

WILDER

DERBYSHIRE



Derbyshire
Wildlife Trust



**Saturday 8th
October 2022**
The Museum of Making,
Silk Mill Lane,
Derby DE1 3AF

Notification of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's 60th Annual General Meeting

We are happy to notify you that our Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday 8th October at 4pm at The Museum of Making in Derby. Below is a brief agenda of what can be expected.

As well as the formal AGM proceedings we hope to run some exciting walks, talks and activities earlier in the day. More details including how to get involved will be provided nearer the time.

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Welcome and introductions
3. Achievements and future plans
4. Approval of previous AGM minutes
5. Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022
6. Re-Appointment of BHP Chartered Accountants as the Trust's auditors for the year ending 31st March 2022
7. Election of committee
8. Any Other Business - Question and Answer session



To register your interest:

To register your interest in this event please follow this link so we can ensure you receive all relevant updates relating to the AGM and associated events.

Updates and information will also be shared on our website
<https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/agm-2022>

If you require information in another accessible format or via post please email enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk so we can ensure the communications reach you.



Jo Smith
Chief Executive
Officer



Join the Conversation

- Like us on Facebook /DerbyshireWildlifeTrust
- Follow us on Twitter @DerbysWildlife
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- Follow us on YouTube /derbyshirewt

On the cover

Osprey © Peter Cairns - 2020VISION
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www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

WELCOME

Since the pandemic we've all realised just how important it is to be able to connect with nature – for our health, for our wellbeing, for building a sense of belonging and for the future of our planet.

Despite this, many areas of our towns and cities are nature-deprived or underrepresented, and marginalised groups are more likely to live in areas which have significantly less access to green spaces. Being unable to easily access nature can result in worse physical and mental health outcomes and reinforces wider inequalities.

As part of our new strategy we want to better understand the barriers these communities are facing and how we might campaign on policies and develop initiatives that better meet their needs. At the same time, we know that there is enormous energy and creativity out there and we want to learn more about what is already working well to address this nature deficit and connect people with nature and with each other.

As part of this work we are excited to be launching our new Nextdoor Nature Project – find out more about this exciting new initiative on page 14. With this, together with our ambitious vision for a Wilder Derby, our extensive green social prescribing and wellbeing programmes, we hope to involve and inspire more people to connect to nature as well as ensuring our towns and cities provide much better access to green spaces for everyone.

Thank you for your support.

FEATURES



8

4 News

8 Land Acquisitions

12 Green Infrastructure

14 Nextdoor Nature

16 Species Reintroductions

18 A Voice from the Future

22 Natural Flood Management

24 Taking Action for Nature

26 Lanholm Initiative

28 Summer Birds

30 Biodiversity Net Gain

32 In Memory of Tony Hams OBE



12



16



26



28

SPOTTED




 Share your images with us
www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlife/record-sighting



Nuthatch – Handley Wood
Photo: April 2022 © Andy Inns



Fox – Erewash Meadows
Photo: May 2022 © Tom Whitmore



Spotted Bank Vole – Codnor Park
Photo: April 2022 © Margaret Campbell

Rabbit – Hartshorne
Photo: April 2022 © John Delaney



Buzzard – Williamthorpe
Photo: April 2022 © Joshua Padley



Urban rewilding: what's next for Allestree Park?



Back in November we announced that Allestree Park will become the UK's largest urban rewilding area. It's seen huge support nationally and really puts Derby on the map as a driver of what greener, wilder cities could, and should, be.

Since then, in January to April, there's been a public consultation. Thousands responded and had an opportunity to shape the future of the land by letting us know what they would like to see there. Responses included full woodland, wildflower meadows, community gardens, species reintroductions, events and even treehouse cafes.

Now we're gathering the information from the consultation and are working with Derby City

Council to review everything you have said. We hope to have more news for you later in the summer.

It's really important – rewilding Allestree Park will bring huge benefits for people and for wildlife. It will give Derby a "Natural Health Service" by providing more opportunities for residents to improve their wellbeing by connecting with a huge, nature-rich greenspace. Wildlife will have a chance to recover, we'll be able to showcase how people and nature can live together, even in the most urban of settings. And it will help the Council meet its carbon reduction targets by increasing Derby's carbon storage capacity.

New lease of life for city nature reserve

An important wildlife area next to a business park in Alvaston is set to become the next link in a chain of rewilding spreading across Derby. Derby City Council has taken on the 99-year lease of Derwent Meadows Nature Reserve, off Raynesway, and has entered into a ten-year partnership with us to manage the area for the benefit of wildlife and people.

This partnership is an important step in our vision for a greener, wilder city. Derwent Meadows site is already a dedicated wildlife area, with a riverside path linking with the local footpath and cycle network. Our plan is to increase the biodiversity by improving the wetlands, woodlands and grasslands and creating new habitats and nesting spaces to encourage as many species as possible. We will also provide interpretation boards so that visitors gain a better understanding of the nature around them.

We will work with the local community, offering opportunities for helping improve the habitats by volunteering and working with local schools, groups and young people in the area.



Derwent Meadows © Kayleigh Wright

The Latest NEWS

New Peregrine Chicks!

We are thrilled to announce that the Derby Cathedral peregrine pair have had their first three eggs hatch over Easter. By 3pm on Easter Monday afternoon, the first two chicks had hatched, followed by the third in the early evening.

In May the three peregrine chicks were ringed, with Nick Moyes from the Derby Cathedral Peregrine Project abseiling down to the nest platform and lowering the chicks down to the room below, where licensed ringer Chloe Pritchard did the honours.

Nick says 'We believe we have one female falcon and two males. Knowing where a young bird has ended up after it has fledged from its nest site is incredibly important for scientists and conservationists. Whilst

modern GPS satellite tracking can give us untold insights into migratory bird movements, it is expensive and impossible to do with large numbers of individuals. The simple use of a numbered ring placed on the leg of a young bird in the nest can be an effective way to try to keep track of how birds move around.'

