Explore Derbyshire’s wild side!

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

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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www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

Charity No: 222212
Company Limited by Guarantee No: 715675

Defending wildlife, restoring landscapes, inspiring people
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 voles**

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

**Bulbous buttercups**

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

**Emperor dragonfly**

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

**Small copper**

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

**Barn owl**

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

**Common bonnet**


**Bluebells**

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

**Bittern**

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

**Water vole**

**Bullbous buttercups**

**Emperor dragonfly**

**Small copper**

**Bluebells**
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.

4. **Chee Dale SSSI**
   - S32 1TE
   - A nature reserve with a rich diversity of flora and fauna. Home to the rare Chatsworth's bluebells.

5. **Cranmore Wood Reserve**
   - Cranmore Wood, S32 1TE
   - A nature reserve with a rich diversity of flora and fauna. Home to the rare Chatsworth's bluebells.

6. **Starken Reserves**
   - S32 1TE
   - A nature reserve with a rich diversity of flora and fauna. Home to the rare Chatsworth's bluebells.

7. **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.

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 the Cromford Canal and listen to our audio trail whilst looking for dragonflies and grass snakes.

9. **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.

10. **Car Vale**
    - Bursting with bluebells

11. **Canal Bank at Cromford**
    - Combining views of Cromford Canal and Cromford Mill.

12. **Cromford Mill**
    - A working 18th century water powered 18th century water powered cotton mill.

13. **Leabrook Reservoir**
    - A reservoir which you can explore. The views are stunning from the dam.

14. **Derby Cathedral**
    - A beautiful cathedral with stunning architecture.

15. **Peregrine Watch Points**
    - Spots to watch for the magnificent peregrine falcon.

16. **Points of Interest**
    - Reservoirs, nature reserves, historic sites, etc.

17. **Parking Information**
    - All car parks are open daily from 9am.
    - Limited parking at some sites.

18. **Contact Information**
    - DWT Headquarters: Derby Cathedral
    - Tel: 01332 347 113
    - Email: dwt@derbyshire.org.uk

19. **Web Links**
    - DWT: www.dwt.org.uk
    - Peak District: www.peakdistrict.gov.uk

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[Map of the area with locations marked]

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[Image of bluebell flowers]

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[Image of the Tissington Trail]

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[Image of the Cromford Canal]

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[Image of the Derby Cathedral]

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[Image of the Peregrine Watch Points]

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[Image of the Points of Interest]

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[Image of the Parking Information]

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[Image of the Contact Information]
mapperley wood

aul shaw

nuthatch at

published march 2016

places to see wildlife

star reserves – these are wonderful

marsh violets, bluebells, hazel coppice and

one of the last lowland heath habitat with

sssi – site of special scientific interest

a514 ticknall road, de73 7jp

grid ref sk33482226

•

carvers rocks sssi

for our full list of 43 nature reserves

and parking information (please note, postcodes are for the general area)

for precise grid references, directions

for more information about these reserves

visit our website:

which is important for its insects and old pollard willows.

take a detour to include this small wetland

approximate locations.

please note: the map only provides

from the multi-user trail

20

with moorland - a great place to look for mountain hares and woodland birds.

one of a few remaining upland oak woodlands

car park off the a628, sk13 1hz

visit in spring to see bluebells.

perfect for a short walk to get away from it all.

these reserves are small but important!

pocket nature

staunton harold reservoir.

spring or autumn. hides provide views over

southern end of the reservoir, le65 1ru

park at severn trent car park at the

willington gravel pits

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

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willowpit lane, de65 5fw

a small reserve with lots of wildlife including

great crested newts, black poplar trees,

dragonflies and damselflies are plentiful here

recorded here and a fantastic place to look for

a good place for dragonflies, with 14 species

great day out to see farming and conservation working hand-in-hand. do a spot of pond

dipping and follow an art trail.

drakelow

limited parking on harrimans drive,

hilton gravel pits sssi

park inside the grounds of the former

power station, de15 9te

parking at severn trent car park

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