetland that acts as a soakaway to an industrial park, to smaller interventions that any homeowner can do. These include installing water butts to collect rainwater for garden watering, not mowing the lawn but letting it grow all summer, or using a compost bin for kitchen waste rather than putting it in the bin to end up in landfill.

In 2022 Derby City Council followed other cities, such as Leicester and Hove, in installing living roofs on its city centre bus stop shelters. Called 'bee bus stops', a mix of native wildflower and sedum plants were established to make food sources and habitats for pollinating insects. Additional benefits from these are the absorption of rainwater, pollution particles being filtered from the air and, of course, visually they are very attractive, which boosts human wellbeing and happiness.

Another benefit of incorporating green surfaces and rooftop gardens into city centres is the way they mitigate the Urban Heat Island Effect – the unnatural heating of urban spaces by radiation from buildings and roads. Trees and vegetation improve the thermal comfort around buildings, reducing the demand from mechanical cooling means and bringing a higher quality of life to urban communities.

In the Erewash Valley, funding has been secured from National Highways to deliver a large-scale set of interventions to the River Erewash, reconnecting it to the original floodplain by reducing river bank height and restoring meanders and loops in the course of the river to reduce the speed the water passes through the landscape. The physical work has been based on computer-generated modelling work that takes data such as river velocity, capacity and flow rates and combines it with topography, such as contours, existing ditch and pond locations, and works out the most effective intervention types, their size and exact location for optimum effect. By utilizing these options where we can, we can build a green infrastructure that can work in parallel or even replace the human-built, grey infrastructure that currently dominates the water management industry. Blending green and grey solutions will maximise benefits and system efficiency whilst restoring and preserving habitats for wildlife too.



Wetlands are important stores of carbon, helping fight the climate crisis

Carbon wetlands. Photo: © Mark Hamblin

Communities

Adam Dosunmu Slater – Next Door Nature Community Officer

Fly-tipping, an issue which has blighted Arboretum, a ward close to Derby's city centre, for years. Mattresses, sofas and refrigerators are seen dumped around the area, often on the small bits of green space that is available.



Society Place

Local authorities spend thousands of pounds a year clearing it up and residents despair at its effects on the look and environment of the place they call home.

An area that was rife with fly-tipped items is Society Place, a walkway which connects Cummings Street and Provident Street, in Arboretum. According to neighbours to the walkway, the mowed grass either side of the path had a sofa on there most weeks. It was also a hotspot for anti-social behaviour, with many using the fly-tipped items to lounge on, something that was a consistent issue for the local nursery and the parents on their commute home.

Society Place, like many other pockets of green space, needed a new purpose. Derby City Council's Neighbourhood Team asked Derbyshire Wildlife Trust if they had any ideas of how to turn the area into a positive space.

Working with communities to make a difference is the central ethos of the Trust's Nextdoor Nature initiative. With that in

mind, Community Organiser Adam Dosunmu Slater looked to involve the local school for the area, Arboretum Primary, in the redevelopment plans.

Arboretum Primary School already had a strong commitment to the environment, with a Forest School and wildlife area on their grounds.

After a presentation and design brief, the Forest School visited Society Place and measured out the area in January this year.

Then after a big assembly to the whole of Key Stage two, the children spent the February half term designing their plans for the area, with an array of wonderful ideas put forward that considered wildlife and the community.

There were two winning designs. Musa Hussain produced an excellent array of native trees and plants that were perfect for the local wildlife. Imaan, the other winner, produced a beautiful design that incorporated the colour and vibrancy that the area should have.



Musa, Winner

Society Place/Cummings Street Imaan Green Space

Measurements
Solar powered fairy lights
1. Bushes all around the path with sweet smelling plants.
Hedges
2. flowers and bug hotels
Bird bath
new gate and new bollards
3. water fountain
Bans near entrance and exit
4. Signs telling people not to litter, no strolling and to pick up dog poo
5. greenery plants
fountain
vine trellises
6. hanging plant baskets
fresh grass
flower bulbs



With the designs chosen, next it was up to the council to buy the produce, something that was kindly supported by the Home Office's Safer Streets fund. April saw the addition to the site of three fruit trees and some planters.