Back in 2006 the Derbyshire Cathedral Peregrine Project team members fixed a large wooden platform to the cathedral and since then the peregrines have been successfully nesting there, with over 45 young peregrines raised.

For more information see: <https://derbyperegrines.blogspot.com>



Peatland © Mark Hamblin 2020 Vision

Peat-based products are costing the Earth!

In 2011 retailers were asked to stop selling peat-based products. They haven't.

Peat for compost is dug out of peatlands, which are very special (and incredibly wild!) habitats that also act as a carbon store, helping tackle climate change. If sales of peat-based materials like compost continue, peat extraction in the UK and imports of peat-based products from abroad will also continue. But there's no need – forward-looking growers are proving you don't need peat to have high-quality compost.

It's absolutely critical that peatlands remain intact and that damaged peatlands are

restored, if we are to have any hope of combatting the interlinked climate and nature crises.

The Government said that if voluntary targets were missed, it would step in with a ban. They haven't done yet, so we'll continue to campaign.

Thank you to the thousands of you who responded to the Government consultation to end the retail sale of peat. We'll let you know the outcome as soon as possible. And our petition to ban peat sales is still open – please sign it! Thank you.

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/ban-sale-peat>



Three Peregrine chicks © Nick Moyles

Peregrine ringed chick © Nick Moyles



LAND ACQUISITIONS

How do we decide what to take on?

Matt Buckler, Head of Wilder Landscapes

Many of the Wildlife Trusts were set up in the 1960s with an early aim of acquiring pieces of land of conservation importance to protect them and turn them into nature reserves, and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust was no exception. The first piece of land we owned outright was Overdale in our Dark Peak Living Landscape and we've been buying, leasing and inheriting land ever since. A key question is how we decide what land to take on. Our reasons have changed over time as the world has changed around us.

In the early days, conservation organisations assumed that the really important pieces of land that they took on would be jewels in the wider agricultural landscape and so their size was not really important; perhaps they were parts of a wider landholding that the owner didn't want or need or a disused quarry or gravel pit.

However, these assumptions have been proved wrong since then. Our nature reserves have become more and more

isolated as agriculture has intensified and development has impacted more of it as well. In 2010, Professor John Lawton undertook a review of sites managed for wildlife on behalf of the Government and the report which came out of that, called Making Space for Nature, suggested that as a country we needed to look at how wildlife sites were selected and managed.

Overdale, Photo: © Mark Hamblin

These proposals could be summarised as:

- **Better** invest more to manage sites better for nature;
- **Bigger** expand sites to make them bigger, allowing more extensive management regimes;
- **More** create more sites for nature across the county;
- **Joined** connect them together and improve the wider countryside for nature.

Our nature reserve management strategies, and that of most conservation charities, reflect these changes and also reflect our developing focus on nature's recovery, rather than protecting existing sites. We want to think of our nature reserves as reservoirs for nature to flow out into other pieces of land, rather than as places in the landscape which are reserved for nature; nature should be everywhere.

We adopted a new acquisition policy in 2021, which helps us to decide whether a piece of land is appropriate for us to try and acquire and whether we can afford it. Our acquisition strategy helps us to prioritise where we should buy land and is informed by the Lawton Principles outlined above.

Rose End Meadows, Photo: © Roy Smith



Rose End Meadows, Photo: © Roy Smith



Overdale, Photo: © Mark Hamblin

Our number one priority is no longer buying good quality, protected sites, such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), as there are strict rules on their management from Natural England and there are other things that we can do to protect them, through advocacy, campaigning and our planning work.

We want to buy parcels of land which can help nature's recovery, predominantly through rewilding principles such as natural regeneration, re-wetting, species reintroductions and connecting people to nature.

Firstly, we would look to acquire land around our existing nature reserves, to try and make them bigger, such as our recent acquisitions at Rose End Meadows and Willington Wetlands, both of which have expanded existing nature reserves. Bigger parcels of land require less intensive management, and we are more likely to manage them by reinstating natural processes. We don't mind if the sites are not great for nature to start off with, like the land at Willington, as nature will spread into it if we help it to.

If we want to take on a completely new site, we look at a few different things. We have created a Nature Recovery Network for the whole county, based on places which are already important (SSSIs, Local Wildlife Sites) and shows us what habitats should be created and where, to help us decide where to acquire land. If there are connections with other sites, such as watercourses, hedgerows or rights of way, so much the better. Ideally, we would like completely new sites to be bigger than

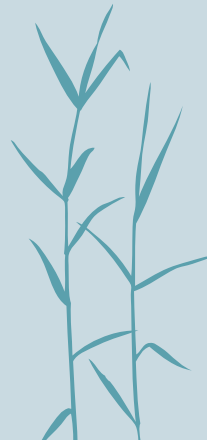


Willington Wetlands Photo © Kayleigh Wright

50 hectares, because they can change the Nature Recovery Network for the area and it allows us to put in place natural processes from the beginning.

Once we've acquired a site we are also looking at refining our management plans to record what natural processes we need to instigate and the site's context in the landscape; who are the key neighbours that we need to work to develop our Living Landscapes further. Our reserve monitoring will focus on ecosystem health, looking at a range of different factors rather than just looking at one or two different wildlife groups, although we will still be doing that as part of it.

Whilst working with other people at a landscape scale is becoming more and more important to DWT, owning and managing land for nature is still a really important part of nature's recovery in Derbyshire and we look forward to bringing you more exciting opportunities over the next 60 years.



CALL FOR LAND

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is issuing a countywide call for sites for rewilding to support the delivery of nature's recovery.

Landowners or managers seeking to enter long-term rewilding or natural flood management schemes should contact enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk with details of the location, size and current use.



Allestree Park

GREEN

INFRASTRUCTURE

Enabling nature to nurture a healthier future

Matt Buckler, Head of Wilder Landscapes

We all know what grey infrastructure is – we’re surrounded by it! It’s the things that help societies to function: roads, railways, hospitals, schools, reservoirs, water mains... But what is green infrastructure, where do we find it, and how does it work for us?

