



**Derbyshire**  
Wildlife Trust

# A VISION FOR THE URBAN REWILDING OF ALLESTREE PARK

OCTOBER 2021



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## Executive Summary

We are in the middle of a climate and nature emergency, and the two are inextricably linked. Climate change is driving nature's decline, and the loss of wildlife and wild places leaves us ill-equipped to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to change.

Responding to the climate crisis is not possible without creating more space for nature. Yet pressures on land are increasing and despite the evidence that time spent in green spaces is essential to our wellbeing, our connection to nature is weaker than ever.

This report proposes a rewilding approach at Allestree Park to help tackle these problems synergistically.

If implemented the proposals would substantially contribute to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions in Derby as well as restoring precious biodiversity, and helping the region adapt to climate change. Furthermore, by connecting people and nature, the proposals will also improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Derby.

There are three options proposed, each with differing levels of intervention and each differing costs, benefits and timescales. All three options would establish Allestree Park as the biggest Urban Rewilding project in the UK. If approved, the details would be co-created with the people of Derby.

Rewilding Allestree Park will place Derby City as a leader in nature's recovery in an urban setting and also demonstrate the commitment of the Council to taking urgent and direct action to address the Climate Crisis.



# 1. INTRODUCTION

## THE GREATEST CHALLENGE OF OUR GENERATION

*"There is no viable pathway to net zero emissions that does not involve protecting and restoring nature on an unprecedented scale." – COP26 President, 2021*

The World is facing two inextricably linked crises - the climate emergency and the decline of nature - and we cannot solve one crisis without tackling the other.

*"Nature is our life support system, our best carbon sink, and our ally in mitigating the impacts of climate breakdown." – Rewilding Britain 2021*

Nature's incredible ability to safely trap carbon is proven. But nature is in decline and so is our natural carbon sink. Further to this, our natural environment faces even greater degradation from the extreme climatic events brought on by our changing climate.

## TAKING ACTION IN DERBY

In 2019 Derby City Council declared a Climate Change Emergency, recognising the magnitude of the climate crisis in Derby and committing to playing its part in preventing the most devastating impacts of climate change.

*"Declaring a climate emergency means we are prepared to play our part alongside other cities around the world." - Derby City Council, 2019*

As the climate changes, it is essential that we improve ecosystem resilience and habitat connectivity across the UK, to ensure that species affected by climate change can survive and move to more suitable climates.

## ALLESTREE PARK

Located within 5km of Derby city centre, Allestree Park is the largest open space in Derby. Previously used as a municipal golf course, it offers the perfect opportunity to kickstart the development of a wilder, more connected Derby that is equipped to tackle the greatest challenges of our generation.

*"It is our aspiration that the rewilding of Allestree Park will not only facilitate Nature's Recovery in Allestree but act as a catalyst to inspire restoration and connection of nature across the city and the region beyond!"- Jo Smith, CEO Derbyshire Wildlife Trust*

Building on the fantastic habitats already present across Allestree Park, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, in partnership with Derby City Council, Rewilding Britain, the University of Derby and a growing number of local stakeholders, are developing plans to rewild Allestree Park for the benefit of Derby's residents.

As well as tackling the global challenges of climate change and ecological fragmentation, rewilding Allestree Park will connect people with nature and improve health and wellbeing. The proposals will make nature more accessible, facilitating calm; the individual movements and interactions with nature will enrich the lives of Derby's residents. The large-scale urban rewilding, at Allestree Park will bring visitors from across the country, inspiring communities from elsewhere to play their part; a leadership role for the City Council to be proud of.



## 2. LET NATURE HELP – NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS



© Kayleigh Wright

Lea Wood Nature Reserve, DWT

In our whole history as a species, humans have depended on the natural world. However, since the Industrial Revolution we have become more and more disconnected from nature.

*“We moved from being a part of nature to being apart from nature.”- David Attenborough, 2020*

This disconnection increased significantly during the twentieth century, with the proportion of people living in cities changing from 77% in 1900 to 84% by 2020.