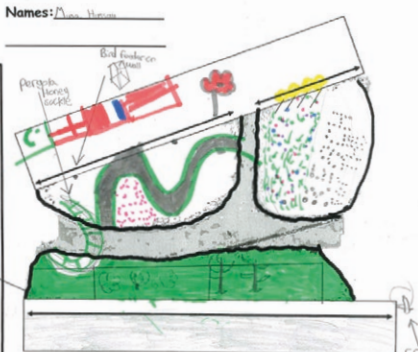
The following month, the Forest School got to see the initial changes and the chance to add various flowers and herbs to the planters and surrounding areas. This was a pleasing moment for Forest School leader Joel Glyn-Davies, who said:

"We are thrilled to have had the opportunity to revitalise this area and create a safe, green space for the community to enjoy. It was heart-breaking to see this once-beautiful space neglected and misused, but we were determined to bring it back to life."



Society Place/Cummings Street Green Space

Ideas
Bird feeder
Stone maze (mesh for the trees)
sign on a mound
sun flower
fruit trees - apple/ cherry/pear
herb garden (mint, oregano, thyme)
fruit bushes - blackberry, blueberry, black currant, raspberry, gooseberry



Although it is early days, the redevelopment has produced a change of behaviour already. Neighbours to the site said in the couple of months since the trees and planters were put in, there hadn't been a single instance of fly-tipping.

Crucially, though, it has also been important for the children's perception of their community and the environment. "They learned so much about the natural world and the importance of taking care of it," said Jordan Tull, Co-Forest School Lead. "Seeing the pride on their faces when they saw the finished space was incredibly rewarding. We hope that this project inspires them to continue to be stewards of the environment and to appreciate the beauty of nature."

Our Successes

Here's a quick round-up of just some of our successes over 2022–2023 – for more information and for our accounts, please visit: <https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/accounts>



Derwent Meadows © Kayleigh Wright

MAY 2022



DERWENT MEADOWS – URBAN NATURE RESERVE

The Trust took on management of this important wildlife area next to Alvaston business park. Derwent Meadows is a haven for wildlife in a busy industrial location. It supports nature corridors through Derby City and ensures wildlife and wild places are available to everyone.

GOAL 1 – 33% OF DERBYSHIRE WILL BE MANAGED FOR WILDLIFE

JULY 2022



BEAVER KITS BORN AT WILLINGTON WETLANDS

Two beaver kits were born at Willington Wetlands. These are the first beaver kits in Derbyshire for over 800 years – it was a special moment! These kits will go on to act as ecosystem engineers, transforming the landscape so nature and other wildlife can thrive!



Beaver kits © Ace Nature

GOAL 1 – 33% OF DERBYSHIRE WILL BE MANAGED FOR WILDLIFE



JULY 2022



OVER 2,000 RESIDENTS BACK REWILDING ALLESTREE PARK

More than 2,000 people responded to the public consultation on the future of Derby City's Allestree Park, the largest ever consultation response the city has seen. An overwhelming majority of respondents backed a community-led approach to rewilding for the site, which will see Allestree Park become an accessible, inclusive nature-rich space for all to enjoy.

GOAL 2 – MORE PEOPLE NOTICE AND CARE

SEPTEMBER 2022



CLIMATE ALLIES JOIN FORCES ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO DEFEND NATURE

During a period of political turmoil and unprecedented attacks on nature we have stood firm with allies from across the sector. We backed #defendnature and briefed our local decision makers on the threats. Hundreds of members and supporters in Derbyshire took part, contacting their representatives to voice their anger. In all, over 9,000 people backed one or more of our campaigns in 2022–2023, and over 100 are now starting nature campaigns of their own!

GOAL 3 – 1 IN 4 PEOPLE ACT FOR NATURE



Bee: Photo: © Jon Hawkins Surrey Hills Photography



OCTOBER 2022

1,000 PEOPLE GET WILD ABOUT DERBY

1,000 people joined us at this event, to show their love of urban wildlife and share their vision for a wilder, greener city. This one-day event featured a canal boat, trips to Allestree Park to talk rewilding, nature crafts and even a giant hedgehog. A beautiful 18-foot peregrine painted throughout the day remains at the entrance to the Museum of Making as a reminder that our cities and towns are home to wildlife too.