Some green infrastructure is obvious, as are the benefits it brings. (We call these benefits ‘eco-system services’.) Footpaths and bridleways provide opportunities for access and recreation, agricultural fields facilitate food production as forests provide timber. But green infrastructure is not limited

to the provision of single services. Forests and peatlands, such as the blanket bogs of the Peak District, reduce climate change by storing carbon, as well as purifying water through its natural filtering system, and reducing the risk of urban flooding by holding water and slowing down its downstream flow.

In towns and cities, green spaces are essential for people’s health and wellbeing; creating opportunities for outdoor activity and bringing the joy of nature into people’s everyday lives. But in urban areas, the pressures on even the smallest of green spaces are immense, with the ever-present threat of encroaching building developments, pollution from surrounding road systems and high populations of people with multiple demands and expectations. These pressures make green infrastructure in urban spaces even more important, and the right green infrastructure, essential!

The best green infrastructure maximises nature’s skills in finding solutions, whilst optimising the benefits it can bring to people. As part of our plans for a Wilder Derby, we’ve been looking at how we can do just that, slotting effective and appropriate green infrastructure within the existing grey urban landscape, and creating beautiful spaces that serve both people and wildlife well.



Photo © Clear Channel UK

We have already made a start...

- We’ve been working with a company in Derby who are installing new bus shelters with green roofs. These functional structures not only provide shelter for commuters, their living roofs offer great pit stops for pollinators crossing the city

as well as slowing the flow of rainfall into drains, reducing the risk of flooding of shops and businesses.

- We are working with Derby City Parks and University of Derby to rewild Allestree Park and Derwent Meadows. We will be putting nature in the driving seat to combat some of the localised threats of climate change through planting trees which hold onto carbon, expanding meadows that support essential pollinators and enhancing wetlands that reduce the risk of urban flooding. Rewilding these vital spaces will blur the edges between people and nature, enabling people to be within nature whilst exercising and socialising, and in turn, nature will thrive and flourish.
- Our work with planners puts nature on the map right in the heart of planned developments, ensuring there is always space for wildlife, such as bats and swifts, to thrive. And in turn, these welcome residents offer a free pest control service, hoovering thousands of unwanted flies and midges as they patrol the city skies.
- We’ve brought wildlife onto the wards of Derby Royal Hospital! By bringing webcam feeds into the hospital, patients are able to absorb the beauty of nature from their beds, a proven medicine to aid recovery.

The opportunities are endless when we turn to nature for solutions, and green infrastructure can be so very simple, sustainable and cost effective. We are passionate about shifting our towns and cities from endless shades of grey to very many shades of green, creating wilder cities that celebrate people and nature working together for a healthier future.



You can get involved no matter how small your outside space. Whether it’s a windowsill or a balcony you can **go potty for wildlife** and brighten up your garden with pots, pans and wellie boots and fill them out with insect friendly plants, create a bee bar or butterfly café.

Nextdoor NATURE

Working to rewild our urban areas

Laura Jones, Wilder Communities Team Leader

An amazing £90,000 of funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund will see Derbyshire Wildlife Trust able to do more work within inner-city Derby communities to help give local residents and nature a boost.

The funding is part of The National Lottery Heritage Fund's £22million investment to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and to leave a lasting natural legacy across the UK. A huge matrix of community-led rewilding projects across the country will begin this summer, working with residents in some of the most disadvantaged areas, enabling them to reclaim and create green spaces for nature in places that matter to them.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is focussing work in the wards of Alvaston, Arboretum and Normanton in Derby to work with local residents who face barriers accessing nature and green spaces. The pandemic has demonstrated just how important access to a well-cared-for natural environment is to communities and how people value local green spaces for rest, enjoyment and to help improve their mental wellbeing. Nextdoor Nature will support lesser-represented communities in these areas to break through some of these barriers and

improve and create green spaces in areas that matter most to them.

The key element of Nextdoor Nature is that it will empower communities to take action for nature themselves, giving them control to decide how best to improve their own neighbourhoods. We'll employ a Community Organiser who will work closely with residents to get to know the area, the residents, the community groups and issues that matter most to them. DWT will give people the skills, tools, and opportunity to take actions for nature – this could be anything from planting wildflowers to building bug hotels and bird boxes to creating ponds and wetland areas, rewilding school grounds, or creating green spaces in highly urbanised or unused areas. The Community Organiser will help community groups to build networks and enable them to share the knowledge, skills and experience they have and that they develop along the way, to continue making improvements and maintain spaces



Jericho House planting bulbs, Royal Crown Derby. Photo © Kirsty Barker



Raised bed gardening in action, Derby Arboretum. Photo © Kirsty Barker

for nature and residents' enjoyment. Campaigning and community organising training will be provided to upskill community champions to be a voice for their community and motivate, inspire and encourage others to take action.

In order to reach our goal of 30% of Derbyshire being managed for nature, we'll be working in partnership with voluntary community and faith organisations, friends of groups and Derby City Council on this project. The programme is funded for two years until June 2024.

The community-led approach will build on relationships Derbyshire Wildlife Trust has made through our wellbeing and community projects with Derby residents, importantly giving people the tools and support to grow in confidence to create and improve green spaces together. There will be a number of community events, and activities running throughout the summer to mark the start of the programme.

To learn more visit: <https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/nextdoor-nature-lottery-fund>

Jericho House planter gardening, Royal Crown Derby. Photo © Kirsty Barker



Species REINTRODUCTIONS



Photo © Jon Hawkins - Surrey Hills Photography

Dave Savage, Regional Manager (Dark and White Peak)

At a time when wildlife continues to decline at an alarming rate, a question often asked is, 'Do we reintroduce lost species or focus on improving habitat for declining species?'

Species reintroductions excite and inspire people and, more importantly, have added benefit for ecosystem services. This is shown with the brilliant success of our beaver reintroductions at Willington Wetlands.

Beaver create habitat for other species by stopping water to create ponds, backwaters and wetlands for insects, amphibians and birds. At the same time they prevent this water getting into rivers, reducing flooding events downstream.