We detail some nature-based solutions in this document (carbon sequestration and storage and the Natural Health Service). But there are many more that the land at Allestree Park could deliver better through developing a nature focused rewilding approach, including:

- flood risk reduction and water quality improvements;
- pollination, increasing insects on site and improving the pollination of crops in gardens, allotments and orchards around the site.

Defra have estimated the annual flows of all of these ecosystem services from urban greenspace to be over £78k per hectare per year to the national economy, most of which is focused on the immediate vicinity of the site. This means that the benefits to Derby of a nature filled open space at Allestree Park is likely to be in the order of £10million per year.



### 3. BIODIVERSITY

#### REWILDING IS AN ATTEMPT TO RECONNECT AND RESET; TO REVERSE SPECIES EXTINCTION AND TO HELP NATURE FLOURISH.

##### THE PROBLEM

The UK is one of the most nature depleted countries - and we're losing more of nature every day. Numbers of many species are in freefall; rich wildlife habitats are fewer, smaller and further apart than they've ever been; and many are damaged by poor management, neglect, inappropriate development, pollution, or disturbance. As we navigate a global health crisis, we are also acutely aware that people's dependence upon a healthy natural world is undeniable. Currently, around 8% of the land area of England is designated as a national or international protected area for conservation. This is nowhere near enough. We know that existing protected sites alone will not achieve wildlife's recovery or help us in our fight against climate change. Recent scientific evidence, and emerging thinking in the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, suggests that around 30% of our land and seas, need to be managed for nature by 2030 if we're to reverse the declines of recent decades. Sites like Allestree Park, and organisations like Derby City Council, have a critical role to play in this recovery.

##### THE SOLUTION—REWILDING

Rewilding is an attempt to reconnect and reset; to reverse species extinction and to help nature flourish on a large scale. It is focused on recreating resilient ecosystems, which is critical to delivering nature-based solutions effectively. It is a chance to mitigate the worst effects of climate change.

*"Our lives depend on behaving differently and embracing nature. We must think big and act wild. Historically, nature conservation has focused on species that we like, rather than the whole ecosystem. Generally, we haven't considered soil biodiversity, which is hugely significant and critical to protecting soil carbon."* - Craig Bennett, The Wildlife Trusts 2020

Rewilding focusses on the development of resilient ecosystems, letting nature lead. This improves the quality of the soil which stores more carbon and allows more space for water. By creating ecosystem resilience, we can end the use of herbicides and pesticides, which will improve soil biodiversity and increase populations of insects, allowing the re-establishment of more insectivorous birds and bats.



© Ark Nature. The Wildness Rope - Past, present and future of European nature



## 3. BIODIVERSITY

### HOW CAN WE IMPLEMENT THIS AT ALLESTREE?

Whilst we will work with the local community to co-create the space, rewilding will include:

- Creating new habitats through minimal intervention - a mosaic of woodlands, grasslands, wetlands and scrubland;
- Protect features of historical importance such as the strip lynchets near to the Allestree Pond by grazing with livestock, using GPS fences, which can focus free ranging cattle into certain areas, reducing the need for physical fencing;
- Instigate community orchards and community growing on the site, helping to rebuild the connection between people and their food;
- Look at reintroducing key species which should be here: red backed shrike, water vole, harvest mouse and tree sparrow, for example;
- Citizen species re-introductions for small species like harvest mouse, grasshoppers and dung beetles. There is a key role for community rewilders to be involved in those reintroductions, as has happened with the large marsh grasshopper in Norfolk.

### NEXT STEPS

- Collation of information: Ecological, environmental, cultural, community groups;
- Baseline monitoring, including drone mapping of habitats;
- Mapping of Natural Capital and habitat connectivity;
- Set up monitoring, utilising our monitoring rewilding protocol;

- Develop a management plan with key community stakeholders, identifying key infrastructure (grey, green and blue), existing habitats and key features of cultural significance;
- Undertake feasibility studies for species reintroductions.



