

WILDER DERBYSHIRE



Derbyshire
Wildlife Trust

AUTUMN / WINTER 2019

www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

my future

— MY WILDLIFE —

Summer Dawrant - aged 7

*Nature is in peril which means my future is in peril.
We can be part of the solution but only if we act fast.*

Photography: Jon Dawrant. www.jonmyessex.com



Jo Smith

Chief Executive
Officer



Join the Conversation



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Follow us on Twitter



Follow us on Instagram



Follow us on You Tube

On the cover

Juvenile fox. Photo: Jaimie Hall.

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Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

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Derbyshire
Wildlife Trust

WELCOME

The Wildlife Trusts believe in a future where nature is a normal part of childhood and where wildlife thrives across the landscape; where our urban spaces are green jungles and our seas are bursting with life; where seeing a water vole or toad is an everyday experience.

Our proposals for a Nature Recovery Network put space for nature at the heart of our farming and planning systems; bringing nature into the places where most people live their daily lives. We need new laws, including an Environment Act passed by the Government, to ensure this happens. In it, local Nature Recovery Maps would be produced to achieve key Government targets for increasing the extent and quality of natural habitats, turning nature's recovery from an aspiration to a reality.

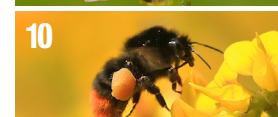
Over a million young people have recently taken to the streets to demand action on climate change. People of all ages have contributed to climate protests and many of you joined our own "The Time is Now" lobby in London. Thank you for your support.

Collectively we are making a difference and Michael Gove recently championed The Wildlife Trust's Nature Recovery Network concepts. But now we have a new Prime Minister and a new Environment Secretary. So it is even more important that we continue to put pressure on politicians to ensure the Government implements a strong legal framework and policy changes which address the Climate Crisis and the Biodiversity Crisis. Politicians will only listen if public momentum keeps building and that's where, together, we can make a difference. Please help us keep the pressure on the Government to ensure a Wilder Future.

FEATURES



4



10



16



22



34

4 News

8 Wilder Future

10 Habitat creation

14 My Wild Life

16 Foxes

17 Annual Review

22 Kestrels

24 Rewilding schools

26 Wild rivers

30 Legacy

32 Working together for nature

34 Walk

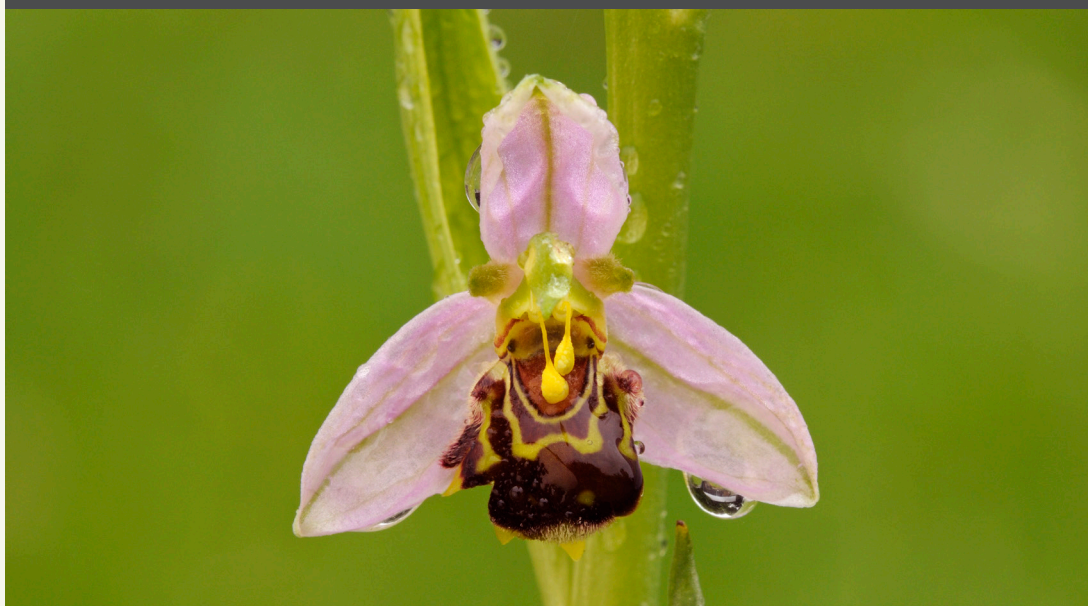
DERBYSHIRE NEWS

SPOTTED

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) Share your images with us
www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlife/record-sighting

Bee orchids thriving on Middleton Moor near Wirksworth

Photo: Dawn Monrose



A female hen harrier near Glossop

Photo: Peter Cairns



Bonaparte's gull at Carr Vale

Only the seventh time one has been recorded in Derbyshire.
 Photo: Sean Nixon

Hen Harrier Day. Photo: Guy Shorrocks.



DEFENDING WILDLIFE

Hen Harrier Day SAVE OUR HEN HARRIERS

Hen harriers are an iconic species. The combination of their beauty, charisma and rarity make them a highly cherished and valued bird. Unfortunately they are one species which is illegally persecuted and this needs to stop.

We wanted to say thank you to the thousands of you who

joined us on 11th August at Carsington Water for Hen Harrier Day. We celebrated and raised awareness of the plight of this beautiful bird – but it won't be enough to save the species – we all need to do so much more. Our Wild Peak project and partnership in the Upland Skies proposed project will help but we need your support.



To get involved...



You can buy the collection of poems written by Derbyshire children about hen harriers at dwtshop.org.uk

Badgers in peril

As we write, the future of Derbyshire's badgers is unknown. Derbyshire is one of 14 counties up for selection for the extension of the badger cull and the Government is currently deciding which 10 counties will be chosen. We're fighting. We've worked hard for the last six years vaccinating badgers and it is likely some of them will be shot in the cull. Along with this the Government have paid us £280,000 to vaccinate over those years. We don't yet know what the outcome will be. Watch this space.