Wild Bison are being brought back to the UK for the first time in 6000 years by Kent Wildlife Trust. These enormous animals were hunted to extinction, and this ground-breaking initiative may hold massive potential benefit for habitat and

species recovery. Bison foraging habit can influence meadow ecosystems as they prefer grazing on grasses, leaving flower species behind. They also eat woody plant species, preventing woodland encroachment into rides, clearings and scallops whilst trampling and wallowing to create a varied sward, all of which are important for birds and insects.

With a large enough piece of land, bison can come back to Derbyshire. This would drive a nature-led approach to habitat recovery. Over the last nine months Lucy Duke, our Reintroduction Trainee has been looking at what other animals could be brought back to Derbyshire. Two of these species are golden eagle and pine marten.

Golden eagle

Current status – Widely distributed across the northern hemisphere, with 440 pairs in the UK in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Last resident golden eagle in England, a single male, occupied a territory in Riggendale Valley in the Lake District from 2001 until his death in 2016. In 2020, reports indicated that a single golden eagle named Beaky flew from Southern Scotland to the Pennine Hills in England. This marked the first recorded individual in England since 2016.

Habitat requirements – Predominantly found in mountainous regions, avoiding dense forest where possible, particularly in proximity to their preferred hunting range. Golden eagles are territorial and throughout the year typically utilise a home range of 20–200km², which includes night time roosts, eyries and areas of abundant prey.

Benefits – Economic: white-tailed eagles reintroduced to the Isle of Mull in Scotland are estimated to have increased the tourist revenue by £5 million. A keystone species and apex predator that will help control animals like rats and rabbits. Similar hunting habitat as that needed for other birds like merlin, hen harrier and short eared owl, giving additional benefit.

Risks – Consumption of gamebirds and lambs may bring birds into conflict with farmers and shooting estates.

Summary – We could bring golden eagle back to Derbyshire as we have the habitat and the nesting sites on our Limestone outcrops and disused quarry faces. Could we ever get the buy-in from our biggest landowners to make it happen?



Pine marten

Current status – The pine marten was the second most common carnivore in Britain during the Mesolithic era. By the early 20th century, the population in the UK had declined so greatly that the species was restricted to a small population in the North West Highlands of Scotland and several small and isolated populations scattered across England and Wales. At present, the most up to date available estimate of the pine marten population size in Britain is around 3,700 individuals.

Habitat requirements – Traditionally the pine marten has been viewed as a forest specialist species, primarily associated with extensive and 'old growth' woodland habitats, where they can find plenty of tree cavities for breeding and resting. More recent evidence suggests pine marten are far less strict with their habitat selection and can be found to utilise a range of habitats like scrub and tussocky grassland.

Benefits – As a predator pine marten are vital to ecosystems where they predate non-native grey squirrels. Improving habitat for pine marten will have a beneficial impact on a wide range of other woodland species. Ecotourism could lead to people having longer stays in Derbyshire to see pine marten.

Risks – pine martens are excellent climbers, and as such can easily gain access to game and poultry pens. The small population in the UK means there is a very small number of animals available for translocation. The proximity of much of Derbyshire's woodland to urban areas with busy roads means natural repopulation may be the only hope.

Summary – With current national populations, it is unlikely Derbyshire will be part of a translocation project in the near future. We will be working to improve woodland connectivity to put the habitat back.



Pine Marten, Photo © Mark Hamblin 2020/VISION



A VOICE FROM THE FUTURE

To celebrate our 60th Anniversary the last edition looked '60 years back' and now we want to look '60 years forward' to see what we hopefully will have achieved!

Rachel Bennett, Landscape Recovery Manager

The year is 2082, Derbyshire is teeming with wildlife, people are connected to the nature in an unbreakable partnership, each caring for the other. Rewilding has restored our once depleted ecosystems; they are more resilient now and have helped to mitigate some of the impacts of our warming climate. Over the past half century we have led Nature's Recovery, working together with communities, local authorities, businesses, landowners and

organisations for the benefit of nature and people. With innovative nature-based solutions we have all come together to beat both the biodiversity crisis and the climate crisis, ensuring a wilder future. Communities and businesses are reaping the benefits too, and we have a strong nature-based economy. Our nature reserves are not isolated, but are connected and blended with the surrounding landscape.

Photo © Gillian Lloyd



Photo © Peter Cairns 2020VISION

Photo © Jon Hawkins - Surrey Hills Photography

The Peak District is a place where wildlife is thriving and extending into our surrounding towns and cities. Where ospreys soar overhead and black grouse and hen harriers are back where they belong. Our wildflower meadows sing with insects, bees and butterflies, and our blanket bogs soak up rain and work as a carbon sink. Native woodlands are re-generating and expanding, teeming with pine martens, adders and red squirrels. It's a dynamic place, valued by and benefitting society, locally, nationally and internationally. Everyone has come to recognise the importance of how we interact with the landscape around us and we people have come together, rewilding

the landscape to deliver ecosystem services benefits to communities. Tourists delight in the awe of nature and wildlife spectacles. Local community groups continue to work to protect wildlife. The landscape is self-sustaining now, and as a society we have all come to intrinsically value our landscape for the good it provides both economically and socially. A nature-led is the norm, with natural floodplains preventing floods, an increase in trees cleaning our air and healthy bogs storing carbon. It's a complex ecosystem form with a whole range of once-lost species coming back, like wild cat, pine marten, osprey, golden eagle and salmon.



In the Derwent Valley, the Derwent forest is thriving. From native woodlands and hedgerows, to community orchards, wood pasture and agroforestry, to tiny forests and trees planted in back gardens. More than 30,000 hectares of woodland habitat has been created over the past 60 years right across the catchment! The Derwent Forest is a crucial, national nature corridor connecting the National Forest in the Midlands to the Northern Forest in the north, which in turn connects the wild, upland expanses in Northern England and Scotland! As well as woodland, wetlands, grasslands and ecotones (the habitats we find between and on the edge of these habitats) create a patchwork, a resilient landscape across Derbyshire. With the growth and recovery of these habitats, we have seen the return of the pine marten, red squirrel, nightingale, turtle dove and pearl bordered fritillary. Our rivers are colder, and more oxygen-rich, bursting with salmon and other native fish. If you're lucky you may spot a beaver, living wild and free, and their presence, combined with the woodland creation and other natural flood

management measures implemented, is slowing the flow and reducing flood risk across the catchment. The Derwent Forest has already captured millions of tonnes of carbon from our atmosphere in the last 60 years and will continue to do so for many decades to come.