GOAL 2 - MORE PEOPLE NOTICE AND CARE

MARCH 2023

AQUEDUCT COTTAGE OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

A four-year project to save Aqueduct Cottage, a derelict 19th century building once owned by the family of Florence Nightingale, has been completed and the building is now open to the public. Aqueduct Cottage provides an important visitor gateway to Lea Wood Nature Reserve and the wider Derwent landscape. A whopping 7,500 hours of volunteer time went into the restoration!

GOAL 2 - MORE PEOPLE NOTICE AND CARE



Aqueduct Cottage restoration



MARCH 2023

AN EXCITING NEW SPACE FOR NATURE, WILD WHITTINGTON

The Trust secured the purchase of 60 acres of land at Old Whittington, to the north of Chesterfield. 'Wild Whittington' will be a place for nature to rewild and local people to enjoy, thanks to overwhelming support from the public, generous grants and philanthropic loans.

GOAL 1 - 33% OF DERBYSHIRE WILL BE MANAGED FOR WILDLIFE





Wilder WATER

River Ecclesbourne Restoration Project

Jennifer Kril – Living Rivers Officer

When asked to think about our Derbyshire rivers, you might picture the impressive Derwent, the picturesque Dove, or the majestic Trent. You would be forgiven for perhaps not having heard about some of Derbyshire’s smaller, lesser-known rivers. However, it is often these that are in most need of help. The vital recovery of our rivers needs to be tackled at a catchment and county-wide scale, if we are to have any hope of succeeding.

With the support of our partners, the rivers team at Derbyshire Wildlife Trust are focusing current efforts on the River Ecclesbourne. The river rises close to our offices near Wirksworth and flows southeast for approximately 18km to join the Derwent near Duffield.

The Ecclesbourne currently holds a ‘moderate’ ecological status due to factors such as pollution, physical barriers to fish migration, and presence of invasive non-native species (INNS). Hundreds of years ago, fish species such as salmon and brown trout would have been abundant in the river. However, the growth of industry in the 18th century led to many rivers being diverted for milling and the construction of many man-made barriers.

This September 2023, work will take place to excavate a new river to bypass a weir at the site of the historic Postern Mill, the last remaining barrier to migratory fish. Work will take approximately 6 weeks and, once completed, will open up 28km of river and streams to fish migration, which will in turn improve the overall health of the river.

Postern Mill Weir. Photo: © Jennifer Kril Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