You can help

Donate to our badger vaccination appeal:
derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/donate

www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk



Badger being vaccinated. Photo: Georgie Hutton.



Sand martins. Photo: Derek Hawkins.



The Avenue. Photo: Stewart Abbott.

RESTORING LANDSCAPES

Success!

Sand martins are using the artificial sand martin bank at The Avenue Washlands.

The banks were installed in February 2017, so it has taken just over two years for the birds to discover it and feel safe enough to nest. They began settling in May and in July four nests were confirmed to have chicks – much to the delight of the local visitors and reserve officers.

It's really important that we look after sand martins. While

their populations are currently healthy, historically they have suffered population crashes and in the UK we're at risk of losing their natural habitats due to development, which could have a devastating effect when they come here to breed. Artificial banks such as the one at The Avenue provide a safe refuge in an otherwise urban environment.

We'd love your help across our reserves to make important changes like this for wildlife. Join us for a day of volunteering:

derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/support/volunteer

Thinking big

We've been asked to manage an additional 40 acres of land at The Avenue Washlands. This means that four times more land will be managed for wildlife and the community in the Chesterfield area. Read all about it at derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/news



INSPIRING COMMUNITIES TO ACT

Wild mocktails

We've been helping Derby's NHS workers discover their wild side this summer with wild mocktail (cocktails without alcohol) making. And it went down rather well!

It's a lovely way for us to give a little something back to the NHS whilst showing them how important the natural world is to health and wellbeing. We're hoping to do a lot more work like this in the months to come!

Go on, make your own wild mocktail – if you add a splash of something stronger we won't tell anyone!



Lucy Bastock enjoying a wild mocktail.



Hungry birds



You've helped raise £2,672.26

by buying your bird food, nest boxes and more from Vine House Farm – thank you!

Keep treating your garden birds and 4 per cent of each purchase will come back to support us!

vinehousefarm.co.uk



Eco Services

Did you know you can hire us to help make your workplace better for wildlife?


From tree management to rewilding concrete car parks.

 **Get in touch for a quote today**
01773 881188

Erewash Meadows

The new information boards at Erewash Meadows are complete. Now more people can see why this reserve is so special for wildlife and go and explore. Thank you to Cromford Canal and Codnor Park Reservoir Group who enabled this project to happen.

Check out the reserve

 You can go to:
derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/nature-reserves

Three little things

We've got charity shops in Derby, Bakewell and Belper Please:



Donate

Just drop into our shops or our HQ in Middleton.



Volunteer

at one of our stores.



Shop

online with us!
dwtshop.org.uk





THE TIME IS NOW

our campaign for a Wilder Future

Schoolchildren, farmers, grandparents and climbers were among an estimated 12,000 people who lobbied their MPs for urgent action on the threat to nature and climate change this summer.

In the largest-ever environmental lobby of Parliament, people from across the UK were represented, with 351 MPs meeting with their constituents.

MPs were taken by rickshaw to meet constituents in the area surrounding the Palace of Westminster. At 14:00 lobbyists rang alarms and alarm clocks to symbolise that 'the time is now to act'. They urged their MPs to pass ambitious new laws that create a healthier environment for people and wildlife, and to support measures that end the UK's contribution to climate change by 2045.

The Time is Now lobby was organised by The Climate Coalition and Greener UK, two bodies combining more than 130 organisations and representing over 15 million people. These range from aid agencies CAFOD, Christian Aid and Islamic Relief, to community groups including the Women's Institute and environmental

organisations such as The Wildlife Trusts and RSPB. It follows global environmental protests, and the declaration of a climate and environment emergency by the UK Parliament.

The Time is Now mass lobby took place following numerous reports emphasising the need for urgent action. The most recent, from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, showed that nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history — and the rate of species extinctions is accelerating, with grave impacts on people around the world now likely.

The government has said the UK will set a target of reducing emissions of greenhouse gases to 'net zero' by 2050. We argue the government should show greater ambition and set a 2045 date in recognition of falling costs of technological developments and the need for urgency.



Didn't make the rally?

Add your name to calls for a Wilder Future now: www.wildlifetrusts.org/wilder-future



EVERY ACRE IS A HOME FOR WILDLIFE

A massive 97 percent of our wild flower meadows have been lost since 1945 and the outlook for saving the final three per cent is bleak. Where do we go from here?

Kate Lemon

Erewash Valley
Regional Manager

Wild flower meadows are our equivalent to the Amazon rainforest. They provide shelter and food for our bees, butterflies, and provide a whole ecosystem for insects and all those that feed on insects in turn, the birds, bats, hedgehogs and more. As wild flower meadows vanish, so do our pollinators.

The 250 species of bee which live in the UK will vanish. We already know if we were to lose bees we'd be in trouble – but it's hard to comprehend the changes the loss of this habitat could have on us.

It's serious – so serious that if we were to lose wild flower meadows completely, there would be a profound effect on what we eat now and will be able to eat in the future.

A perfect storm

There are many reasons for the decline but the top three have to be:-

- the loss of land due to development
- pesticide use
- intensive agriculture

They have all combined to create a perfect storm.



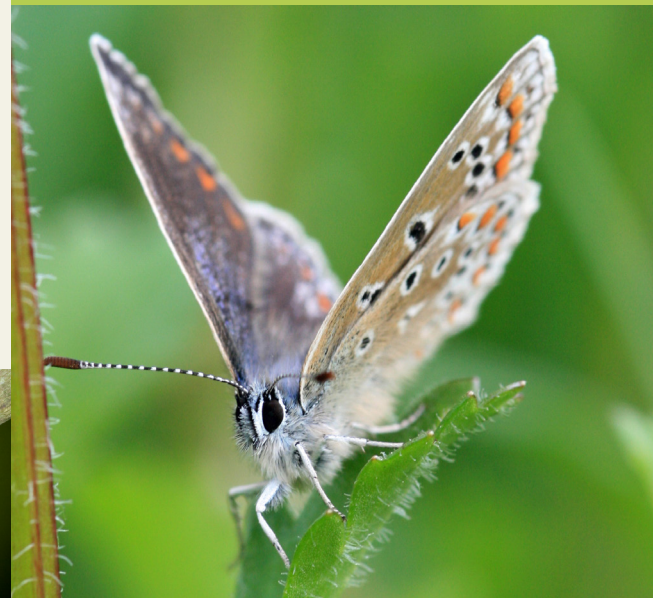
Bee on bird's-foot trefoil. Photo: Jon Hawkins, Surrey Hills Photography.