In the Trent Valley we have had a joined-up approach to restoring and connecting habitats within the valley. New areas of open water, flood plain meadows, reedbeds and woodland have been created and nurtured. Over the preceding 60 years we have worked tirelessly to restore and create a series of extensive wetlands, which connect the rivers and canals that criss-cross the valleys, and allow movement of a host of different species. Species including eel and lamprey, salmon and sturgeon, geese, ducks and swans, cranes, bitterns, beavers and otters call the Trent Valley home. In this landscape a totally natural river was always a difficult ask, but natural habitats and processes have been reinstated in many places. Re-braiding of river channels and natural floodplains are now common in the valley, with beavers managing woodlands along the river.

Photo © Eive and Tom photography



Pine marten. Photo © Mark Hamblin 2020VISION



Meadow brown. Photo © Scott Petrek



Rewilding The Future

The Trent Valley is much wilder than years ago, but there is still cultivation here. The landscape is also an important visitor destination, providing areas for recreation, access to nature and tranquillity to a significant proportion of the UK population. Communities have access to nature on their doorsteps, improving health and well-being. The landscape is still a place for producing food and has places for industry (including transport and mineral extraction), but with a backdrop of a nature-based economy, maximising the benefits that the natural world provides to society and providing more space for wildlife.

In our urban environments, around towns and cities, people and nature thrive together. We have all come to recognise how vital nature is to our wellbeing. Access to nature-rich spaces on our doorstep has increased mental resilience and our society is much healthier. Our children

are doing better with nature around them. These spaces now support interconnected functions: a workplace, a home, a place to grow.

Healthy natural ecosystems are a common sight in and around the green cityscape. Woodlands, wetlands, wilder parks and green space are the lungs of our towns and cities. These areas are abundant with nature, alive with birdsong. We have natural play zones, which enable children to explore what nature has to offer. Orchards and allotments can be found in every ward, wildflowers, green roofs and green walls on every street. In Derby, a thriving wetland is at the heart of the city and there's even a family of beavers living in a lodge on the Derwent here. Walking through this stunning city is a joy, and as I do, I do so in the knowledge that nature is restored and protected for the future.



Derwent Connections project Natural Flood MANAGEMENT from woodland creation to Beavers.

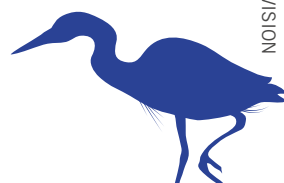
Kate Lemon, Regional Manager (Trent & Erewash)

The Derwent River: a river flowing through the heart of Derbyshire covering an area of 1,194km². This is the setting for the Derwent Connections project.

Set up in November 2021, the Derwent Connections Project is a new countywide initiative that will see the creation of new woodlands and flood management measures around the Derwent catchment.

The vast catchment of the Derwent derives its name from the Brittonic 'Deruentiu' meaning "forest of oak trees". This is the state to which we aim to return much of Derbyshire, with our aim to have rewilded 30,000Ha in the next 30 years! As well as rewilding much of the Derwent catchment, the Derwent Connections project also aims to alleviate the risks of flooding throughout Derbyshire, working with local communities to create nature-based solutions that help lessen the effects of flooding. These will range from woodland creation to the reintroduction of beavers to one of our nature reserves.

But what is natural flood management? It is an increasingly common term in the environmental sector and sounds intriguing, but what does it actually mean and how does it work? Quite simply it is learning from nature and using the same techniques to manage water and where it goes to reduce the risk of flooding. Examples include restoring bends in rivers, changing the way land is managed so soil can absorb more water, planting trees to reduce surface run-off and creating saltmarshes on the coast to absorb wave energy.



Natural Flood Management Buffer. Photo © Jon Hawkins - Guy Edwardes 2020VISION



Woodland. Photo © Jon Hawkins - Guy Edwardes 2020VISION

Beavers at Willington. Photo © Ross Cooper Photography

Climate change, population growth, economics, and environmental legislation such as the Floods Directive and Water Framework Directive all necessitate a move towards a more joined-up approach to the management of land and water. If we recognise that the issues faced by many different sectors have the same root cause, and we manage our land and resources on a bigger scale than our own boundaries, then we can bring about multiple benefits to society quicker and more cost-effectively.

There have been many attempts at this approach and the benefits are clear to see from numerous case studies across the UK. An excellent example is the Making Space for Water project led by Moors for the Future and the Peak District Natural Park Authority. Having run for over five years now, it is located in the Upper Derwent catchment, an area dominated by blanket bog, much of which was severely degraded. The work has entailed restoring degraded moorland by blocking gullies and drainage ditches, planting thousands of sphagnum moss plants to stabilise and re-vegetate bare peat, excluding sheep or limiting their density and establishing no-burn buffer zones alongside watercourses. Work diverting water away from moorland paths and tracks and onto the rough moorland surface has slowed the previously rapid surface run-off which has led to increased erosion control, sediment trapping, reduced loss of soil/peat particles, carbon sequestration and

ultimately improved water quality downstream. The planting of sphagnum moss and other native upland plants has created new habitats, with biodiversity gains, better aesthetic appreciation and improved wildlife interest. All of these positive changes and the huge visual impact of once bare, barren moors now looking green and full of wildlife has led to increased understanding amongst communities of the many wider benefits of good land management.