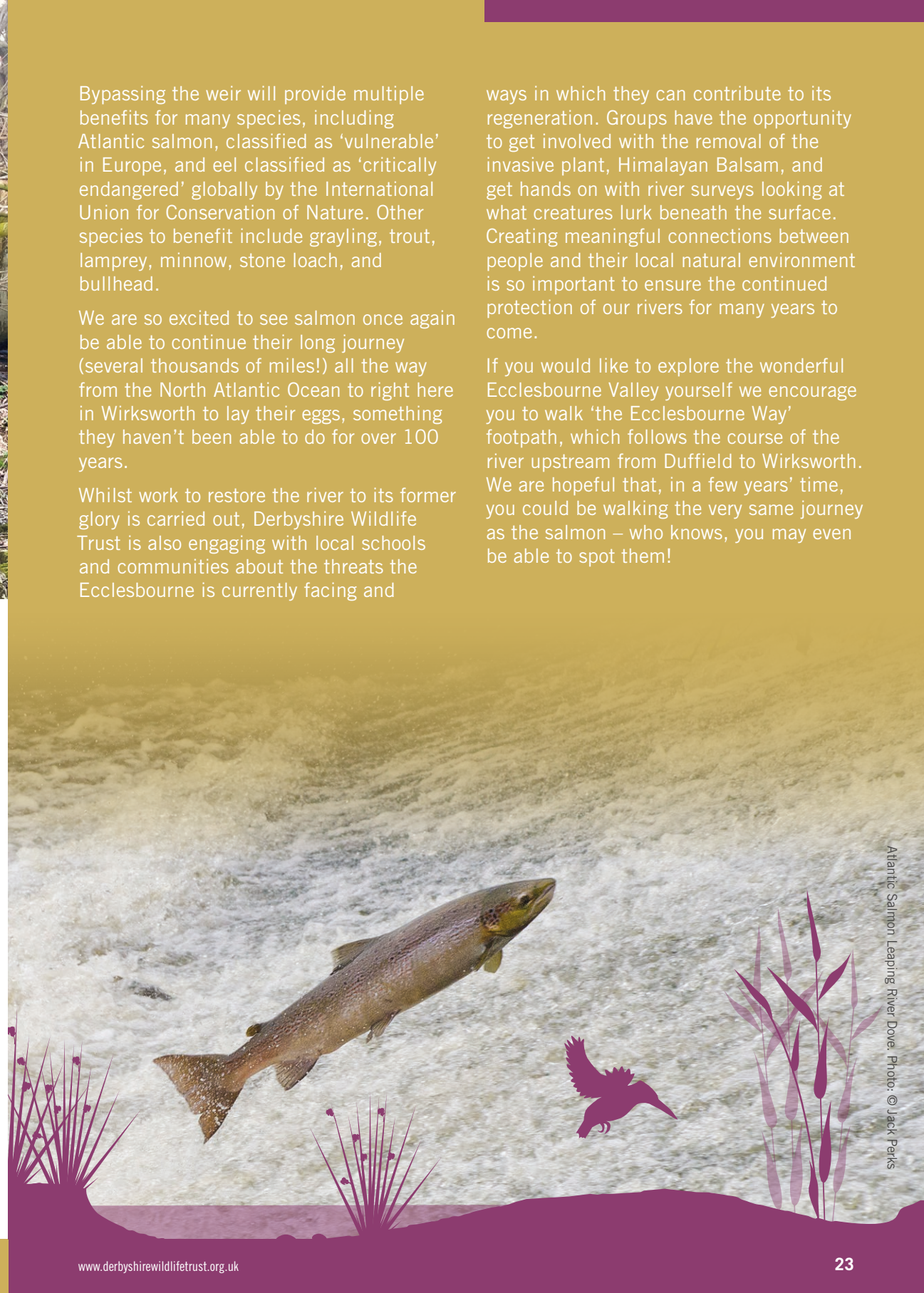
Bypassing the weir will provide multiple benefits for many species, including Atlantic salmon, classified as ‘vulnerable’ in Europe, and eel classified as ‘critically endangered’ globally by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Other species to benefit include grayling, trout, lamprey, minnow, stone loach, and bullhead.

We are so excited to see salmon once again be able to continue their long journey (several thousands of miles!) all the way from the North Atlantic Ocean to right here in Wirksworth to lay their eggs, something they haven’t been able to do for over 100 years.

Whilst work to restore the river to its former glory is carried out, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is also engaging with local schools and communities about the threats the Ecclesbourne is currently facing and

ways in which they can contribute to its regeneration. Groups have the opportunity to get involved with the removal of the invasive plant, Himalayan Balsam, and get hands on with river surveys looking at what creatures lurk beneath the surface. Creating meaningful connections between people and their local natural environment is so important to ensure the continued protection of our rivers for many years to come.

If you would like to explore the wonderful Ecclesbourne Valley yourself we encourage you to walk ‘the Ecclesbourne Way’ footpath, which follows the course of the river upstream from Duffield to Wirksworth. We are hopeful that, in a few years’ time, you could be walking the very same journey as the salmon – who knows, you may even be able to spot them!



Atlantic Salmon Leaping River Dove. Photo: © Jack Perks

AUTUMN/WINTER Wildlife

Nick Brown – Wildlife Enquiries Officer

September is probably my second favourite month of the year (May being my first).

And even though the nights are drawing in, October also has so much to offer anyone interested in the natural world.

Writing this in June, I have no idea how the summer months will play out.

