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.

A little bit about us

We are the only organisation working to protect all wildlife and wild places in Derbyshire for everyone to enjoy.

Established in 1962, we manage 43 nature reserves covering more than 688 hectares of Derbyshire. We also run loads of events so that everyone can get out and experience Derbyshire’s wild side for themselves.

It’s thanks to the fantastic support of our members and volunteers that we are able to continue with this work.

Join us today!

For a small amount, you can support Derbyshire’s wildlife and wild places and get all the latest information on lots of fab activities and events.

Visit www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk or call 01773 881188.

Get in touch

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
Sandy Hill
Main Street
Middleton
Matlock
Derbyshire, DE4 4LR

Call us: 01773 881188
Email us: enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk
www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

@derbyswildlife

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

Charity No: 222212
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Defending wildlife, restoring landscapes, inspiring people

www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk
What to look for on our reserves...

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

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

Bulbous buttercups

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

Bittern

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

Emperor dragonfly

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

Small copper

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

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

1. **Brookholes Wood SSSI**
   - GRID REF SK0719966
   - 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.

2. **Long Clough**
   - GRID REF SK03169253
   - An important grassland reserve with more than 150 species of flowers, sedges and mosses.

3. **Broadhurst Edge Wood**
   - GRID REF SJ997878741
   - Woodland and bilberry glades. See birds including tawny owl, whinchat and redpoll.

4. **Watford Lodge LNR**
   - GRID REF SK00558648
   - This small wetland hosts a range of species from frogs to birds.

5. **Ladybower Wood SSSI**
   - GRID REF SK20598871
   - Ladybower Inn, S33 0AX
   - One of a few remaining upland oak woodlands with moorland - a great place to look for mountain hares and woodland birds.

6. **Hillbridge and Park Woods**
   - GRID REF SK01127869
   - An upland oak woodland rich with the colour and scent of bluebells in spring.

7. **Hadfields Quarry**
   - GRID REF SK16108242
   - Species-rich grassland, wetland and woodland. See palmate newts and green tiger beetles.

8. **Overdale**
   - GRID REF SK18348062
   - Upland pasture rich in plants. See pipits and skylarks.

9. **Hollinhill and Markland Grips**
   - GRID REF SK5127351
   - Park on A5004 Long Hill and walk in Woodland and grassland rich in wild flowers including bluebells and orchids.

10. **Deep Dale and Topley Pike SSSI**
    - GRID REF SK10457206
    - 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.

11. **Chee Dale SSSI**

12. **Miller’s Dale Quarry SSSI**

13. **Priestcliffe Lees SSSI**

14. **Cramside Wood SSSI**

15. **Duckmanton Railway Cutting SSSI**
    - S44 5DN, GRID REF SK42397037
    - Rocks and fossils give this reserve geological interest, while grassland flowers attract a variety of butterflies.

16. **Carr Vale**
    - S44 6GA for the Peter Fidler car park or GRID REF SK45917022
    - One of the best birdwatching sites in Derbyshire. There is plenty to see all year round, from wigeon, teal and wintering ducks to breeding warblers, waders and sand martins in the summer. It's also a great place to see dragonflies and you can walk through a reedbed!
27 Oakerthorpe LNR ★ GRID REF SK390553
Anchol Inn, DE55 7LP
Frogs, toads and grass snakes are among the many species to be found on this small nature reserve.

28 Wyver Lane ★ GRID REF SK34469420 or DE56 2EF
Park in layby
An important wetland reserve, home to otter and good for birdwatching. Permit needed for bird hide.

29 Hollywood ★ GRID REF SK17404311 or DE8 2DQ
Visit this woodland in spring to see bluebells.

30 Erewash Meadows ★ GRID REF SK44654539 or NG36 5PR
On the Nottinghamshire border, this reserve forms part of the largest area of floodplain grasslands and wetlands in the Erewash Valley. Best known for the birds that visit, the reserve is also home to grass snakes, amphibians, dragonflies and water voles.

31 Mapperley Wood ★ GRID REF SK34574360
Mapperley Reservoir car park, DE7 6BR, Boat Lane
The narrow belt of woodland and acid grassland glade is a glorious carpet of bluebells in spring and summer. Permit required for bird hide.

32 Woodside Farm ★ DE75 7JL for the St Mark’s Close entrance or GRID REF SK29235659
This little reserve and look for specialist lead-tolerant flowers and glow-worms!

33 Morley Brickyards SSSI ★ GRID REF SK34805196
A former quarry renowned for its orchids and butterflies.

34 Risley Glebe ★ GRID REF SK6113586 or DE72 3AQ
A small reserve with over 150 plants including cowslips and some scarce ones.

35 Barton Pool ★ GRID REF SK504331 – view from path
This small wetland reserve is important for its insects, especially hoverflies, and its old pollard willows.

36 Golden Brook Storage Lagoon ★ GRID REF SK46873334 or DE72 3AQ
A small reserve with lots of wildlife including wetland birds, butterflies and wild flowers.

37 Lock Lane Ash Tip ★ GRID REF SK48233168
Scrubland birds, moths and butterflies are the highlights of this former ash tip.

Please note: the map only provides approximate locations.
Visit our website:
• For directions and parking information
• For more species and habitat information
• For mobility access information

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

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

★ Star Reserves – These are wonderful places to see wildlife
Published March 2016