Further south in the county we have of course implemented our own NFM project by releasing beavers at Willington Wetlands, based in the south of the Derwent catchment. Beavers are fantastic eco engineers, constantly changing the dynamics of their environment and therefore creating diverse wetland environments. As beavers go about their daily lives they are changing the face of their landscapes, by digging shallow canal systems, eating willow and other wetland plants. Our beavers are naturally reducing flood risks by increasing water retention within their wetland home, and by reintroducing these amazing animals we are in turn supporting the development of natural flood management systems.

To find out more about this project see: <https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/derwent-connections>

Residents across Derbyshire TAKING ACTION FOR NATURE



Jordan Hazell, Mobilisation Officer

Derbyshire residents have one of the most powerful tools for fighting climate change right here on their doorsteps. It has been estimated that healthy natural ecosystems could provide one-third of the most cost-effective ways to fight climate change.

Did you know that private gardens in Britain cover an area bigger than all the country's nature reserves combined, estimated at over 10 million acres?

Your garden may be small, but it has amazing potential!

From leaving grass to grow and to planting pots on balconies you have watched as the bees and butterflies arrive, you have seen new flowers pop up. The ponds in pots you have created have started to brim with tadpoles and other life. All these small actions are helping nature.

Many of you have shared with us the ways in which you have been inspiring your friends, neighbours and communities by taking simple, yet powerful actions to help nature.

Community Actions – Wilder streets

Manor Road in Belper is one such street to take action. Here, residents are working together to rewild their back gardens and create a network for wildlife. They set up a Neighbourhood Watch group in January 2020 to look out for each other during dark winter nights, but with the onset of the pandemic, it provided even more support for many of the 50 homes.

As the group grew, they were inspired by concern for the environment to do more in their gardens for wildlife as well as growing and sharing their own home-grown produce. Many homes joined the call to leave lawn grass long during



Photo © Sue Both

the spring and summer when wildlife is at its most active. Residents noticed an increase in wildlife visits to their gardens as a result, and children especially enjoyed setting up bug hotels and wild areas.

Many homes have continued to keep areas of grass long and found more ways to attract wildlife to their gardens in support of the Grow Don't Mow campaign. Several residents have also become more actively involved in rewilding surrounding areas, setting up nature trails, on an old factory car park for example.

Victoria Harrison, a teacher, and Manor Road resident says, "Our gardens can do so much for wildlife – it's been amazing to see more butterflies and pollinators this summer, and the kids loved it too. It's made us feel more reflective and open – we notice more nature around us and have deepened that connection, which has been a blessing in the last year. As a community, it's brought us closer together and people have enjoyed bringing different skills and getting involved."

Working with your neighbors and community can help have an even bigger impact on local wildlife. We have some useful resources to get you started – <https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/teamwilder>

Photo © Sharon Ray



Photo © Geoffrey Fisher



Photo © Graham Games

Inspire others by mapping your wildlife action

Maps are a great way to see how much impact across Derbyshire these amazing actions may have on wildlife.

We are asking everyone that does something positive for wildlife to add it on our map. Whether you have created a pond in your garden, put up a bird box, taken part in Grow Don't Mow or you have done something else incredible for wildlife, then please plot it on our map.

<https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/map-your-action>



An ambitious community-led approach for

NATURE'S RESTORATION

Jenny Barlow, Estate Manager, Langholm Initiative

The community of Langholm made the headlines in 2021 with what was termed 'the impossible dream' with its historic land buy out from Buccleuch Estates. A huge fundraising campaign spearheaded by a small community in Dumfries and Galloway raised £3.8m in just 6 months to bring 5,200 of land into community ownership. This is now one of South of Scotland's largest community-led ecological restoration projects.

The story of Langholm's community land purchase captured the interest of people from all around the world during the global pandemic. It would not have been possible without the support of thousands of people who donated and supported to help make this ambitious dream of community land ownership a reality.

The campaign offered a source of hope and inspiration which so many people came to support and it highlighted what can be achieved when people come together towards an ambitious shared vision.

The successful purchase of the land paved the way for the creation of Tarras Valley Nature Reserve, one of South of Scotland's largest community-led ecological restoration projects – an inspiring initiative that is pushing the boundaries of what can be achieved for community regeneration and nature's recovery.

We're not quite finished with our land ownership ambitions just yet and are busy undertaking a second-stage community buy-out campaign to double the size of the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve. The community

Hen harrier. Photo © L. Campbell

Black grouse Photo © L. Campbell



are trying to raise an additional £2.2m this year to bring the remaining 5,300 acres of the Tarras Valley into community ownership.

The valley is a truly special place – a hidden gem in South Scotland. It's a place where you can be mesmerised by the spectacular sky dancing of courting hen harriers, the most persecuted bird of prey in the UK, over the dramatic hills.

Where you escape from the bustle of modern life to watch the lekking of black grouse, or observe the silent hunt of a short-eared owl. Where you can listen to the calls of a curlew echo over the moors or watch newly fledged dippers explore the Tarras Water.

And it's now a place where we are setting out with a bold vision to restore nature and lost habitats at a landscape scale – helping to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss with woodland and peatland restoration to lock in carbon.

Land ownership for us is a powerful tool to help address local need, aid community regeneration and long-term social, economic and environmental sustainability through a nature-based approach. The new nature reserve has already seen jobs on the land rise to six from zero, and we have exciting plans for ecotourism, camping and walking trails.

There is a lot of talk in the news about a 'just transition' with climate action so we leave nobody behind as we try and transform our society to net zero and mitigate the worst impacts of climate change. However, a lot of the time community voices are not heard and valued as plans are being made which leaves people feeling disengaged and disempowered.

Our community-led approach puts people at the centre of what we are doing here in Langholm. It gives people a voice and a means to shape their own future and opportunities after years of economic heartache following the decline of the once booming textile industry in the town.

Underpinning our activity is an extensive ongoing programme of community participation to ensure future plans are co-designed, collaborative and reflect the needs and aspirations of the community in what we do next.

We are very new on this journey but we want to be an inspiration for others in showing the powerful contribution that communities can make towards the climate and nature emergency response.

To find out more, please visit langholminitiative.org.uk.