If it was as hot and dry as last summer then even late flowering grassland plants like grass of Parnassus, orpine and devil's bit scabious will be over by the end of August.

Butterfly numbers will also have decreased, and species such as the peacock will have long gone into hibernation.

Commas, on the other hand, will be out and about, feeding on the vital nectar source that ivy flowers provide well into October.

As last year, I will set out butterfly-feeding tables in the garden, stocked with rotting damsons, bananas and little bowls of grenadine or any other sugary syrup!

Red admirals, commas and even speckled wood butterflies will make a bee-line for these offerings as will wasps.

In fact, such tables are a great way of luring wasps away from your beer or jam. I'm appalled at the vast array of wasp killing products on display in garden centres, and as for those wasp traps you see at almost every outdoor eating venue...I wish I had the energy and zeal to challenge the proprietors!



Red deer stag © David Illingworth

Autumn forest © Andy Bartlett



Wigeon © Damien Waters

Blackcap © Janet Packham

Autumn is a time of 'change around' in the bird world, with summer visitors being replaced by winter arrivals from the north.

If you are a bird watcher, then this season has many excitements in store. If any osprey chicks have been satellite tagged you'll be able to watch their every move as they head on a very precarious and lonely journey to West Africa. Some will overfly this county but you'll be very lucky if you see one.

The first redwings and fieldfares will appear as if by magic. Will there be enough hawthorn berries for them?

There certainly should be, given the fantastic display of blossom we enjoyed in May but with the one proviso: were there enough insects to pollinate the flowers?

And wildfowl (an old shooting term we should now try to avoid?) will fill our lakes, gravel pits and reservoirs with a host of species coming here to enjoy our mild winters.

Among the ducks, wigeon, goldeneye and the lovely pintail will arrive, along with whooper swans.

Sadly, though, the large flocks of lapwings and golden plover that used to spend the winter in the south of the county are largely gone.

In my own garden, come the end of August and September, I'll be keeping a close eye on the elderberries I can see from my kitchen window. These will attract many blackcaps and, with luck, a few lesser whitethroats and even a garden warbler or a common whitethroat, as well as many resident birds.

The problem is that wood pigeons sometimes deplete the berries before they are fully ripe and before the warblers show up. I once counted a pigeon devouring 220 elder berries in a ten minute spell!



By October, ladybirds will be seeking hibernation hidey-holes in stems of dead plants – so do leave dead herbaceous plants standing in your borders for them and others. If you should find ladybirds indoors, especially if they are clustered on a wall or on a curtain, they will be the unwelcome Harlequin ladybirds, a species which has spread rapidly across the UK and which predates our native species.

Meanwhile, on a few remote moors, red deer will be rutting and in the Trent, Derwent and Dove, salmon will be forging upstream to their spawning grounds now that so many weirs have either been removed or by-passed.

Hedgehogs (the few that are left) will be seeking safe hibernation sites, as will grass snakes, adders, common lizards and our amphibians.

The herald moth will be flying into caves or dark tunnels where they will overwinter. It's a time of retreat.

And as the leaves fall from trees, gardeners will be sweeping (or blowing) them off their lawns depriving worms from an important food source.

Leaves are slow to compost, taking two years or more but if you are patient enough, leaf mould provides a brilliant growing medium.

With long dark evenings, autumn is the time to look back on your summer sightings and send details to the Derbyshire Biological Records Centre, housed within the Trust's headquarters at Middleton.

There's a new quick and easy way of inputting your records directly: try it out at <https://dbrc-ors.lerc.online>.

You'll need to be sure of your identification of course, and you will have to have a date and exact location too. There is an easy mapping system enabling you to find a grid reference without having to go to google maps. Give it a try?

Hedgehog © Gillian Day



Speckled wood butterfly © Chris Gomersall

And finally, local groups meetings begin once more...an opportunity to hear about conservation projects as much as to transport you to see the wildlife of some far off clime. Those of the Trust can be found on our website, but there are many other groups in the county, some running talks, including local natural history groups (in Buxton, Long Eaton, Sheffield and Derby), and some specialising in birds, insects, mammals, bats etc. Do support them. Alongside the Trust, they make a significant contribution to the 'wildlife scene' in the county, as well as being the major source of wildlife records. The Derbyshire Ornithological Society holds well over a million bird records, which are now shared with the DBRC.

