

# HABITAT CREATION

A practical guide for Parish  
Councils in Derbyshire





# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This guide has been developed by the **Derbyshire Wildlife Trust in partnership with parish councils across Derbyshire to provide clear information to parish councils within the Derwent river catchment around the range of tools available to help make your parish resilient to flooding and adaptive to a changing climate.**

This document contains everything from best practices for Natural Flood Management and woodland creation in the area, to neighbourhood planning, setting up volunteer groups and engagement with local schools.

This document was developed in August 2022 specifically for parish councils along the Derwent River, Derbyshire as part of the Derwent connections Green Recovery Challenge Fund (GRCF) and people's postcode Lottery.

The government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund was developed by Defra and it's Arms-Length Bodies. The fund is being developed by The National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with Natural England, The Environment Agency and Forestry Commission.

All information contained in this publication – including links to websites and further reading – is believed to be correct at the time of going to press.



# HANDBOOK GUIDE

This handbook has been designed to provide advice and key information for parish councils and their communities to help increase the conservation value of the local community.

The main focuses within this handbook include Woodland Creation, Natural Flood Management, Habitat Creation and Community Action for Wildlife. These actions have been divided into four core sections of the community; parish councils, Community Groups, Schools and Educational Centres and Individuals.



## WORKING TOGETHER IN PARTNERSHIP

Green Recovery Challenge Fund



Derbyshire Wildlife Trust





# CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	2	A network of councils	16
Handbook guide	3	Access to funding	16
Introduction: The situation: habitat creation and flooding in the region	5	Guidance for schools	17
Derbyshire Wildlife Programmes	5	Educational content	18
The larger picture: Derwent Connections	6	How to become a sustainable school	18
The Derwent River catchment	6	Supporting the creation of woodland	19
The Derwent Connections Project	6	Tree nurseries	19
What is Natural Flood Management?	7	Creation of wildflower meadows	20
What is the importance of woodland creation?	9	Using Natural Flood Management measures on school land	20
Guidance for councils	10	Putting your school on the map	21
Neighbourhood planning	10	Guidance for community groups	21
Advice for businesses	11	Setting up a community group	21
Wilder Churches	11	Creating a wilder community	22
Sustainable urban drainage	12	How to talk to your local politician	22
Managing local public parks	13	Why engage your elected representatives?	22
Key areas for woodland creation and Natural Flood Management	13	How to engage your elected representatives	22
Guidance for woodland creation	14	Hope For The Future Support	23
Tree nurseries	14	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Resources	24
Setting up a community orchard	14	Volunteering with the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust	24
Access to community support and volunteers	15	Guidance for individuals	25
Working with local landowners	15	Creating woodland on your land	25
Guidance for Natural Flood Management	15	Creating a wildflower meadow on your land	26
Putting your community on the map	16	Individual actions to help reduce flooding at home	27

## INTRODUCTION THE SITUATION: HABITAT CREATION AND FLOODING IN THE REGION

Derwent at Cromford Mill © Wesley Mallin

### DERBYSHIRE WILDLIFE PROGRAMMES

Within the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust our ambition is to give nature a home within Derbyshire; in order to achieve this the Trust is operating a number of programmes across the county, some of which include Wild Peak, Derwent Connections, Transforming the Trent and Urban Rewilding. So regardless of where you are located in Derbyshire, the Wildlife Trust has a project that will help see nature return to your neighbourhood.

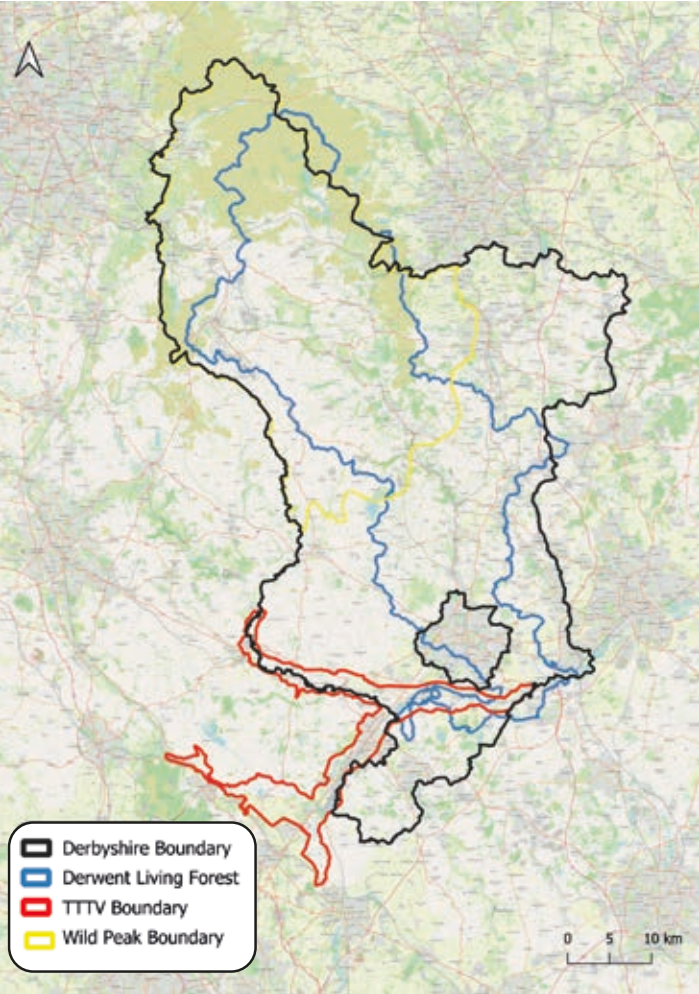
**Wild Peak** – Wild Peak is a program of nature recovery in the Peak District, supporting hundreds of landowners in nature-guided land management as we reclaim our natural landscapes, protect ecosystem services and create a nature-based economy. <https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/wild-peak>