DWT Beaver Release Day at Willington Wetlands Nature Reserve, DWT



## 4. CARBON STORAGE AND SEQUESTRATION

**"RESTORING OUR NATURAL SYSTEMS COULD PROVIDE 37% OF THE CO<sub>2</sub> MITIGATION NEEDED BY 2030 TO MEET THE PARIS AGREEMENT" - THE WILDLIFE TRUST, 2021**

### THE PROBLEM

The Climate Crisis is a dominant factor of life in the 21st Century. Current CO<sub>2</sub> levels (411ppm) are higher than they've been for millions of years, and are still increasing, with global temperatures increasing as well. With temperatures of the ocean rising more quickly than those of the atmosphere (NOAA, 2021), storms are likely to get more energy, increasing the risk of flooding. Cutting our emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and other gases which trap heat in the atmosphere (e.g. methane, nitrous oxides, CFCs) and removing them from the atmosphere is critical for the future of life on Earth. While the most important action to take is reducing the emission of greenhouse gases, predominantly through cutting fossil fuel use, Nature is the most effective way of removing CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere and storing it.

### THE SOLUTION – REWILDING

Different habitats all store vastly different amounts of carbon. However, the biggest store of carbon is always in soil. A key aspect of improving carbon storage in ecosystems is to improve the quality and depth of the soil. For example, Forest Research have shown that in the UK's woodlands, while the trees store approximately 869 million tonnes of carbon above and below ground, the soils, litter and dead wood store 2,912 million tonnes. Rewilding is a focus on improving the health of ecosystems, including soil.

*"Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's reserves sequester the equivalent of 176 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year." - DWT, 2021*



Lea Wood Nature Reserve, DWT



The Avenue Nature Reserve, DWT

Rewilding protects the soil, securing the carbon which is stored there. Large scale tree planting takes three or four years to store carbon (due to fuel used in growth and transportation, production of tree guards and loss of soil carbon due to oxidation of exposed soil) whereas natural regeneration starts sequestering carbon immediately, by increasing the vegetation which is taken into the soil as it dies. In addition, flood risk reduction is improved through natural regeneration by increasing the surface roughness and as trees are more randomly spaced, disrupting flow pathways more effectively.



## 4. CARBON STORAGE AND SEQUESTRATION

### HOW WE CAN IMPLEMENT THIS AT ALLESTREE?

Within the first few years, woodland would develop at Allestree Park naturally due to the change in management regimes, utilising natural regeneration to protect the existing soil carbon. As the site develops, we will continually assess the CO<sub>2</sub>e (carbon dioxide equivalent) measures of the different habitats on site.

We will also work with community groups to put in place natural flood risk management measures, as part of a programme of climate change adaptation.

We will also ensure that the CO<sub>2</sub>e of our operations is minimised, to maximise the carbon sequestration potential of the site.

### NEXT STEPS

- Undertake carbon audit, using accurate habitat mapping, and put in place carbon storage monitoring programme with the University of Derby;
- Working with CycleDerby and Derby City Council, undertake a sustainable transport analysis for site visitors from within the city and further afield;
- Facilitate woodland creation across the site, allowing woodland to continue to develop naturally and assessing the need and opportunities for tree planting;
- Model ecosystem services across the site, identifying flood risk reduction opportunities.



Thornhill Carr Nature Reserve, DWT Rewilding Reserve





## 5. OUR NATURAL HEALTH SERVICE

PEOPLE'S HEALTH AND WELLBEING CAN BE IMPROVED BY ENSURING THERE ARE EASILY ACCESSIBLE WILDLIFE-RICH, NATURAL SPACES WHERE THEY LIVE AND WORK.

### THE PROBLEM

Physical and mental health issues, including physical inactivity; obesity; mental ill health, dementia and social isolation, are increasing problems in the UK and hence are a policy priority. Further to this, people are spending less time outdoors, with many communities not using their local green spaces and not travelling to other areas of the city, due to lack of funds, cultural capital and education of how to use outside spaces. In Derbyshire, the latest Active Lives Survey (Active Derbyshire, 2021) showed a significant increase (9.3%) in inactivity within Derby City. In addition to this, national statistics showed that residents in the most deprived communities in the UK are 10 times less likely to have access to nature (Environment Agency, 2021).