Summer BIRDS



**John Matkin, Site Supervisor
– Carsington Water Severn Trent**

Everyone is a birdwatcher in spring. The first singing chiffchaff heard or the first swallow spotted we tick off the familiar as they arrive back, roughly in order, and if we're lucky we tick off the unfamiliar as they too pass through: a ring ouzel on a playing field or an osprey over a local wetland. The dawn chorus builds and then gives way to the nesting season so whether it's through song or through activity the birds seem to be doing their best to be noticed in the springtime.

Summer can seem a much quieter time, especially here in landlocked Derbyshire. Some will lower their binoculars for a few months and head to coast to enjoy the bustling seabird colonies, or switch focus to butterflies and dragonflies which are having their moment in the limelight.

There's no denying July and August are challenging months for bird watching, but June, with the longest of days, still has plenty to offer.

A highlight for me are the spotted flycatchers. As other migrants sink back into the leafy boughs or tangled thickets, the spotted flycatchers seem to leap forwards, sometimes literally, as they spring from preferred perches to seize insects on the wing. Then just as quickly returning to a perch as if on an elastic chord. Finding and

observing a spotted flycatcher is a highlight on a June walk in Derbyshire and whilst any woodland edge with mature trees can be a good place to look, finding them doesn't have to involve a long hike, as they can find everything they need in churchyards, parkland, and village greens.

Another species we should make the most of in June are our swifts. They arrive in early May and by late July they're often beginning to move on so June really is their month, and we have plenty of daylight hours to enjoy them. They're a bird well known for an unusual lifecycle and a life spent almost totally on the wing. Even without swotting up on their fascinating lives they can be enjoyed for their distinctive dark silhouette with those crescent wings, their amazing aerial agility, and that familiar piercing streaming scream of a call.

Spotted flycatcher. Photo © Richard Steel 2020VISION

Swifts can be seen tearing up the sky in Derbyshire's most rugged landscapes, but like the spotted flycatcher they're a familiar site overhead in our villages, even our towns and cities, nesting as they do in the eaves of old houses and churches. It's a sad truth that, like so many species, our understanding and appreciation of the swift seems to increase as we see their numbers fall. Enjoy these precious summer weeks with them.

My final birding highlight in June are the young birds – from the frog-mouthed baby wrens and begging broods of blue tits we see in the garden, to the gawkish young waders, clumsy juvenile gulls, and rafts of half-grown mallards we see here at Carsington Water.



Swift. Photo © Nick Upton



Willow Tit. Photo © John Bridges



Mallard Ducks. Photo © Gillian Day

Whilst entertaining to watch, newly fledged birds of any species are not at their most elegant or beautiful in adolescence, but watching them tells us a story – they let us know how they're faring. A rowdy row of young swallows with fluffy heads and blunt tails, or a dull brown juvenile moorhen swimming circles on the pond show us that we'll be sending birds off to Africa in the autumn (hopefully to be back again next spring) or that we'll likely have a moorhen on the pond next year. They remind us that the migration and the birdsong and the nest building all worked.

For this reason I love to see young willow tits here at Carsington Water, another year, and another generation of this subtly beautiful but struggling species. Continuity is success and we observe that through the young birds we're lucky enough to spot. So explore the birds in Derbyshire this June, there's still plenty to be enjoyed.

Wren. Photo © Andy Rouse 2020VISION



Biodiversity Net Gain PILOT SITES

Dr Philip Fermor, Innovation Manager, DWT

Mother Nature has painted our world in infinite variations of green, and as spring rapidly turns to summer, the Wilder Landscapes team are engaging with the quickly evolving realities of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). Wilder Derbyshire (Spring 2022) outlined the opportunities for expanding nature within Derbyshire arising from the Environment Act's BNG requirement. DWT has been exploring the potential for BNG to provide us with a delivery mechanism to make more space for nature. The opportunities and risks have been carefully considered, researched, discussed, discussed again, and we are delighted that DWT's Board has approved the team's approach to BNG. So, what do we do next?

As the seasons change the team has moved from theoretical, strategic discussions to launching an implementation stage, commencing with a pilot study period that is intended to provide us with a 'blueprint' of how a wildlife charity can effectively engage with BNG, whilst we understand and manage any risks. We have been working on a number of pilot sites within Derbyshire which are helping us to understand the practicalities of delivering biodiversity offset sites, alongside the opportunities for creating a low carbon, high nature landscape in which both people and wildlife can thrive. We have three sites

that the team are currently delivering, one in the Dark Peak Living Landscape Area, one in The Coalfields Living Landscape Area, and one in the Trent Valley Living Landscape Area.

For each site we have completed a desk-based exercise, where we reviewed the site's location in terms of its strategic nature conservation opportunities.

For example, we ask whether the site is

- within a Nature Recovery Network (NRN) opportunity area?
- adjacent to an established nature conservation site (SAC, SPA, SSSI, NNR, LNR)?
- a potential habitat corridor between existing nature conservation resources?
- important for species records?
- accessible for local communities?

Each pilot site has 'passed' these strategic context questions. Then we got our boots on and surveyed the sites. During this survey we mapped the existing habitats within the site, considered the 'condition' of each habitat (using a set of criteria developed by Natural England), and thought creatively about potential habitat enhancement/creation opportunities.

Photo @ Chris Gomersall 2020/VISION

Back in the office, we used the data collected from the desk study review and the site surveys in a standardised tool (The Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool) which calculates the number of baseline 'Biodiversity Units' for each site. Using our extensive habitat creation/enhancement skills, we then considered what habitats the site would support, after 30 years, using the most appropriate habitat management options. These 'projections' are based on current scientific thinking, particularly around working with natural processes and the knowledge and experience of the Wilder Landscapes team. The Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool is a clever mechanism, based on extensive scientific knowledge and many rounds of testing. It takes into account the inherent 'risks' associated with habitat changes and incorporates these into the calculations. Using predicted habitat data for the site (after a 30-year period), the number of future 'Biodiversity Units' is calculated, and the uplift is worked out (predicted Biodiversity Units minus current Biodiversity Units).