Speedy work

It's important that the cutting and moving process is completed quickly, ideally within 24 hours, to prevent the seed dropping off before it reaches the recipient site or starts to rot. Ideally, the green hay is then grazed off about a week after spreading to prevent it smothering the precious seeds – and our herd of Highland cattle are perfect for this job. They will happily pick up the unwanted stalks and their weight helps press the seeds into the ground, encouraging germination. A few cow pats here and there help the process along too!



Chaffinch. Photo: Fergus Gill 2020 Vision.

Turning the tide

Here in the heart of the Erewash Valley at Woodside Farm we're leading the way in trying to reverse the decline by spreading green hay. You may ask – what does that mean? Well yes, but it's all about technique! Doesn't all hay start green?

The process is simple, hay is made on a species-rich donor site and taken to the species-poor recipient site where it is spread thinly. The key difference to making normal hay is that in this process the cut sward is not turned and dried before baling and moving. Instead it is taken immediately after cutting before any wilting or drying can take place. This preserves the seeds on the cut grasses and wild flowers. Once it is spread on the recipient site, the seeds can dry out and drop off in situ.

A friendly neighbour

We are extremely fortunate that one of our neighbours at Woodside Farm is Weleda, a world-leading manufacturer of natural cosmetics, skin and bodycare products using pure plant extracts. Weleda are recognised globally for their commitment to growing their own ingredients wherever possible to ensure the quality they require and to be sure of their ethical provenance. Weleda's Derbyshire headquarters are based on the edge of Ilkeston, but they also have 13 acres of Demeter certified organic land just up the road at Shipley, known simply as The Field. Here they grow many of the ingredients for their products. The land around the flower beds and cropping fields has all been sown with wild flower and fine grass seed which produces an incredibly diverse recreation of the traditional hay meadow once common across the UK.

Seven-spot ladybird (left). Photo: Jon Hawkins. Lacewing (right). Photo: Vaughn Matthews.

Growth year on year

Every year we harvest Weleda's meadows to create green hay across the county, working with landowners and Derbyshire County Council. We've been instrumental in re-seeding the Coronation Meadow at Elvaston Castle over three years.

We've also re-sown areas of Woodside Farm and neighbouring farms to recreate what farmland used to be like as an example to farmers up and down the county of what sustainable, wildlife friendly farming can look like.

Now in our fourth year of these partnerships, we're starting to see the results on a large scale, with pollen and nectar rich plants such as salad burnet, crested dog's tail, yellow rattle, bird's-foot trefoil, meadow vetchling, ox-eye daisy, field scabious, common knapweed and bush vetch all establishing themselves and spreading. All of these are plants provide food and egg laying habitat for the caterpillars that become insects such as common blue butterfly or burnet moth.

Common blue butterfly. Photo: Vicky Nail.

Wild flowers are also a source of food and nesting material for birds. Some birds, such as chaffinch or bullfinch, eat seeds while others like robins, tits or dunnock will eat caterpillars and other insects. Taller plants create resting places for beneficial insects such as spiders, ladybirds and lacewings which help control pests in gardens and commercial crops. They also give cover for amphibians such as newts, frogs and toads, supporting small mammals with shelter, food and nesting material. They are vital.

You can help



Your garden is really important – start by planting a mini meadow and share your photos with us.

Get some top tips here:

derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/garden-bees

MY WILD LIFE

It's always been there, in one form or another. I was a youngster with dyslexia – struggling through school and just labelled as slow - lazy even. I found it hard to fit in with the hectic pace of life and social interactions were difficult. My confidence was at rock bottom – I felt worthless. I started to struggle with large crowds, panic would overwhelm me. I'd descend into extreme panic attacks and acute anxiety.

And then I lost my father-in-law, someone who showed me the wonders of the great outdoors. He was a countryman with many talents, some of which he passed onto me. Losing him suddenly was too much. At my worst I couldn't leave the house for months, Agoraphobia they call it. I relied on prescription medication - something, anything, to ease the depression, insomnia and poor physical health that had become my norm. I couldn't do it anymore, something had to change.

I've suffered with anxiety my entire adult life. It's not often I say that out loud. It's affected my family, which is not something I like to think about too much either.

In the years that followed I became a Dad – now more than ever I wanted to have something to show for myself, I wanted to be a role model and most importantly I wanted to make sure my children didn't struggle in the same way.

My nurse suggested I get into volunteering, something to focus my mind. I remembered how much I used to love times outdoors with my father-in-law and with the help and support of my wife, I took up conservation volunteering with the Trust. I was not only good at it but it made me feel good too. Being outside all day working meant my physical fitness improved, I slept better and I started eating better. In turn my mental health started to slowly improve. I rediscovered my love for plants and wildlife and started to share the knowledge I'd learnt from my father-in-law with my fellow volunteers.

“ I rediscovered my love for plants and wildlife ”



Barn owl. Photo: Andy Rouse 2020 Vision.

Apparently, I have a reputation for being able to mend any piece of equipment. It's because I love problem solving – mending a broken tool is right up my street. I wasn't known as the 'slow, lazy one' anymore, but instead the person who would work through breaks, just to see a task finished – digging holes being a particular favourite.