### THE SOLUTION

The relationships between physical and mental wellbeing are intrinsically linked. Regular physical activity reduces the risk of conditions such as depression by up to 30%, dementia by 30%, Type 2 diabetes by 40%, cardiovascular disease by 35% and all-cause mortality by 30% (Public Health England, 2016). There is also a large body of evidence that finds that access to greenspace is a key factor in improving health and wellbeing, through physical health (via increased physical activity);

and improvements to psychological and social wellbeing, in a number of ways, including: reductions in stress and anxiety, increased positive mood, self-esteem and resilience, improvements in social functioning and in social inclusion (The Wildlife Trusts, 2018). In addition to improving wellbeing, access to greenspace is also shown to increase pro-environmental behaviour change, such as recycling, re-using materials, creating wildlife friendly features, and learning about the methods for practical conservation.

*"Targeted Wildlife Trust programmes designed for people with a health or social need, showed a return of £6.88 for every £1 invested. This value was generated from health gains such as improved mental wellbeing."* - Leeds Beckett University, 2019



DWT Forest Schools and Nature Tots

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust worked with the NHS and other partners to establish Derbyshire and Derby as one of 7 national 'Green' Social Prescribing Pilot sites. 'Green' social prescribing is an initiative aimed at improving people's physical and mental health through connecting patients with nature. Local and national evidence shows that social prescribing works and can have a significant impact on reducing the demand on the health and social care system.



## 5. OUR NATURAL HEALTH SERVICE

### WHAT CAN WE DO AT ALLESTREE PARK?

Experience shows that in order to work well with local communities, particularly vulnerable service users, a peaceful, inclusive local space that participants feel comfortable in is essential. With good links to the city and with its vast and varied habitats, Allestree Park is the ideal base to build upon Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's existing Wild Wellbeing programme in Derby and establish the city's first Wild Wellbeing Hub. Working collaboratively with other like-minded community organisations, a wide range of outdoor and nature-based activities will be established to improve physical and mental health. This will include-

- Nature Tots – encouraging pre-school children to engage with the natural world and training early years staff in using nature connection in early years development;
- Forest Schools – working with local school children and school staff to feel confident in nature;
- Junior Rangers – encouraging 11-18 year olds to become the conservationists of the future through gaining skills in practical management and maintenance of sites;
- Green Influencers – using youth led- social action to create campaigns and projects to improve their school grounds, and local community spaces;
- Green Social Prescribing - inclusive opportunities for people, prescribed by GP practices;
- Community Volunteering – a large inclusive volunteering programme will be established.

### NEXT STEPS:

- Forest Schools – working with local school children and school staff to feel confident in nature.
- Work with our existing partners including YMCA Derbyshire, Derbyshire Mind, Women's Work and Grow Outside to design a programme of wellbeing activities for local communities to access. This includes health and wellbeing projects, supporting work experience and alternative provision for young people and volunteering opportunities.
- Consult with local residents, community groups, nurseries and schools to facilitate education and learning activities on site, and encourage community participation.
- Build upon existing relationships with University of Derby to evaluate nature connection and pro-environmental behaviour through our programmes of work.
- Establish a Wellbeing Hub on the site.



DWT Junior Rangers, Forest Schools and Volunteering



## 6. NATURE-BASED ECONOMIES AND ECOTOURISM

**NATURE-BASED ECONOMIES PROVIDE JOBS AND GENERATE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN WAYS THAT PROTECT AND RESTORE OUR NATURAL SYSTEMS AND MAKE US MORE RESILIENT TO THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.**

### THE PROBLEM

*“It is one of the defining challenges of the 21st century: how to restore nature and protect our climate at the same time as producing the food and resources on which we all depend?” – Rewilding Britain, 2021*

Since the start of the 20th century, humans have made huge advances and facilitated unprecedented levels of growth, not only in economic output but in technology, healthcare and consequently population size and life expectancy (World Economic Forum, 2020). However, this extraordinary growth has come at a heavy cost to the natural world. In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, we’ve hit a turning point – an awareness that we need to ‘build back better’ and transition from extractive to regenerative economies.

