



Walkers at Deep Dale  
Ian Weatherley

# Explore Derbyshire's wild side!

Take a trip to one of our nature reserves and discover the wonderful wildlife on your doorstep.



Small tortoiseshell  
on wild flowers Kieron Huston



Wild flowers at  
Gang Mine  
Kieron Huston

## A little bit of house keeping...

Please remember that our reserves are home to lots of fantastic wildlife. Therefore, we ask that you don't camp or light any fires. Please also leave wild flowers, plants and fungi where they are for others to enjoy.

Dogs should be kept on leads and litter taken home with you. We also ask that you stay on the paths to avoid disturbing wildlife.

With your help and understanding we can make sure our reserves remain wonderful places for people and wildlife for years to come.

### Key to facilities



Walking



Insects



Bats



Great for families



Fungi



Trees



Wild flowers



Birds



Bike ride



### Wildlife spotting check list

The sites detailed in this leaflet provide a wealth of opportunities to see wildlife. The list below contains a few items that will help increase your chances of seeing and identifying the wildlife on your doorstep.

- Binoculars
- Wildlife identification guide – such as birds, trees or wild flowers
- Pad and pencil – to make notes on what you see
- Camera or camera-phone to record what you see

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is the county's largest environmental charity run by local people for the benefit of local wildlife and wildlife habitats. If you share our vision please support us by becoming a member.

@derbyswildlife

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

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**Derbyshire**  
Wildlife Trust



Best places to find  
wildlife in Derbyshire



Defending wildlife, restoring landscapes, inspiring people  
[www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk)

# Experience nature on your doorstep

**Each reserve provides a vital refuge for animals and plants that are disappearing from our countryside. Whilst exploring, look for:**



Water vole

Ian Wilson

Water voles, which are suffering a devastating national decline, can still be seen regularly at The Avenue Washlands and Mapperley Wood.

5 11

The bittern, a rare member of the heron family, sometimes visits Willington, Drakelow and Carr Vale in winter.

13 4 23



Bittern

Elliott Neep

8 5 11

Keep an eye out for fungi at Lea Wood, The Avenue Washlands and Mapperley Wood. Look for puffball, colourful orange peel and elegant common bonnet.



Common bonnet

Paul Shaw



Bulbous buttercups

Kieron Huston

7 6 3

For meadows bursting with wild flowers each summer, head to Rose End Meadows, Hartington Meadows or our Wye Valley reserves.



Emperor dragonfly

Tony Pidi

12 13

Look out for jewel-like dragonflies and damselflies. Hilton Gravel Pits and Willington Gravel Pits are great places to try.

Bluebells are plentiful across many of our woodland reserves in spring. Try Lea Wood, Mapperley Wood and Spring Wood.

8 11 24



Bluebells

Jim Higham



Barn owl

Margaret Holland

Visit at dusk, and if you are lucky, you might spot a barn owl at Woodside Farm or The Avenue Washlands.