Yes, I love autumn and, just like spring, it all happens far too fast...so if you can, get outdoors and observe, listen and smell the many delights of autumn!

See our events and talks here: www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/things-to-do



Blackcaps eating berries © Robert Greenhalf



Lapwings © Alan Price

DONATIONS MAKING SPACE FOR NATURE



ALLESTREE PARK BEFORE



ALLESTREE PARK 2 YEARS IN

Ben Carter – Director of Development

England remains one of the most nature-depleted countries on earth, but thanks to the hard work and donations of nature supporters like you, we may be witnessing a turning point.

Members, donors and partners are delivering huge changes to the landscape across Derbyshire.

Rose End Meadows

In 2021, members and supporters gave generously, and we were able to secure the purchase of an extension to this important reserve. The site provides a window into what other areas of Derbyshire could look like, offering an example of a range of habitats such as scrub, dew ponds, hedgerows and, of course, those famous flower-rich meadows.



Rose End Meadow © Kayleigh Wright

Wild Whittington

Just last year, supporters of the Defend Nature appeal helped to purchase 60 acres of depleted farmland to be rewilded. This site is providing more space for nature and connecting important habitats.



Old Whittington © Kayleigh Wright

Rewilding will take many years but look at the changes already!

Allowing plant species to grow and flower provides food for pollinators, as well as shelter and shade. This process is the first big step in restoring a once degraded habitat to an ecosystem filled with life.

Allestree Park

Now in its second summer of rewilding, the changes within this much-loved urban park are really starting to show. Swathes of longer grass and more space for wildflowers has meant more opportunities for butterflies and birds alike. People have been sharing sightings of swallows, comma butterflies and green woodpecker chicks, as well as the calm and happiness they get from these wonderful natural spaces.

These are all reasons to not only be hopeful about the future of our wonderful landscape, but positively excited about the change we will see when we create that much-needed breathing room for nature to take flight once more.

The key question is, can we do enough, fast enough, to protect local nature and ourselves from the nature and climate crisis?

As I write this article, the Trust is working to secure another amazing space for nature, a large area of grazed grassland that is currently providing very little habitat.

I cannot reveal the location or share more details right now in case this disrupts negotiations, but by the time this magazine is printed and delivered to you I hope to be able to share some exciting news.

I can tell you that the site represents a fantastic opportunity for the natural regeneration.

In five years, we could see a burst in diversity of wildflowers, attracting a wider range of pollinators, such as bees, butterflies and hoverflies. We will also see small thickets of scrub appearing, providing previously lacking shelter for nesting bird species, nectar sources for our pollinators and areas of shade and refuge for small mammal populations.

In twenty years, the site could become a haven for nature, supporting rare birds, reptiles, mammals and more. Soils will no longer be degraded and will support the growth of fungi. We will see occasional young saplings surviving to grow into young trees, having been planted by birds from the neighbouring woodland. The site will become a rich, complex web of habitat and species interactions, and a symbol of hope and positivity for the wider recovery of our landscape.

I hope very much to be able to share all the details by the time you read this. You can use the link below to find out more www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/

CAN WE COUNT ON YOU?

Weasel, Cotford Canal © Andrew Reardon

Carole Boon – Derbyshire Biological Records Centre

The Derbyshire Biological Records Centre (DBRC) has been undergoing a slow but steady overhaul. We launched our new database system, Orca, back in December and we have completed the full transfer of our existing species data. At time of writing, we hold 1,291,442 species records.

Requests for data is now handled by the website My LERC: <https://my.lerc.online/>. This website and its interface with Orca has cut the staff time spent on standard data enquires by a hefty 70%! This is enabling us to improve the quality of the data and to handle new sources of data.

Other improvements also include the rebranding of the DBRC logo. Historically, when the database was held at the Derby Museum, the DBRC did have a logo, but once the database was given to the DWT, the logo dropped out of common use.