*“We need to create prosperity today without compromising the prosperity of future generations.” – Rewilding Britain, 2021*

Derby is home to some of the UK’s largest and most prestigious manufacturers which provide numerous high-value specialist employment opportunities in the City. However, Derby City Council

In their Economic Growth Strategy (2021), acknowledge the need for improvements to the value and quality of the City’s lifestyle offer in order to attract and retain more highly-skilled entrepreneurs and wealth creators. Further to this, the Economic Growth Strategy highlights that one of the key weaknesses in the local economy is the relatively low range and number of businesses, particularly those within the higher-value service sector.

### THE SOLUTION – REWILDING

Recent research from Rewilding Britain, reveals that rewilding, across its sample projects, has resulted in a 54% increase in full-time equivalent jobs. The research notes that this figure is likely to increase as many of the sample projects are in the early stages of rewilding, and as they develop, it is expected they will attract new and more diverse enterprises.

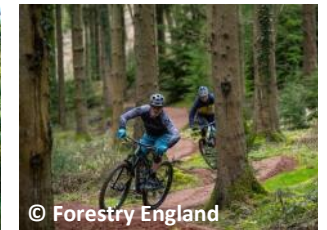
Knepp Wildland, was once an estate not too dissimilar to Allestree Park. However, in 2001 the owners decided to make a change and began rewilding their estate. Over the last 20 years, Knepp has been returned to nature, and because of this now boasts a diverse and flourishing nature-based economy, offering a wide range of services from glamping and wildlife safaris, to selling their own wild-range meat. Knepp not only illustrates the ecological benefits of rewilding but that it can pay!



© Knepp Wildland



© Go Ape



© Forestry England



## 6. NATURE-BASED ECONOMIES AND ECOTOURISM

### HOW CAN WE IMPLEMENT THIS AT ALLESTREE?

Allestree Park provides an incredible opportunity to develop nature-based economic activities in Derby, with the potential to host a new and diverse range of economic opportunities that as well as supporting the local economy would make Derby a more attractive place to live and visit. Below are a range of ecotourism and other nature-based opportunities that are going to be explored for implementation at Allestree Park:

- Extending Derby's cycling network into an exciting, cycle tourism opportunity similar to that in Limburg, Netherlands - 'Cycle through the Trees' and 'Cycling through Water' bringing cyclists closer to Nature and give them unique views over the landscape, encouraging a wide range of cyclists in addition to mountain bike riders using more challenging routes through the woodlands;
- Glamping and Wilderness stays – providing eco-friendly accommodation, facilities and event spaces within the natural environment – think treehouses and tepees!;
- Conservation grazing - selling meat and other produce produced on site;
- Outdoor activities, such as ziplines, tree top walks and tree line experiences;
- Guided nature tours and safaris – as the site develops and species return, introducing a range of nature hides, guided walks and wildlife safaris to bring people closer to nature;
- Educational – wildlife courses, forest schools and hireable event spaces;
- A treehouse café and visitors centre.

### NEXT STEPS

- Undertake feasibility studies for the introduction of new enterprises and any associated infrastructure within the Park;
- Investigate opportunities for funding a flagship attraction, like Cycle through the Trees;
- Consult with key stakeholder groups regarding tourism, active transport and local business opportunities.



Cycle Through the Trees, © Toerisme Limburg



## 7. OVERVIEW

For more than half a century, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust has been protecting, restoring and creating wild places and bringing people closer to nature. Derby City Council and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust also have a long history of working together to improve the landscape of Derby for nature and the people who live there.