10 5

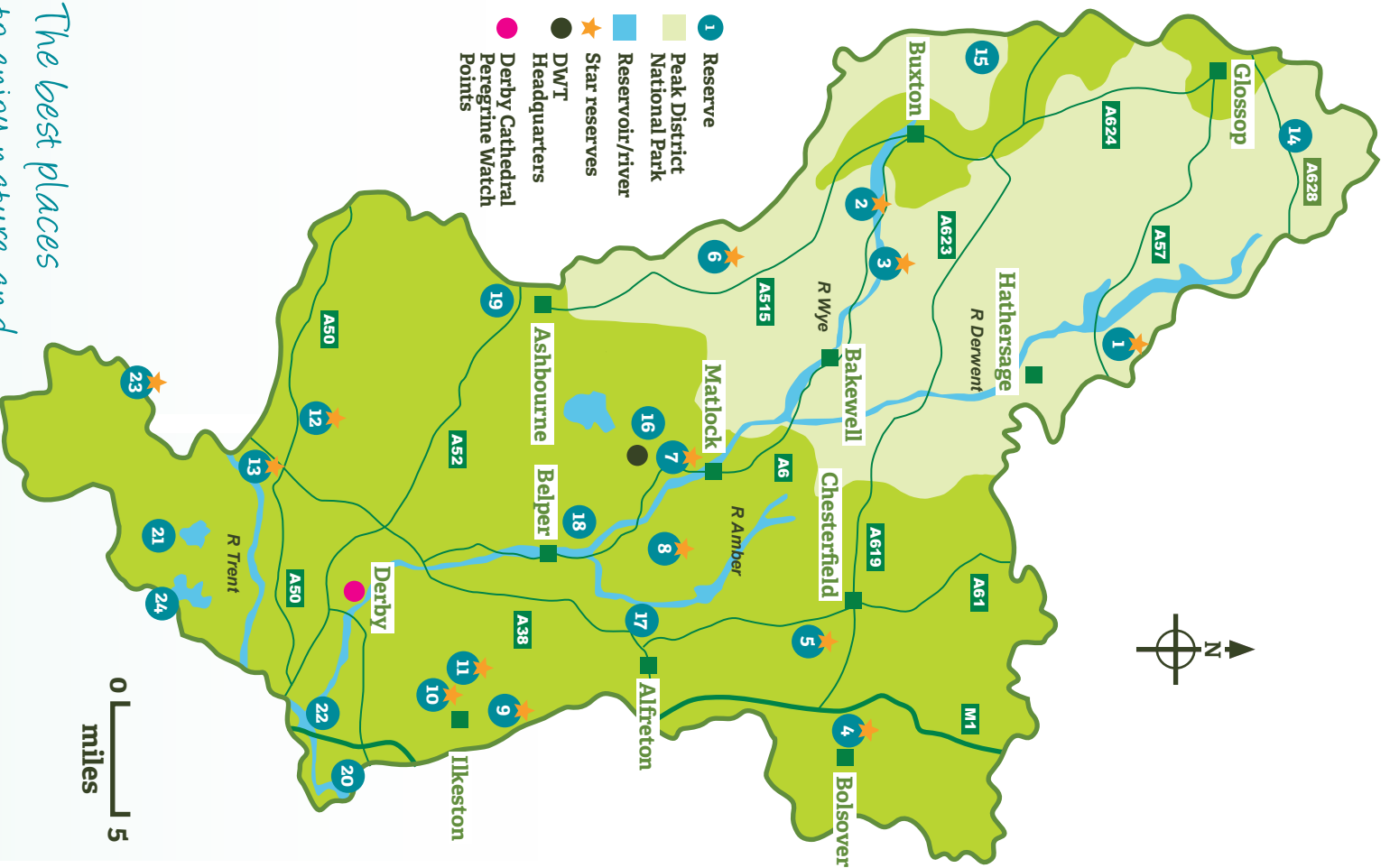
A visit to Rose End Meadows, Gang Mine and Hilton in the summer will reward you with clouds of butterflies!

7 16 12



Small copper

Amy Lewis



*The best places  
to enjoy nature and  
wildlife on your doorstep:*

- 1 Ladybower Wood SSSI** ★  
Ladybower Inn, S33 0AX  
Upland oakwood and heather moorland – a great place to look for lichens, woodland birds and mountain hares. Off the beaten track around Ladybower Reservoir.



- 2 Deep Dale and Topley Pike SSSI** ★  
Wye Dale car park, SK17 9TE

A spectacular dale where you can admire the abundance of wild flowers. Look for the deep pink blooms of bloody crane's-bill and take a peek in the cave.



- 3 Wye Valley Reserves** ★  
Miller's Dale car park, SK17 8SN is a great place to start your adventure.

The Wye Valley is home to a string of nature reserves. Discover limestone dales, quarries and ancient woodlands bursting with wild flowers and birdsong in the summer and follow the meanders of the River Wye.

All along the Monsal Trail, these are perfect for a full day's walk, a short stroll or a pit stop whilst on a bike ride.

- ~ Chee Dale SSSI
- ~ Miller's Dale Quarry SSSI
- ~ Priestcliffe Lees SSSI
- ~ Cranside Wood SSSI



- 4 Carr Vale** ★  
S44 6GA for the Peter Fidler car park

One of the best birdwatching sites in Derbyshire. There is plenty to see all year round, from wigeon, teal and other ducks in winter to breeding warblers, waders and sand martins in the summer. An example of a healthy water habitat, it is also a great place to see dragonflies, pond dip and walk through a reedbed!



- 5 The Avenue Washlands** ★  
S42 6NG for the Mill Lane entrance

Reedbed, marsh, ponds and grassland, attract birds such as tufted duck, wigeon, snipe and little grebe as well as skylarks, yellowhammer and nesting warblers. Water voles, great crested newts and dragonflies have also made their homes here. Great for a family walk and pond dipping all year round.



- 6 Hartington Meadows** ★  
Hartington Station car park, SK17 0AZ

Meadows bursting with wild flowers in early summer. From traditional haymeadow species such as yellow rattle to limestone specialists such as fragrant orchid. This is the perfect reserve to walk waist high in wild flowers and swish for butterflies and moths. Also a great stop off on the Tissington Trail.



- 7 Rose End Meadows SSSI** ★  
DE4 3QD for the St Mark's Close entrance (limited – try Cromford for additional parking)

These special meadows are a vivid picture of how Derbyshire's limestone farmland looked around a hundred years ago. Bursting with wild flowers through spring and summer, from buttercups and bluebells to orchids and great burnet, the reserve also has several traditional dew ponds. Perfect for a summer stroll.



