

Allestree Park – Frequently asked questions

Allestree is an attractive, large park landscape in the south of Derbyshire, with good views over Derby, woodland and sloping grassland areas running down to the river.

Allestree Park will be the first example in the UK of an urban nature-based solution, including carbon sequestration. This means we will be trialling new approaches and looking at how big urban green spaces can be used to lock up carbon and play a vital role in our response to the climate emergency and nature crisis.

Key information

- Allestree Park will be the largest urban rewilding project in the UK. We believe there is so much more that areas like this can offer people and wildlife.
- Derbyshire Wildlife Trust will work with Derby City Council and Rewilding Britain to develop the park as a focal point for a Wild Derby. We'll be working with the council and the community to develop the proposal further, before any work starts.
- It's more important than ever before due to the climate and nature crisis. We want to create spaces that support healthy and vibrant wildlife, lock up carbon and benefit people's health by increasing enjoyment of the outdoors, in a beautiful place.

What's happening and when?

There is currently a public consultation about what the future of the park looks like. [You can take part here](#). This is critically important, to look at what people want in their park and how we can create good quality nature, lock up carbon and benefit people's health and increase enjoyment of the outdoors.

When will we start to see changes?

Changes will happen slowly over the next few years – but first it's critical that we do the public consultation.

What species currently found here and how do you hope this will change?

English elm.

White letter hairstreak butterflies.

Great crested newts.

Harvest mice.

Brown Hare.

Adders-tongue fern.

Moonwort fern.

Several rare waxcap fungi.

We could see more butterflies, pollinators, small mammals and birds begin to use the area again.

How will you know if it's working?

We'll be working with the University of Derby and local interest groups to develop and implement a site wide monitoring programme, including assessing impacts on stored carbon, so we can measure and look at the impacts as the rewilding changes happen over the next few years.

What is rewildling

"Rewilding seeks to reinstate natural processes and, where appropriate, missing species – allowing them to shape the landscape and the habitats within." -

Rewilding Britain, 2021

"All 20 Rewilding Britain partner sites that responded, reported positive impacts on local business, mainly via increased visitor and contractor trade" - Rewilding Britain, 2021

Allestree Park provides a fantastic opportunity for developing better, wilder and more accessible spaces for nature, for all, in Derby...and beyond!" - Fermor, 2021

What will you do to rewild the area?

We need to look at what people want and then include spaces for nature around that. So it could mean more areas of wildflowers, leaving more areas of dead wood where it's safe, creating walking and jogging routes through swathes and creating places where people can enjoy the view. We may introduce grazing animals in some places.

How will this affect areas for ball games and dog walking?

We will not take away people's ability to walk, run or play games in the park. This is space that we want everyone to enjoy safely and be able to use. We just want more of it to be used by nature and to lock up carbon too – it's got massive potential and could encourage other city parks to work in the same way.

Won't untidy areas just attract more litter?

Litter is always a concern and we will still encourage people to use bins and take litter home. We hope this will be such a beautiful place, that people won't want to spoil it with lots of litter.

I hear you are stopping golf – is this true?

The golf course was closed by Derby City Council at the end of 2020.

How big is the park?

320 acres

How many people use it?

There are a $\frac{1}{4}$ million people in Derby city that can access the park. The park is there for everyone, so we expect visitors from all across Derbyshire and neighbouring counties.