We need to develop and encourage more nature-rich space across Derby, not only for wildlife but for the health of our planet and the wellbeing of people that inhabit it. Allestree Park poses the perfect opportunity to catalyse Nature's recovery in Derby, as the UK's first, major urban rewilding project!

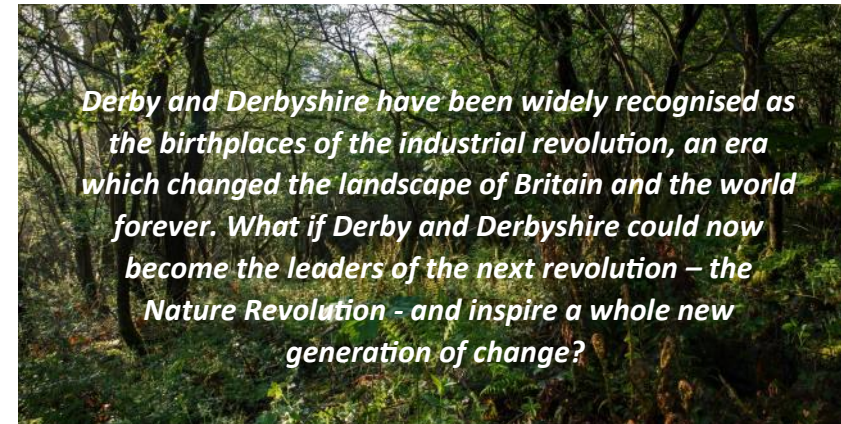
The urban rewilding and repurposing of Allestree Park will deliver a wide range of benefits -

- Support nature recovery in the Derby region, providing more space for a range of nature-rich habitats and potential new species reintroductions;
- Increase the city's carbon storage and sequestering capacity and contribute to Derby City Council's carbon reduction targets;
- Provide a Natural Health Service, giving a home to the city's first Wild Wellbeing Hub and facilitate more opportunities for Derby's residents to connect with nature;
- Contribute to the local economy with a range of new and exciting nature-based enterprises and make Derby a more vibrant, green and attractive place to live and visit.

In the coming months, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust will build upon the existing partnership between Derby City Council, The University of Derby and Rewilding Britain, with new local partners and

stakeholders to foster community ownership of Allestree Park and to increase the knowledge, expertise, and resources working on this monumental project.

*"The Wildlife Trusts are calling for 30% of the country to be managed for nature. Initiatives like this one at Allestree Park, with partnerships of organisations from the public, private and charitable sector give us hope that we can achieve this. The Wildlife Trusts are really excited by this opportunity and I'm really looking forward to using the project as an exemplar for urban rewilding to encourage more projects like this all across the country."* - Craig Bennett, CEO of The Wildlife Trusts





Artists Impressions of a Wilder Allestree Park—What 3 Word Location: Boats.Wants.Ages



Artists Impressions of a Wilder Allestree Park—What 3 Word Location: Museum.Shovels.Seated



## 8. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

We believe that there are three broad routes to deliver the differing outcomes outlined above, based on the level of initial investment. They will deliver the outcomes at different rates and with different levels of success. These can be described as Passive Rewilding, Community Rewilding and Commercial Rewilding. These are described below. All routes would retain the current users of the site, such as The Earl of Harrington Fishing Club and the Friends of Allestree Park.

### OPTION 1—PASSIVE REWILDING

Passive Rewilding is the simplest and cheapest pathway. Effectively it involves leaving Allestree Park to turn into woodland in its own time. As can be seen on the site already, by ending mowing of the open spaces, trees will start to come onto the whole site within two to three years, with woodland developing across the whole site within 25 years. This will lead to the loss of the open grasslands and views of the city. Passive rewilding is not free, as there will be a need to co-ordinate the volunteers who will be needed to ensure that the site is safe and tidy, interpretation panels are kept up to date, litter is picked and important archaeological features are retained.

