

A Peak District fit for the future



WILD PEAK

Wild Peak is an ambitious rewilding initiative based in the Peak District that is working in close partnership with landowners, local communities and project leaders to inspire and implement a landscape-scale, nature-led approach to Nature's Recovery, using nature-based solutions and rewilding principles, wherever possible.

Building on Lawton's conservation principles of bigger, better, more and joined up, the programme is working towards creating, restoring and connecting wild spaces across the region – working with and between existing programmes and conservation sites to create a nature recovery network.

As well as creating a network of wild spaces, the programme is developing a network of people and communities

to facilitate, support and celebrate nature's recovery across the region. People and communities are at the heart of the Wild Peak programme and we are already witnessing the power that local people and grassroots initiatives have in establishing rewilding gains in the Peak District. Whether you are a landowner, a business, a local authority, a community group or just an interested individual, you can get involved!



The Vision

The Wild Peak 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 here where they belong. Our wildflower meadows sing with insects, bees and butterflies, and our blanket bogs suck in rain and contribute as a carbon sink. Native woodlands are re-generating and expanding, teeming with pine martens, adders and red squirrels. Beavers are effectively managing our wetlands. It's a dynamic place, valued by and benefitting society, locally, nationally and internationally.

By the end of 2023 the Wild Peak Programme will be established.

The Wild Peak will have a team of staff and volunteers working across the region to grow the Wild Peak network, working with landowners to develop a collaborative landscape improvement programme.

By 2030 30% of the Wild Peak region will be managed in a wilder way.

Habitats will be suitable for more ambitious species reintroduction projects, woodlands will be joining together with scrublands, heathland, parkland and diverse hedgerows. More partners will be working with nature to deliver ecosystem services, all of which will bring huge benefits to our communities. Tourists visit the region not just for its scenery but for its wildlife spectacles. Local community groups will be protecting and restoring wildlife, forming networks that grow our resilience for a Wilder Peak.

By 2050 the Wild Peak region is merging with other similar initiatives across the country.

Wild Peak has become self-sustaining, 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 approach has become the norm, with natural floodplains preventing floods, an increase in trees cleaning our air and healthy bogs storing more carbon. We will have complex ecosystems forming, with a whole range of lost species coming back, like wild cat, pine marten, osprey, golden eagle and salmon.

Rewilding

Our Defining Principles

As defined by Rewilding Britain, rewilding is

"the large-scale restoration of ecosystems to the point where nature is allowed to take care of itself. Rewilding seeks to reinstate natural processes and, where appropriate, missing species – allowing them to shape the landscape and the habitats within."

Rewilding means different things to different people. To some, rewilding involves the large-scale management of landscapes that are grazed by large herbivores like bison and buffalo, and apex predators like wolf, bear and wildcat manage the numbers of these naturally. For others, rewilding may be making a difference for wildlife by planting their small concrete garden or windowsill with flowers that benefit pollinators. All of these approaches fall within the rewilding spectrum – taking a poorly managed piece of land, regardless of size and type, and making it better for wildlife.

At Wild Peak we understand rewilding to be a broad spectrum, from the small-scale actions taken in our back gardens or community spaces to the large-scale restoration of our uplands – making space for nature at all scales is how we will allow nature to recover.

This big picture approach to conservation allows nature to take the lead and restore the wider natural processes that support life, like grazing, flooding, and natural

regeneration. Rewilding does not seek to replace existing conservation work, but to complement it, through connecting and expanding our existing reserves and safe havens for wildlife.

Rewilding doesn't mean removing people from nature; in fact it's the opposite. Rewilding seeks to connect people with nature: it encourages us to appreciate nature and find the right balance between ours and nature's needs, allowing both to thrive!



Osprey © Peter Cairns 2020VISION



Northern Wheatear © Chris Gomersall 2020VISION

The following principles will guide the Wild Peak initiative:

- We let nature take the lead by promoting the use of rewilding and nature-based solutions.
- Wild Peak builds on current initiatives to develop an integrated Nature Recovery Network (NRN) in the programme area.
- The initiative is based on the Lawton principles of bigger, better, more and joined up.
- We do not exclude anyone who wants to make a difference, whether this is across farming estates, housing estates, schools, gardens, allotments, churchyards or quarries.
- Interventions are seen on a spectrum, from letting your garden lawn grow long to grazing former grouse shooting estates with ponies or wild ranging cattle.
- We work in partnership with landowners and project leaders to make significant conservation change across the whole Wild Peak area.
- We work at a landscape scale – thinking strategically by working with large landholdings or groups of smaller landholdings within the same area, mapping interventions to demonstrate and promote habitat connectivity.
- We provide long-term solutions that are integrated with the provision of natural capital and ecosystem services.
- We ensure our stakeholders, the people and communities are at the heart of Wild Peak.

Our Offer

We want to support as many people and organisations as possible to engage with the Wild Peak initiative and change our landscape for the better. We have brought together a bank of useful guidance and resources to support you on your rewilding journey. These can be found on our website and will be discussed by the network at regular workshops and knowledge-shares!

The range of support we can provide

Individuals (e.g. a garden)

Talk to our coordinator and connect with our network for access to a bank of help, inspiration and resources!

Medium and large landowners – 10-200 hectares

As well as using our bank of resources, you can email us to arrange a free initial visit from one of our experienced ecologists to discuss what is possible on your land. Depending on your funding opportunities we could also offer a management plan and delivery work, or support through our volunteer network.

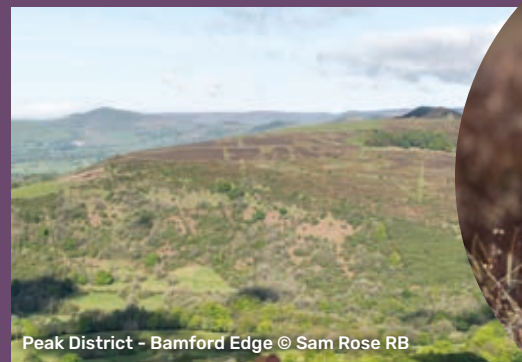
Large landowners – 200 hectares

If you are a large landowner, you may be able to get assistance in writing a management vision for your site from one of our ecologists and advice from our national partners at Rewilding

Britain. Depending on your investment or funding opportunities, we would be interested in discussing a long-term partnership with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and possibilities for keystone species reintroduction projects.

Community Groups, Parish Councils

We want to help local groups, communities and councils to create Nature Recovery Networks around their towns and villages. If your group is interested then we can provide you with support and advice on how to create these habitats, including information on key funding schemes and future management recommendations. We can also discuss options for consultancy services, such as management plans using opportunity maps to identify key areas for you to create open, woodland and wetland habitats.



Peak District - Bamford Edge © Sam Rose RB



Mountain Hare

Wild Peak Network

We will invite people to join the Wild Peak network, allowing them to connect with like-minded people to seek advice, share experiences and learn from others. To create a network that encourages collaboration between a diverse range of stakeholders, Wild Peak will maintain relationships with individual projects, while supporting joint efforts with advice and resources, including:

- Monthly insider newsletters, updating the network with case studies of local projects, invitations to upcoming events and opportunities including new funding advice and resources
- Access to a volunteer base for practical work
- Meetings, both online and in-person, to share local innovations, successful rewilding projects and support when challenges arise
- Expert-led workshops on rewilding practices, funding applications and other requested topics
- Engagement and outreach opportunities with local groups, businesses and schools



To join our network, visit

www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/join-wild-peak



Peak District - Thornhill © Sam Rose RB



Derbyshire
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