**DCP** – the Derwent Connections project aims to improve woodland habitat connectivity and reduce flood risks throughout Derbyshire. <https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/about/projects/derwent-connections>

**Urban rewilding** – with Derby and Chesterfield as our pioneers, urban rewilding aims to ensure people in cities throughout Derbyshire have access to nature where they live. (wilder Derby and Chesterfeild manifestos) <https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/wilder-derby>

**Transforming the Trent Valley** – Transforming the Trent Valley aims to restore and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the Trent Valley including the wildlife-rich waterways and wetlands. <https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/exploreprojects/transforming-trent-valley-landscape-partnership>

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Landscape Projects





THE LARGER PICTURE: DERWENT CONNECTIONS

In November 2021 the Environment Act was agreed in the UK which coincided with the COP26 conference, together they highlighted the important changes that need to be made for the recovery of species and habitats and to tackle the increasingly worrying situation with our weather systems. By working with the natural environment and its ecosystems, increasing our woodland coverage can help us turn a corner and deliver multiple benefits such as carbon capture, Natural Flood Management and reversing biodiversity loss, along with its wealth of good for our wellbeing.

THE DERWENT RIVER CATCHMENT

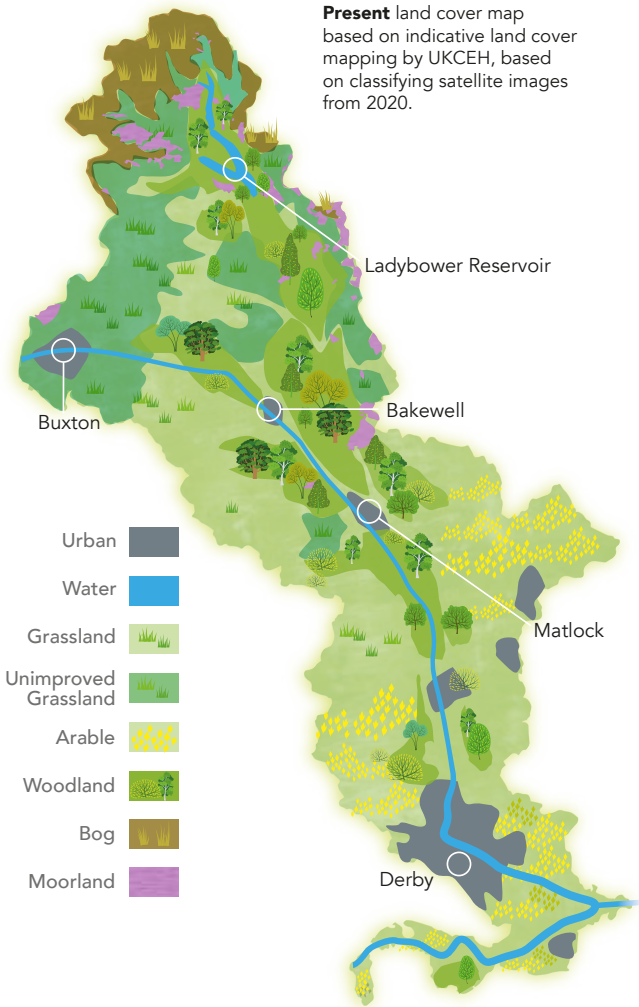
The Derwent Valley derives its name from the Brittonic ‘Deruentiu’ meaning “forest of oak trees”. Unfortunately, due to woodland clearing and fragmentation associated with increased agriculture and urbanisation, the Derwent catchment is no longer a vast forest of oak trees!

Not only have we lost significant areas of woodlands, but with them also a large number of species including plants, insects and mammals, and many of those that have not been lost have experienced significant declines. Despite this, the catchment is still a very important area for ancient seminatural woodland, and restoring this habitat is an important step toward ensuring nature’s recovery across Derbyshire, and linking similar habitats in neighbouring counties. Derbyshire sits at a key transition point of the UK, between upland and lowland Britain. Climate change will have a significant impact on species and habitats within Derbyshire – upland species will be affected by the increasing temperatures and drier summers, and there will be a greater pressure on species and habitats in lowland Derbyshire due to increased development and agricultural pressure as more coastal and low-lying land across the country is lost to sea level rise.