This route would secure carbon effectively, cheaply and quickly, as well as providing most other ecosystem services. Woodland species will return to the site over time, although species reintroductions will not be undertaken. Biodiversity will probably increase over time as woodland has high biodiversity, but it is likely to be dominated by species which seed readily onto sites, such as sycamore.

Only minor visitor infrastructure would be introduced, to keep the investment costs down. While there would be a significant need for volunteers, which could provide many of the Natural Health

benefits described above, use of the site for other specific health and wellbeing activities (e.g. Nature Tots, yoga, wellbeing hub) would be limited to outdoor spaces in the warmer months of the year. It would be possible to set up a site for Forest School activities, although they would be run by people from off the site.

The site is unlikely to become significantly more of a destination for the residents of Derby (limiting the options for ecotourism). Paths through the site will be predominantly through desire lines and accessibility to the site will not be increased significantly. Mountain biking is likely to become more popular on site, although not in a controlled way. Trails will be built by users through the woods, as happens in woodlands throughout the Derwent Valley.

The costs of this option are the lowest, but they are likely to be borne predominantly by the City Council into the future as it will be more difficult to secure external investment for passive rewilding. It is possible that funds could be secured through agri-environment schemes in two to three years when the new Environmental Land Management Scheme is launched.



## 8. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

### OPTION 2 - COMMUNITY REWILDING

Community Rewilding is similar to the above but with higher levels of investment. It will require higher levels of investment from the City Council and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust initially, but it is more likely to secure external investment, from funds such as the People's Postcode Lottery and National Lottery.

It will have very high volunteer involvement, with very active co-ordination of new and existing groups. Groups will:

- Develop Citizen Zoo initiatives from the site with the community, to reintroduce small species to the site (e.g. invertebrates, harvest mice), improving the biodiversity of the site;
- Create cycling routes;
- Undertake monitoring;
- Undertake practical management, including natural flood management activities.

This route would follow a similar pathway to carbon sequestration as the Passive Rewilding, with woodland developing on site within similar timescales. We would plant some additional tree species, to ensure a diversity of woodland and parkland trees (e.g. lime, whitebeam, wych elm etc). It would be possible to keep more of the site open using GPS collars for grazing animals, for example. We would not look to introduce deer until trees were established, if at all. In addition, we would look to construct additional habitats, such as increasing the number of wetlands on site, which would improve the retention of water on site for flood risk reduction and improving water quality. We would also look to develop community growing spaces, particularly through the establishment of a mixed community orchard.

This option would include resources for proactively seeking funding for visitor infrastructure, meaning that it is significantly more likely to be secured and infrastructure built. It would not be guaranteed that all of the things identified (e.g. cycling through the trees, ziplines, treehouses, more accessible routes) would be built, but funding would be actively sought for those that cannot be funded through partner investment. Infrastructure would include sustainable buildings (timber, rammed earth or strawbale) with construction using large numbers of volunteers from community groups, offering training opportunities, supported by local professionals and tradespeople.

We would build a Wild Wellbeing Hub through this route, in order to have a base for community groups and the Forest School and would develop a café on site with the aim of generating an income to support work on the site, subject to obtaining appropriate planning permissions and licensing. We would look to introduce car park charging on site, both to generate an income and to encourage other ways of accessing the site. Other commercial activities, such as camping and glamping pods, ziplines ) would be undertaken if a sustainable business plan for each aspect is developed.

The site is likely to become a popular cycling destination as it would include co-ordination of volunteers to undertake mountain bike trail building in a systematic way, through setting up of initiatives similar to Ride Sheffield, connecting into the CycleDerby network.





## 8. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

### OPTION 3 - COMMERCIAL REWILDING

This route will require the highest level of investment from Derby City Council. Derbyshire Wildlife Trust would be able to put in similar levels of investment to the Community Rewilding route, but this would be a much smaller proportion of the investment needed. This route would involve DCC investing in some of the infrastructure identified above, but without the need to apply for as much external funding, speeding up the process.

We would undertake Citizen Zoo initiatives, as well as other consultant-led species introductions, in order to bring more people onto the site more quickly. The site would be fenced to allow the introduction of a small herd of red deer and white park cattle.