The Trust enabled me to get certified training for power tools, brush cutters, chainsaw maintenance and use. With each new skill I felt more involved, more valued – these are skills any outdoor employer would welcome – that means something to me.

Life's not perfect but it's a lot better than it was. The staff and volunteers are my friends. I look forward to helping and I bring my children along to Trust activities – it's good for them to learn new skills and get away from computer games for a while!

Things do get better. Hang on in there.

“Adam”

Conservation volunteer

Rediscover yourself:



Try volunteering:
[derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/support/volunteer](https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/support/volunteer)

ANNUAL REVIEW

2018-2019



Derbyshire
Wildlife Trust

Fantastic Mr Fox

Roly Smith

I have to confess I was more likely to see foxes when I lived and worked in Birmingham than I am today, living in Bakewell in the heart of the Peak District National Park.

Ever the opportunists, urban foxes are now a common sight in our towns and cities, like Derby and Chesterfield, living off the waste that our takeaway society leaves behind. I used to see them basking on railway embankments on my daily commute to work in Birmingham city centre, and I often smelled their unmistakably pungent aroma after they'd visited my garden

The biggest reader participation survey ever conducted by the

evening newspaper I worked on then revealed that the Birmingham public absolutely loved the nocturnal visits by their vulpine neighbours. To regularly have contact with a large, wild mammal in their backyard was obviously a great thrill for many Brummies, and we were flooded by photographs of people regularly feeding 'their' local foxes, and of litters of cubs born under the foundations of garages or garden sheds.

Fox. Photo: Jon Hawkins - Surrey Hills Photography.



Erewash Valley

Species

Dividing opinion

The red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) still divides opinion among many people. Hunters still regard them as harmful, indiscriminate killers of poultry and livestock, and they have an undeserved reputation for being sly, wily or cunning. Actually, they are no more sly or cunning than your average crow, cat or dog.

Fox hunting was memorably described by Oscar Wilde as "the unspeakable in pursuit of the uneatable," but it is still a popular

country pastime and attracts large numbers of followers. Derbyshire is still home to three hunts: the High Peak Hunt, the Meynell & South Staffordshire Hunt and the Barlow Hunt, but since the Hunting Act of 2004, they are no longer allowed to kill foxes with hounds.

Foxes are more often heard than seen, and the piercing screams, usually the emitted by vixens especially during the mating season in the middle of winter, is

an unearthly, spine-chilling sound, uncannily like a human in extreme distress. Some people have even reported these blood-curdling screams to the police, because they genuinely fear that a murder was being committed

Incidentally, it's interesting why the female fox is called a vixen, and not a "fixen." One theory is that it is a throwback to the old West Country dialect, where an "f" is often pronounced as a "v".

WE'VE PROTECTED SPECIES

THE CASE AGAINST THE
BADGER CULL IS STRONGER
THAN EVER.



205 badgers were vaccinated with the backing of 47 landowners – a record year. Sky News, BBC and ITV celebrated, DEFRA visited and we now vaccinate on Natural England's land.



OSPREY
project is working hard to establish
THE FIRST BREEDING PAIR
IN THE COUNTY IN OVER

400 YEARS

TO DO THIS WE'VE RESTORED LANDSCAPES

A total of
346 ACRES
of habitat has
been created or
restored, including
23 new sites.

We're showing how
NATURE-FRIENDLY
FARMING CAN WORK

Local farmers and the NFU are now regularly asking us for advice.

Our planning team
commented on over
1255 APPLICATIONS

invaluable in ensuring development in Derbyshire supports net gains for biodiversity.



People need to look after the landscape so WE'VE REWILDED COMMUNITIES

We made wild
noise together
Over **1,000** of you
joined us for Woodside Festival.

Around **600** people took
part in
**Get Better
With Nature**

Our partnership with Nestle Waters
encouraging harder-to-reach people
into natural experiences - with
restorative outcomes.

A total of **338**
parents and infants
joined Nature Babies
to go wild before their first birthday.

And to make sure we're practicing what we preach WE'VE REDUCED OUR GREEN FOOTPRINT

WE'VE REDUCED
OUR PRINT IMPACT.
Our magazine is now printed
on 100% recycled paper.

WE'RE NATIONAL
NEWS

featuring on BBC Countryfile,
Sky News and BBC Breakfast as
well as The Guardian and Daily
Mail about plastics, badgers,
hedge netting and the need to
improve our National Parks.

WE'VE CAMPAIGNED

For a Wilder Future and a Nature Recovery
Network; vital to wildlife's survival in the county.
136 of you went to see your MP to help.

HOW WE DID IT



We couldn't have done it without you - THANK YOU.



We launched our first
Crowdfunding appeals,
raising over
£11,000

We raised over
£600,000
from grant making
bodies and trusts.

OUR NETWORK OF CORPORATE
PARTNERS CONTINUES TO GROW
17 added this year bringing our
total to 75. They contributed
funds, in-kind support and
invaluable advice.

We launched our
eco-consultancy,

offering land management,
surveys and habitat creation.
Clients include National Trust,
Woodland Trust, Toyota, BASF
and Severn Trent.