Increasingly we are beginning to understand that the best outcomes for nature are found on those sites where only a 'helping hand' is required to restore or enhance a habitat, generally known as rewilding, although there will always be sites where more intensive habitat creation interventions are required.

¹ See <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6049804846366720>

As an example, the site we are taking forward in the Dark Peak is currently poor-quality grassland, but contains occasional remnant heathland species. The restoration of open habitats, including heathland, is a NRN priority at the site's location, and it has good connections to nearby designated nature conservation sites. The presence of some plant species within the site suggests that the soils are acidic in nature, and that heathland creation at the site may be possible using a 'minimal intervention' approach.

Our Coalfields pilot site lends itself towards scrub, hedgerow and grassland restoration, as it provides the opportunity to link surrounding pockets of formerly species-rich grassland and woodland, expanding this habitat resource within walking distance of a town.

I am excited that DWT are embracing our BNG journey, as I feel that it supports the Trusts' strategic objectives of developing Nature Recovery Networks, implementing nature-based solutions, initiating new rewilding sites as well as increasing the commercial income to the Trust. Nature is always busy when the days are long, and our dedicated Wilder Landscapes team are engrossed in evolving innovative ways to utilise BNG to deliver Bigger, Better, More, and Connected land for people and wildlife.

Photo © James Adler

Tributes paid from across the Trust to Tony Hams OBE former Chair of Trustees



We are deeply saddened to hear the news of the death of Tony Hams OBE, who was a former Chair of Trustees for us here at Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.

Tony was an exceptional leader and a true inspiration, who did a huge amount for the Trust and the environment regionally and nationally.

Awarded an OBE for his services to sustainable development in 2000, he was committed to addressing climate change. His passion led him to become a government

representative to the first Earth summit in Rio in 1992, as well as to the UN Commission for Sustainable Development in 1993 – 1998. He was also involved in the founding of Natural England, helped to set up the foundations of greening local government and much, much more.

Many staff across the Trust have fond memories of working with Tony. Dr Jo Smith, CEO said:

“Tony was such an amazing person to have as a chair when I started as a new CEO; he was fun to work with, but more importantly he was also extraordinarily generous in sharing his time, his skills, his experience and his vast network. I learnt so much from him. He made such a difference and was such an advocate of the environment; he was a real driver of positive change at Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and will be so sadly missed by so many people.”

Tony was not only a huge influence at Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, but also at the Peak District National Park where he was appointed as Authority Member by the Secretary of State and remained for ten years, between April 1998 and March 2008. In July 2002 he became Chair of the authority, a position he held for five years.

Jim Dixon was CEO at Peak District National Park Authority at the time and added:

“Tony was a passionate advocate for the environment throughout his career and before it became fashionable. Trained as a planner,

he worked for most of his professional life in local government. His work on greening local government contributed to the Nottingham Declaration and the Rio Earth summit. Tony was awarded the OBE for his work at Rio. In early retirement he quickly filled a busy life in Chair, Trustee and advisory roles for Green Alliance, the Countryside Agency and Natural England, the Forestry Commission, the Peak District National Park and the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. He had immensely high standards, was an able communicator and a shrewd judge of people. He was highly principled, acting and campaigning for the climate and opposing all hunting and killing of animals. As a Chair at the Peak District National Park Authority he had the confidence of officers and the diverse membership of the Board. Tony was a true environmental champion.”

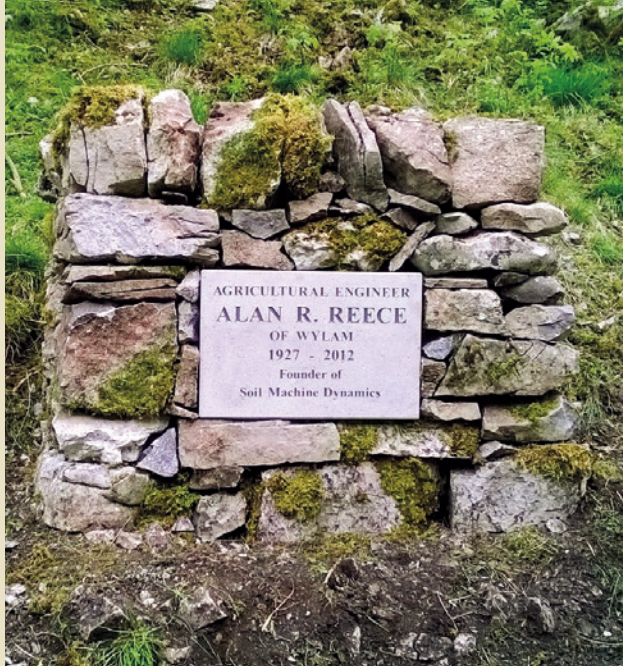
Staff and volunteers and all former colleagues at Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, offer their sincere condolences to Tony’s family and friends. He will be greatly missed.

Thank you

We wanted to say a big thank you to Margaret Fulton.

Ten years ago her partner Alan sadly passed away and she arranged for a commemorative stone to be laid at Deep Dale. Earlier this month Margaret donated a significant amount to the trust in order to spruce up the stone and surround and contribute towards keeping our members magazine going.

Thank you Margaret.



Ladybower Reservoir. Photo: iStock.

Working in PARTNERSHIP

We work with businesses across all our living landscapes in different ways, from supporting the delivery of community projects to managing land for wildlife, with a lot going on in between! We love working with all our Corporate Partners as we believe that together we can enable a greener recovery for Derbyshire.



If your business would like to get involved, please get in touch on: enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk



Working together for wildlife

50/50 Club winners

Congratulations to recent winners!

Dorothy Walker, Monica Rorison, Patricia Sharp, Kayzi Ambridge, Alison Robbins, Elaine Selkirk, Pat Farnsworth, Anita Lawrence, Janet Poole.

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 could 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

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Derbyshire
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“A legacy to your local Wildlife Trust is a very special gift that can do remarkable things to help the wildlife treasures on your doorstep.”

Sir David Attenborough

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