This route would include the need to bid for additional funding from other sources, and would also require a full-time project manager in order to ensure development as quickly as possible.

Infrastructure will be constructed predominantly by contractors, in order to complete it more quickly to allow commercial operations to begin early in the process. We would build a wellbeing hub and café on site, but it would be larger with more opportunities for commercial operations to begin early in the process. The site would also include glamping and camping from year 2.

Carbon sequestration levels would be similar to the other routes, although this route would take longer to store carbon due to the higher embedded carbon in the infrastructure and the increased carbon cost of higher levels of tree planting. Cycling infrastructure would be exemplary, with an accessible pathway, suitable for cycles and other wheeled users, through the trees, giving good views across the city, similar to the initiatives (Cycling through the Trees, Cycling through Water) in Limburg.

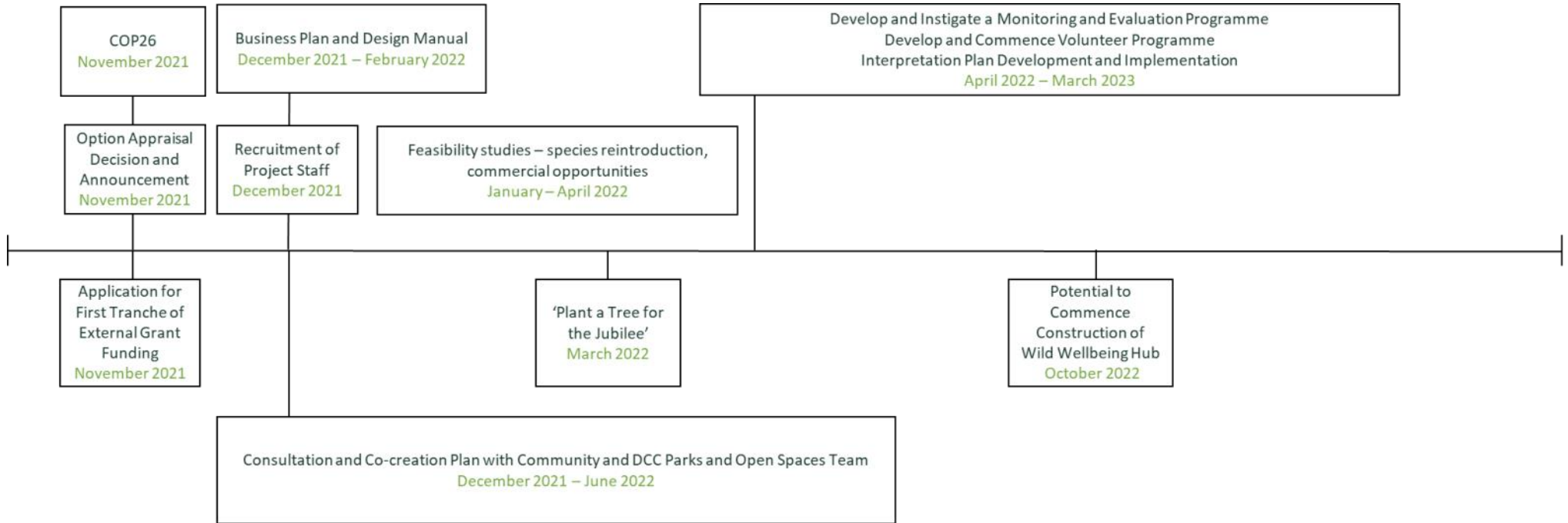
Car parking charging would happen from the beginning as a mechanism of generating income to support the work on site.

### FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Agri-environment scheme funding could be applied for in year 3, under all scenarios, when the new Environmental Land Management Scheme is launched. Area payments are likely to be similar under the three different routes.



# 9. TIMELINE





# Derbyshire Wildlife Trust



Derby City Council

**REWILDING  
BRITAIN**



UNIVERSITY OF  
**DERBY**



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