£200,000
was spent in our
shops and cafés

ALL THIS IS
THANKS TO
YOUR SUPPORT

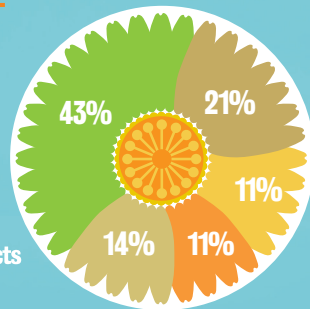


Financial review 2018-2019

INCOME £000's

Grants
£968

Contracts
£304



Membership
£458

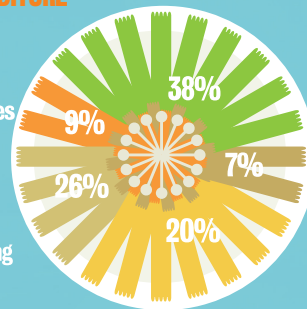
Donations &
Legacies
£246

Fund generating
activities
£252

EXPENDITURE £000's

Nature
Reserves
£239

Inspiring
People
£677



Cost of generating
volunteers
income
£968

Wildlife sites
£186

Habitat
& species
£507

For our full accounts, annual report, Trustee list and information on our funders please visit: derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/accounts



Photography: Jon Dawrant. www.jonnyessex.com

But wildlife is still facing peril

Wildlife has been getting less and less common, on land and at sea, for decades. Wild places are more scarce, smaller and more isolated. There is less nature and greenery in places where we live and work. And not everyone has equal access to nature or the benefits it brings. Nature needs to recover - for the benefit of everything it brings: better health, climate control, flood management, enjoyment, employment and more.

We can be part of the solution but only if we act fast.

Act now:



**Become a
member or
donate today:**

[derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/
support](http://derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/support)



Fox. Photo: Danny Green 2020 Vision.

Preparing for winter

At this time of the year, moulting in adults is completed, and family groups start to break up. There is much more fighting between young foxes and adults, as new territories are set up and the mating season approaches in January.

The diet of a fox living in the countryside is markedly different from that of the urban foxes I used to see so regularly in Birmingham. The majority of a rural fox's menu is made up of hunted wild mammals, such

as mice and voles, and the rest is made up of earthworms, insects, wild birds and fruit and vegetables. For an urban fox, scavenging from waste and litter bins makes up by far the largest percentage of its diet, along with other items also found on the rural fox's menu.

But fantastic Mr Fox – as Roald Dahl dubbed him – is surely one of our most handsome and adaptable native mammals. That rich, red-brown coat with pure white underparts, long pointed

black-nosed muzzle, erect black-backed ears, bright amber eyes and white-tipped bushy tail (or brush), make him unmistakable.

So whether we are talking about a foxglove, fox-trot or a foxy lady, fantastic Mr Fox has certainly insinuated himself firmly into our language and culture.



**Read all about foxes
in film and folklore**

[derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/
blog](http://derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/blog)



Masters of stationary flight

Kestrel

George Bird

Living Landscapes Officer

If you take a long car journey along the main roads of Derbyshire, keep your eyes peeled for kestrels.

Hover-hunting

With their pointed wings and long tail, their silhouette when flying is an exciting spectacle, but not nearly as impressive as watching these masters of stationary flight hover-hunting. Because of this distinctive hunting technique, kestrels were one of the first birds of prey that I learned to recognise, and is one that has stuck with me ever since. Even now, no matter how often I see them, I can't help but shout out "kestrel!" whenever I am fortunate enough to spot one.

Distinct

They have impressive upper plumage of reddish-brown feathers, with black spots and the males have striking grey heads. Voles are the primary prey, making up the majority of their diet, but shrews and wood mice, small birds, insects and earthworms are also on the menu. With their incredible sight, they can locate prey at

remarkable distances, being able to spot and catch a beetle 50m from its perch. Local habitat influences the make-up of a kestrel's diet - in urban areas small birds will more frequently be the prey due to the lower availability of small mammals.

Efficient

Living in the countryside and surrounded by farmland, spotting kestrels perching on telephone posts, telephone wires, and branches of magnificent veteran oaks is a regular occurrence, particularly in the winter months. Along with hover-hunting, perching is one of the two ways in which kestrels spot their prey, and is much more energy efficient. The different hunting methods are varied to suit prey type and weather conditions. Depending on the amount of hover-hunting they do and time of year, kestrels need to eat 4-8 voles a day.

Kestrels can be found across Derbyshire, and indeed the majority of the UK, in a wide variety of habitats, from moorland and heathland, to farmland and urban areas.

Adaptable

They are adaptable in what they will use as a nest site. Instead of building their own nest, they will utilise old disused nests of crows and other stick nesters, and use ledges on cliffs and buildings. They will also readily accept nestboxes - visit Woodside Farm and you'll spot one at the end of the barn which our resident kestrels love. Look out for special events held at the farm for the chance to view the nest on the live camera in the warmer months.

Kestrel. Photo: Jon Hawkins - Surrey Hills Photography.

Autumn Winter 2019 **Wilder Derbyshire**



Kestrel

Falco tinnunculus

www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk



REWILDING schools

Mr Richard Cripps
Headteacher
Mapperley Church of
England VC Primary
School

With so much education focused around exams, targets, screens and homework – isn't it time we let our children go wild? One school's doing just that, let us tell you more...

The great outdoors and the freedom it brings is becoming more and more important to my school and it wasn't just Jack (see quotation below) - his class had been leaf-hunting, bird-watching, hunting for colours in nature and classifying flowers with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust all morning, with a quick walk back to school for lunch - which they were definitely ready for!

Local school, local reserve

As a school, we are very fortunate to have this incredible resource on our doorstep. Our school is small with approximately 60 pupils and based in Mapperley village right next door to the Trust's biggest nature reserve. We make good use of our small but perfectly formed playground, but we don't have a school field, so having such a wonderful local resource to extend our children's knowledge and put their classroom learning into a real context.

Thanks to the Trust we have access to Mapperley Wood Reserve, which is only a five minute walk from

school. We use this reserve several times a week for our Forest School sessions, and also visit Woodside Farm throughout the seasons. Our visits to Woodside are often supported by a member of staff from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.

"Visiting Woodside means having more time in the outdoors in school time, I like nature, so Woodside Farm is a great place to go. I really enjoy tree-planting".

Jack Gregory, year 3, after his class's recent visit to Woodside Farm.

Autumn Winter 2019 Wilder Derbyshire



Learn naturally

Woodside Farm has been in existence since 2011 and is the largest protected area in Derbyshire outside the Peak District National Park. Kate Lemon, Regional Manager (Erewash Valley Living Landscape) has been fantastically supportive in working with our school to establish strong links with the Trust and the local reserves.