- 8 Lea Wood** ★  
High Peak Junction car park or DE4 5AE

An ancient semi-natural woodland with a rich history. The woodland floor is carpeted with bluebells and wild daffodils in spring and home to northern wood ants and 96 species of fungi. Combine with a walk along Cromford Canal and listen to our audio trail whilst looking for dragonflies and grass snakes.



## 9 Erewash Meadows ★

Park at Boat Lane, NG16 5PR

This reserve is part of the largest area of floodplain grasslands and wetlands in the Erewash Valley. Best known for birds, the reserve is also home to grass snakes, amphibians, dragonflies and water voles. Walk along the railway embankment for great views.



## 10 & 11 Woodside Farm and Mapperley Wood ★

Mapperley Reservoir car park, DE7 6BR or DE75 7JL for Pit Lane

The Trust's farm is home to many farmland birds, wild flowers including orchids, invertebrates, brown hares and water voles. A great day out to see farming and conservation working hand-in-hand. Do a spot of pond dipping and follow an art trail.

Combine your visit with a wander around Mapperley Wood and visit the living bird table. Don't forget to buy a beef or lamb box to support our work on the Farm - call us on 01773 881188.



## 12 Hilton Gravel Pits SSSI ★

Willowpit Lane, DE65 5FW

Great crested newts, black poplar trees, wetland birds and bats. The reserve is also a good place for dragonflies, with 14 species recorded here and a fantastic place to look for orchids and fungi. Follow the trails, see who visits the feeding stations and be sure to pond dip.



## 13 Willington Gravel Pits ★

Nature Reserve

DE65 6YB, park at the top of Meadow Lane and walk in

This former gravel quarry is teeming with bird life all year round, from ducks in winter to sand martins and common terns in summer. Dragonflies and damselflies are plentiful here too. Lots of viewing platforms and a feeding station. You will need a permit for the bird hide.



# Pocket nature reserves

These reserves are small but important!

## 14 Brockholes Wood SSSI

Car park off the A628, SK13 1HZ

One of a few remaining upland oak woodlands with moorland - a great place to look for mountain hares and woodland birds.



## 15 Hilbridge and Park Woods

GRID REF SK01127869

Park on A5004 Long Hill and walk in an upland oak woodland rich with the colour and scent of bluebells in spring. Part of a much larger network of walks in the area.



## 16 Gang Mine SSSI

Off Porter Lane, DE4 4FT or park at the National Stone Centre car park and cross over the road

Explore this little reserve and look for specialist lead-tolerant flowers and glow worms!



## 17 Oakerthorpe LNR

Anchor Inn, DE55 7LP

Great for a short walk. Look for frogs, toads, grass snakes as well as willow tits and orchids.



Little grebe found at Cranford Canal

Tom Marshall

## 18 Wyver Lane

DE56 2EF – park in the layby

An important wetland reserve, home to otter and great for bird watching. Permit needed for hide.



## 19 Holly Wood

Park at DE6 2DQ and follow the road towards Edlaston to reach reserve

Perfect for a short walk to get away from it all. Visit in spring to see bluebells.



## 20 Barton Pool

GRID REF SK504331, reserve to be viewed from the multi-user trail

Whilst visiting Attenborough Nature Reserve take a detour to include this small wetland which is important for its insects and old pollard willows.



## 21 Carvers Rocks SSSI

GRID REF SK33482226

Limited parking in the layby on A514 Ticknall Road, DE73 7JP

One of the last lowland heath habitat with marsh violets, bluebells, hazel coppice and plenty of birds.



Bird's - foot trefoil found at Hartington Meadows Philip Peacey

# Permit only

Some of our reserves require a permit so we can ensure the precious wildlife is protected. Give us a call to request one.

## 22 Golden Brook Storage Lagoon

Limited parking on Harrimans Drive, DE72 3AQ

A small reserve with lots of wildlife including wetland birds, butterflies and wild flowers. There is a beautiful boardwalk into the reedbed.



## 23 Drakelow ★

Park inside the grounds of the former power station, DE15 9TE

A haven for birdwatchers in the Trent Valley. From tantalising glimpses of bitterns in winter to large numbers of cormorants, ducks, waders and birds of prey. There are five hides, an education hide and pond dipping platforms as well as a nature trail. Visit early for the chance to see bird ringing.



## 24 Spring Wood SSSI

GRID REF SK37842196

Parking at Severn Trent Car Park at the southern end of the reservoir, LE65 1RU  
Mixed woodland carpeted with bluebells and covered in fungi. Great for a family walk in spring or autumn. Hides provide views over Staunton Harold Reservoir.



Please note: the map only provides approximate locations.

## Visit our website:

- For more information about these reserves
- For precise grid references, directions and parking information (Please note, postcodes are for the general area)
- For our full list of 43 nature reserves
- For mobility access information

SSSI – Site of Special Scientific Interest  
LNR – Local Nature Reserve

★ Star Reserves – These are wonderful places to see wildlife

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Nuthatch at Mapperley Wood

Paul Shaw