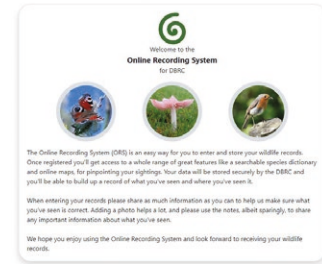
In order to make the DBRC more current in today's fast-paced society, we rebranded and launched a new logo to reflect the DBRC and its important work. The new logo enables the record centre to have its own identity within

DWT as fitting the only county record centre holding biological data.

The new logo shows the record centres name along with the centre's acronym. The icon being the outline of the Derbyshire County and a spyglass on an insect to highlight the work that we do. The fonts and colours reflect the DBRCs presence within DWT.



Other changes expected over the next few months will include a new webpage on the DWT website. The DBRC webpage will bring together functionality, allowing users to request data from and submit data to DBRC, all on one webpage. The page may also include information about the DBRC, a blog/sightings/photo section where we'd be showing the best of Derbyshire's wildlife. We'll also have links to DWT projects and reserves.



Online recording system opening screen

There is now a new free online species recording system called ORS. ORS is an easy way for you to enter and store your wildlife records at the DBRC. Once registered you'll get access to a whole range of great features which are part of the Orca platform, like a searchable species dictionary and online maps for pinpointing your sightings. Your data will be stored securely by the DBRC and you'll be able to build up a record of what you've seen and where you've seen it – you'll have no excuse not to tell us what you've seen with these exciting new initiatives.

Another new feature which may appear will be a 'Gap in the Map'. As a record centre we encourage everyone to send the DBRC the

wildlife you see, be it bird, beast or plant (via our new ORS!). 'Gap in the Map' would aim to show the areas within Derbyshire where we hold very little / or no species data. If you are so inclined, you can use the map to target areas with less/no records and help us complete the picture of wildlife within Derbyshire. These changes to the website are still in the pipeline, but it's exciting stuff for the DBRC.

The DBRC provides data to a wide range of audiences, including decision-makers, researchers, the public, land managers and more. If you require a data search, please use the My LERC website. You can email us with your queries or questions at speciesrecords@derbyshirewt.co.uk

Remember, we can only protect Derbyshire's wildlife when we know where it is! Can we count on you?
www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlife/record-sighting

WORKING TOGETHER for wildlife



Fundraise for Wildlife

Fundraising is a wonderful way to bring people together and to raise money for the trust and all the work we do.

Why not join us on September 30th at 9am at Shipley Country Park for Shipley Park Run! A fun and friendly 5k community event. Walk, jog or run - it's up to you!

For more information on fundraising see www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/support/fundraise



Win for Wildlife

Give wildlife a helping hand with our weekly lottery

We've partnered with Unity to launch a lottery that supports our work across Derbyshire. Every entry directly supports us, and the maximum prize each week is **£25,000**.



By playing our lottery, you'll help us protect and preserve Derbyshire's wildlife and wild places.

For more information visit: www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/lottery



50/50 Club winners

Congratulations to recent winners!

Jane Bryce, Anne Davies, Dr David Gibbons, David Selkirk, Mr C J Seymour and Peter Lowe

Working in Partnership



Have you been yet?

Been Coffee are celebrating becoming one of our latest corporate supporters by offering every Derbyshire Wildlife Trust member 10% off food and drink at their café located at Derby and Burton Services, DE65 6DX (just off Toyota Island).

Been Coffee Co-Director, Martin Witheford, explained; "Everything we do here at Been Coffee is driven by offering an amazing experience to our customers, using locally sourced

produce where possible, in an environmentally friendly manner. We routinely look for ways to help the environment, and Been Coffee is proud to join Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to help promote our wildlife that we are so lucky to be able to enjoy and live alongside. We look forward to a long partnership with them."

To take advantage of your 10% discount, just show your membership card when you pay. Plus, it's a great spot on the way to visiting our Derbyshire beavers at Willington Wetlands, under 2 miles away from Been Coffee!