During the infant class's visit in June, they found and identified dragonfly nymphs, great pond snails, pond skaters, water beetles, water-boatmen, mayfly nymphs, midge larvae, damselfly nymphs and an eft (young newt) to much excitement. It's great to be able to get the children out of school, get their hands dirty and allow them to explore, ask questions and enjoy the natural world. Of course as a school there is also a great deal to be gained in terms of covering all the National Curriculum subjects, including classifying invertebrates in Science, mapping in Geography, use of natural materials for sculpture in Art.

Award winning

Our work with the Trust has enabled us to be awarded The Woodland Trust's Green Tree Award, Eco-School Award and by planting several hundred trees to have created the woodland custodians of the future. Outdoor learning has been shown to improve pupil engagement, with many children going on to remember their experiences well into later life. Our children look forward to getting out, so the visits impact significantly on their wellbeing.



Some children from school have encouraged their families to visit Woodside to explore more often. The reserve has a number of sculptures, an observation tower and accessible footpaths and is a great place to see farming and conservation working together.

"I really love being outside and Woodside is really peaceful, traffic-free and only sounds you can hear are birds, cattle and sheep. I feel really calm there".
said Callian Duro, of Year 5.

Reconnect

"It's great to be able to connect with nature at Woodside and there are always jobs that we can do to help there, as well as learn about our environment," said Leo Adams-Shaw in Year 6.

Children have been able to learn bird songs such as chiffchaffs, which return to Mapperley Woods in late March, to name and identify common birds in different habitats and to appreciate the pressures on the natural world.

The benefits of using Woodside are that it threads well into the Christian ethos of our school, the caring for our planet, trying to improve our environment, working together to achieve goals, proving that actions speak louder than words, and developing a whole school approach to a new Three Rs – Reduce, Recycle & Re-use.

With so many great benefits for the children in our school, I would urge all schools to find out what reserves are on their doorstep and find ways of using them.



Act now:
Let your school go wild



We'd love to work with your school. If you're a teacher or a parent find out more about how we can help kids go wild and get your school to book their first session!

derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/school-visits



www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk



The Erewash Valley isn't all about wild flower meadows – wetlands and rivers make an important appearance too.

Dr Scott McKenzie

Living Rivers Officer

Setting the scene

The River Erewash and the surrounding floodplains, wetlands, and marshes form a rich tapestry for wildlife that is of value to not only Derbyshire, but also Nottinghamshire. For a large proportion of its length the river forms the boundary between the two counties, with important wildlife sites in both, whether that be Erewash Meadows in Derbyshire, or Nottinghamshire's Attenborough Nature Reserve.

It has a small, urban catchment, arising in Kirkby-in-Ashfield. From there the Erewash flows southward, snaking along farmland, and through a series of towns including Ilkeston, Stapleford and Long Eaton. It is culverted though many of the towns and hidden from view – both detrimental for wildlife and a loss to local residents. It eventually flows into Attenborough Nature Reserve and pools and lakes. These lakes then feed into the grandeur of the River Trent and on to the Humber Estuary.

The name “Erewash” is thought to derive from the Old English term meaning a “wandering, marshy river”, a reference to its rich floodplains and meandering, “flashy” nature.

Erewash Valley.



Water vole. Photo: Terry Wittaker 2020 Vision.

Common blue damselfly. Photo: Ross Hoddinott 2020 Vision.



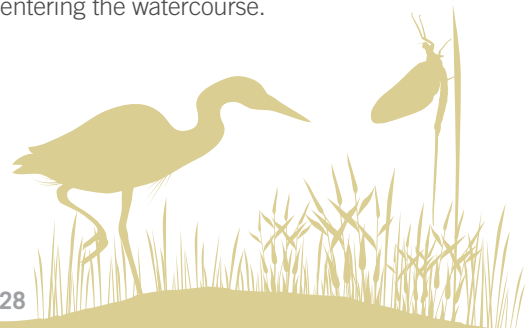


Pressures

The river Erewash has had a difficult past and has been subjected to every pressure man can throw at it - industry, urbanisation, rural and urban pollution. The most overwhelming pressure on the river currently is that of nutrient enrichment – of phosphate in particular.

Phosphates occur naturally in the environment but can be found in fertilisers, manure, sewage waste, detergents and industrial effluent. While this nutrient is essential for plant life, too much of it can cause environmental damage, encouraging large amounts of algal and plant growth which stops light penetrating to the bottom of watercourses leading to a lack of oxygen in the water.

The majority of this phosphate in the Erewash comes from waste water. There are a number of sewer treatment works along its length, and while some are equipped with facilities to strip out excess phosphate from the water, large amounts are still entering the watercourse.



Biodiversity

The Erewash is a great example of a recovering landscape. Once peppered with mines and industry, the land and watercourse are steadily improving in quality and wildlife is returning.

Like many waterways its banks form a valuable “blue corridor” for wildlife. Linking patches of nationally-important habitat, allowing animals to migrate between them. Maintaining these wildlife highways is extremely important to allow unhindered access to breeding, foraging, and resting sites for many of our protected species, such as otters.

The river also contains a pondweed known as grass wrack pondweed that is extremely rare in the county. Water voles are thriving along the river too – especially around Erewash Meadows. They have suffered a drastic decline across the UK so this is significant.

The Erewash supports many invertebrate species previously reduced in number due to the presence of heavy metals in the mine water entering the river. They form the cornerstone for a healthy river system and it's wonderful to see the large number of dragonflies, damselflies and mayflies darting or floating through the air on a summer's evening.

Otter. Photo: Luke Massey 2020 Vision.

Mayfly. Photo: Jon Hawkins - Surrey Hills Photography.



The future?

Many organisations are working together to restore lost links along the river and help return it to its former wandering, marshy glory. These efforts are starting to reap their rewards but there is still so much to do and we'll all keep pushing to make sure that happens.



For the full feature visit:
www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/blog

Your legacy – helping us to do more

Many people, after they have taken care of their family and friends, choose to leave a gift to Derbyshire Wildlife Trust in their will. We are extremely grateful for every single gift, large or small. Legacy gifts have always played an important role for the Trust and have allowed us to protect wildlife and wild places for more than 50 years.

When you leave something in your Will to the Trust you are helping nature, which is more at risk today than it ever has been – a huge 56 per cent of our native species are in decline.

A growing population, increased development and the need

to provide more and more resources means that our beautiful Derbyshire countryside is suffering.

Leaving a gift in your will means that you are helping to preserve a vibrant and living landscape for generations to come as well

as inspiring children and adults alike to care for our beautiful world.

This year our Will for Wildlife month runs through November and we are pleased to announce that the following solicitors are helping the Trust by taking part.

Brooke-Taylors Solicitors

4 The Quadrant
Buxton
Derbyshire, SK17 6AW
www.brooke-taylors.co.uk
20 per cent discount all year
Contact Zoe Mellen on
01298 22741 or
zm@brooke-taylors.co.uk

Ellis-Fermor & Negus

5 Market Place
Ripley
Derbyshire, DE5 3BS
www.ellis-fermor.co.uk
20 per cent discount off basic wills in November 2019
Contact Duncan Lyon on 01773 744744 or
d.lyon@ellis-fermor.co.uk

Flint Bishop LLP

St Michael's Court
St Michael's Lane
Derby, DE1 3HQ
www.flintbishop.co.uk
10 per cent discount all year
Contact Jane Shepherd on
01332 226162 or
jane.shepherd@flintbishop.co.uk

Derbyshire Legal Services Ltd Lovedays Solicitors

Bridge Chambers
23 Dale Road
Matlock
Derbyshire, DE4 3LT
www.lovedays-solicitors.co.uk
10 per cent discount for all of November 2018
Contact Helen Smith on
01629 582308 or
helen@lovedays-solicitors.co.uk

Rickards & Cleaver

100 King Street
Alfreton
Derbyshire, DE55 7DD
www.solicitorswhocare.co.uk
Fixed price of £85 for a single will and £150 for a joint will for November 2019
Contact Liz Garratt on
01773 832204 or
liz@solicitorswhocare.co.uk

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Or
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Burton upon Trent,
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Tel: 01283 561531
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Empire Buildings,
23 West Street,
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Derbyshire, DE11 9DG,
Tel: 01283 214231
15 per cent discount off all wills and lasting powers of attorney all year round.
Contact Jo Robinson on
01332 364436 or
legal@timms-law.com
www.timms-law.com



'All our lives are better when they're a bit wild'
The Wildlife Trusts



Derbyshire
Wildlife Trust

Working together for wildlife

50/50 Club winners

Congratulations to recent winners!

Miss Mary Cleminson,
Mrs M J Potts, Linda Morley,
Mrs Karen E Gowing, Elaine
Selkirk, David Gibbons,
Monica Rorison, Elizabeth
Lockwood, Janet Poole, Nicky
Loveday and Mr Douglas Bacon.

Feeling lucky?

The Wild Dreams 50/50 club raises funds which will be paid to a Landfill Operator to release Landfill Communities Fund monies for Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. Please note that these funds are not eligible for Gift Aid. The funds will generate 10 times their worth.

To join at just £12 per year please fill out the form below and send a cheque (made payable to Wild Dreams) to the Trust office or complete our online form at:

www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/raffles-and-clubs

Name (s)

Address

Telephone number Email address

Number of subscriptions at £12 each Total amount enclosed

Recent funding successes include:

The Trust is very grateful to all of its supporters. We are lucky to receive funding from a wide variety of sources including donation boxes, events and activities – this support enables us to carry out a large number of projects each year as well as enabling us to put funding to where the need is most urgent. A very big thank you to everyone who has helped us and in particular to:

- Tesco Bags for Life £4,000
- Whatstandwell Open Gardens for a donation of £1,053
- The Spear Charitable Trust for a donation of £2,000
- The Co-operative Community Fund for a donation of £2,000 to enable us to engage community support at our Willington Reserve
- The Bingham Charitable Trust for a donation of £1,164
- Our High Peak local group for a donation of £500
- The Wellspring Church in Wirksworth for a donation of £123

Because of you

Thank you to everyone who has donated since April 2019.



Please visit derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/donate to make a donation.

In memory of



We would also like to thank the friends and family of both Irene Chambers and David Pym for their kind donations.



to donate
please visit:
derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/give

Fly agaric. Photo: Jon Hawkins - Surrey Hills Photography.

Working in PARTNERSHIP

We work with businesses across our all our living landscapes in numerous different ways, from supporting the delivery of community projects to managing their land for wildlife, with a lot going on in between. We believe it is very important to engage all parts of the community – businesses, and their employees, are a significant part of this.



If your business would like to get involved, please email enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk

We are proud to be working in partnership with:

Absolute Networks Ltd
Accrofab
AECOM
Aggregate Industries Ltd
Alpkit Ltd
Andrew Towler Associates
Ashbourne Heights Holiday Park
Barratt Homes
BASF
Bowmer Bond Narrow Fabrics Ltd
Breedon Group
Brindle and Green
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Cemex Operations Ltd
Commercial Estates Group Ltd
Cooperative Group
Derby Runner
Derbyshire Hotel
Eagle Securities
East Midlands Airport (MAG)
East Midlands Chamber (Derbyshire,

Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire)
Environment Agency
EP Industries Ltd
EPC UK Plc
Experian
GF Tomlinson Group Ltd
Granger's International Ltd
Green Metals UK Ltd
Henry Boot Plc
Hoe Grange Holidays
Holiday Cottages.co.uk
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Katapult
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Longcliffe Quarries Ltd
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Morley Hayes
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Network Rail
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Peak Venues
Platinum Electrical Ltd
RSK
Scarsdale Vets
Studio 10 Kitchen Design
Tarmac
Tec-Ties Ltd
TK Max & Homesense
Tesco
The Loaf
The Message
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Toyota Motor Manufacturing (UK) Ltd
University of Derby
Villager Jim
Vine House Farm
Ward Recycling
Weleda UK
White Peak Distillery
Wienerberger Limited
Zycomm Ltd





NATURE FROM INDUSTRY

**A different angle on the Erewash Valley
Hop on a horse or grab a bike for this one...**

Kate Lemon

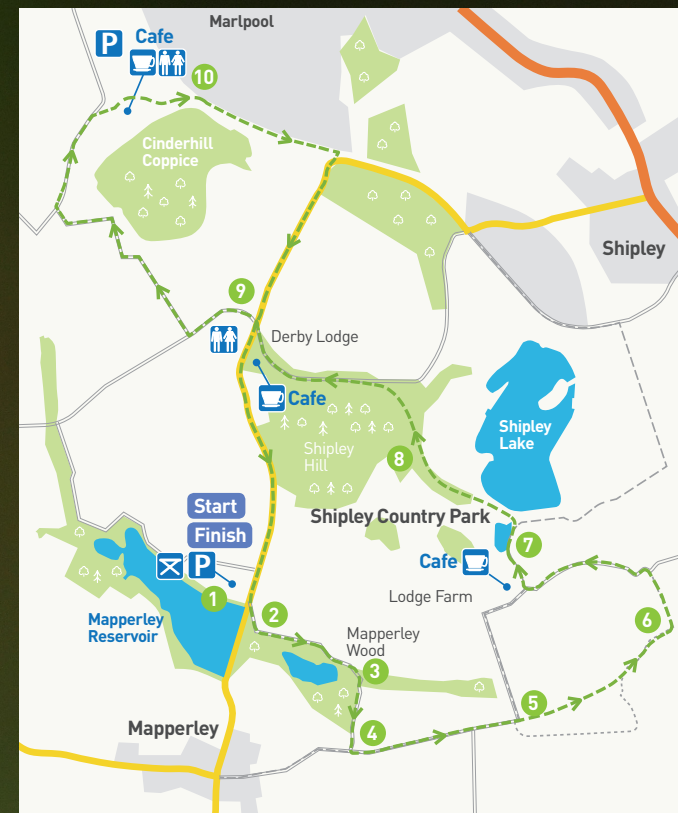
Erewash Regional Manager

Time: 2 Hours
Distance: 4 Miles

- 1 Park at Mapperley Reservoir car park (pay and display). It's less busy than the main visitor centre car park so easier with a horse trailer.
- 2 From the car park head out as though you were going back over the reservoir causeway but take the bridle path to the left of the road, which leads you parallel to the woodland. This is Mapperley Wood, one of the few woodlands in the area that has never been directly affected by the many local coal mines. This time of year keep an eye out for a wide variety of fungi beneath the trees.
- 3 Before you go over the two wooden bridges check out the living bird table on the left. This area is sown with plants such as triticale, wheat, quinoa, sunflower and millet and in the

- winter, the birds take shelter among the plants and eat the seeds directly.
- 4 Cross over the two wooden bridges. Head uphill and at the track junction turn left. You may see some of our lovely Highland cattle in the field on the left. Say hello!
- 5 At the bottom of the hill, take the right hand track and then turn immediately left on the bridle path which runs through our two hay meadows. The grassland in here is allowed to grow long every year until mid to late July when we cut the hay which feeds our livestock in the winter. In summer it's a great place to look for butterflies - species such as meadow brown and ringlet are common here.

Autumn Winter 2019 **Wilder Derbyshire**



- 6 At the exit to the fields follow the track over the bridge with the viewing screen on it. Overlooking our fen area, you may hear the squealing call of a water rail or the 'plop' of a water vole dropping into the stream. Carry on to the crossroads and follow the tarmac to the left. This is the Nutbrook Trail that runs through the heart of our reserve and ultimately leads you to Heanor and Shipley Country Park.
- 7 Keeping an eye out for some of our sculptures in the woods continue round until you come to the junction in front of the Nutbrook Café, open at weekends and a great place to warm up with a brew. Follow the road to the right hand side of the café and then take the left fork at the next junction. The track now follows the edge of Shipley Lake, formerly the site of the old 'American Adventure' theme park and now under development. The lake still attracts a wide range of water fowl including swans, mandarin, mallard and tufted ducks.
- 8 Follow the tarmac path and keep to the left where the track splits, the woodland around you will be alive with bird song and you may hear the laughing call of a green woodpecker or the frenzied drumming of a greater spotted woodpecker.

- 9 At the top of the hill you can either turn left to follow the road through the beech woods and back down to Mapperley Reservoir, or for a longer ride, turn right down the hill and then take the first left hand turn along Bell Lane. After about 500 yards, turn right through the bridle gate and you are on Coppice bridle path, which is now on land owned by the Woodland Trust. Until fairly recently this land was open cast mined, but the Woodland Trust will be planting 250,000 trees over the next five years. There are also still some impressive ancient oak trees dotted around the landscape which house tawny and little owls and purple hairstreak butterflies.

- 10 The track zig zags round and brings you out by Shipley Country Park visitor centre. With the visitor centre behind you, keep left out of the main car park downhill to join the Nutbrook Trail that runs around the edge of Osbourne's Pond. At the junction with the road at the end of the pond turn right and head up hill back to Derby Lodge. Keep going uphill through the beech woods and head down hill on the other side back to the car park by Mapperley Reservoir.



Nutcracker. Photo: Luke Massey 2020 Vision.

www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk



Derbyshire
Wildlife Trust

Leave a gift FOR NATURE

Leaving a gift in your will is one of the most meaningful ways you can help local wildlife

We're here to talk when you're ready

01773 881188

enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk

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