To find out more about corporate partnerships visit www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/corporate

We are proud to be working in partnership with:

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



Charles Hanson

My WILDLIFE

Going, going, almost gone! Nature: an heirloom worth saving

INTERVIEW BY GEMMA BRADLEY – PRESS OFFICER

Charles Hanson is best known as one of the UK's leading auctioneers and antiques expert on shows such as BBC's Bargain Hunt, Antiques Road Trip and Flog It! He began his career at Christie's in London but returned to Derbyshire in 2005 to establish his own auction house, Hansons, in his home county.

Charles has long supported local causes through valuation days and charity auctions and is a keen supporter of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and its vision for a Wilder Derbyshire, but his love for Derbyshire and wildlife runs even deeper. We chatted with Charles to find out more about his exciting career, his connection to Derbyshire and why he believes nature is just as worth saving as the treasures he finds in antiques shops.

What got you into auctioning and how were you propelled into the world of television?

As a youngster I spent a lot of time outdoors on our farm in Derbyshire with my grandfather, a retired pig farmer. One day a detectorist came to his door with a Roman coin that had been found on his land. My grandfather placed it in my hand and said,

“Just imagine if this coin could talk.” That was it. In that one sentence, my passion for history was ignited!

When I finished university, I took an internship at Christie's in London and later worked in and around Cheshire and Shropshire. During this time, I was asked by my employer if I would be happy to do a TV appearance they'd been asked to do. I wasn't an overly confident young man, but I said yes. I guess you can just call it being in the right place and the right time. I've been doing television work for the last 21 years as a result, and now I'm thrilled to have my own show out this summer.

What brought you back from the bright lights of London to set up Hansons in Derbyshire in 2005?

Derbyshire is my home. It's where I was brought up then and it's where my family are now, but it's also a predominantly untouched landscape packed with history.

I'm a great advocate of not seeing over-development, preserving and maintaining the



past and leaving things as they are in some respects. That nostalgia extends to preserving and maintaining habitats and landscapes for nature, but also for people to enjoy and benefit from for their own wellbeing.

You have a great eye for finding hidden antique treasures. Where is your favourite wildlife spot in Derbyshire and why?

We're blessed to have a variety of different landscapes and wildlife, flora and fauna here in Derbyshire. My favourite spots are those places where you can really contemplate and enjoy the rigours of history, where man hasn't done too much and let it just be.

As a boy, my family and I would spend time in Ashbourne, Brassington and Tissington. Now I live near Etwall and enjoy the area around Repton, and into Derby you've got lovely places like Allestree Park.

But for me, it's those quiet corners of wildlife, wherever they may be, which can be less hospitable with less people around, but provide an outlet for me to lose myself, contemplate and enjoy some time out.



I think, particularly during lockdown, people found therapy in being outside, walking, getting more connected to nature and taking away the distraction of technology and things like social media. It's very healthy.

You've had an incredible career as an auctioneer and TV personality, and it is well publicised that you have raised thousands of pounds for charities. What motivates you to support causes like our own?

When you have a passion for antiques, you want to preserve them and find a place for them to live on. What I hope people can one day understand is that wildlife is just as precious an heirloom. Our landscapes and ecosystems need preserving in the same way. I want to inject that same passion for things into preservation of wildlife.

I was poorly a few years ago, and as a family we have experienced loss, and being able to take time to contemplate things in the great untapped outdoors of Derbyshire, to see life fluttering in and out of hedgerows and hear birds and connect with wildlife, that connection gives you positivity in knowing that life will go on. I found that connection and I felt I was able to be supported by it, but also to be steered by it all. That connection for anyone, especially someone with an illness or going through something, can add enormous therapeutic value and wellbeing.

Over the years, I've been fortunate to work and fundraise with many local and national charities and it's incredibly fulfilling. I think people thrive when they engage with the people, communities and the environment around them, and knowing how you can help others and doing what you can to support is good for us all.



YOU CAN WATCH CHARLES IN HIS NEW TV SERIES 'SECRETS OF THE SALESROOM' WHICH IS DUE TO BE AIRED BY QUEST IN JANUARY 2024.



Derbyshire
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We now have a free will writing service, for more information see: www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/legacy-giving