THE DERWENT CONNECTIONS PROJECT

The Derwent River catchment is situated in a key location between the new woodlands of the national forest in the south and the soon to be established northern forest in Northern England and southern Scottish borders. The Derwent Connections project will help establish a north-south connectivity which is critical in allowing the movement of species in response to the climate emergency.

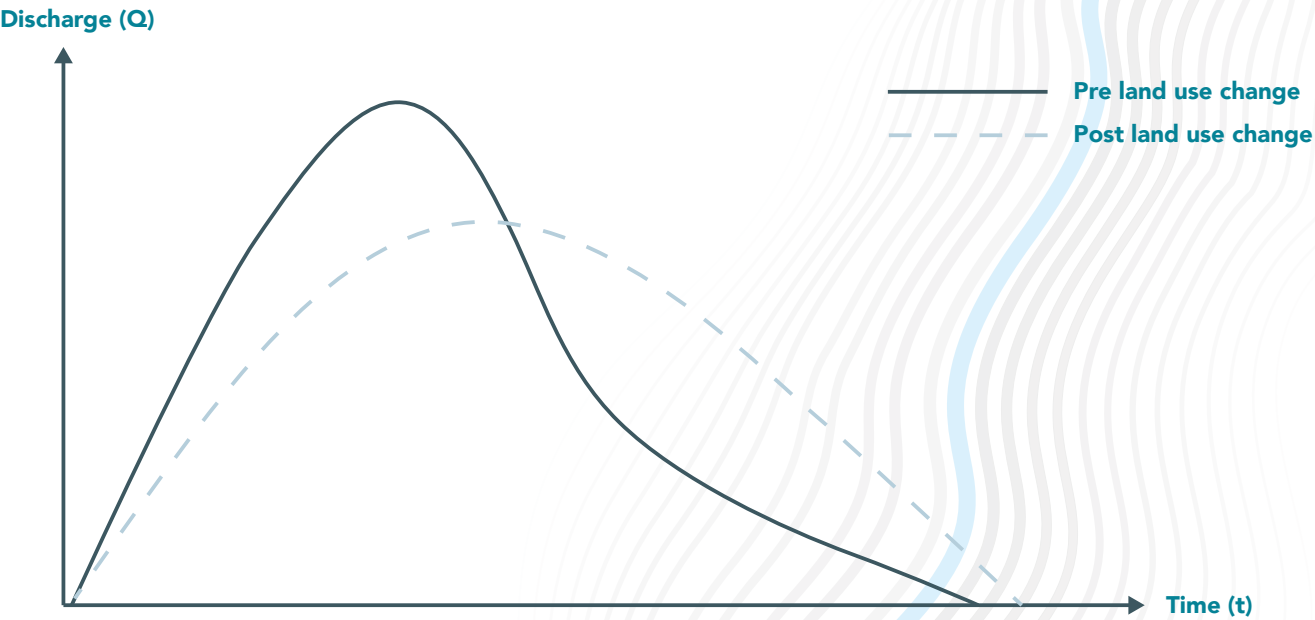
Derwent Connections will kick-start the creation of a new landscape centred around the River Derwent catchment, helping to re-establish woodland habitat to develop the Derwent Forest. This will be a landscape dynamic enough to support a rich and diverse range of habitats from which species can spread; a landscape complex enough to deliver a range of crucial ecosystem services, from carbon sequestration to Natural Flood Management; and a landscape durable enough to withstand the untold impacts of climate change. Working with local land-owners and community groups, the project will make more space for nature, through improving woodland ecosystem connectivity; and make more space for water by implementing Natural Flood Management measures and slowing the flow across surfaces and down slopes. The project will also work to make more space and opportunities for the public to access, enjoy and engage with these spaces!



WHAT IS NATURAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT?

Natural Flood Management aims to **reduce the downstream flood peak**, the maximum water height of a flood, or to **delay** the arrival of the flood peak downstream, increasing the time available to prepare for floods.

This is achieved by restricting the progress of water through a catchment, using a range of physical interventions. These interventions work with the natural features of the catchment to slow down or store flood waters.



They rely on one, or a combination, of the following underlying mechanisms:

- **Increasing soil infiltration:** free-draining soil will make saturation less likely, potentially reducing surface runoff
- **Evaporation** from vegetation and soil can also make space for water
- **Slowing water** by increasing resistance to its flow – for example, by planting floodplain or riverside woods, or blocking grips on moorland
- **Storing water** by using, and maintaining the capacity of, ponds, ditches, embanked reservoirs, channels or land
- **Reducing water flow connectivity** by interrupting surface flows of water – for example, by planting buffer strips of grass or trees.

Natural Flood Management structures have been designed so that they **do not** significantly impact on farming, are typically **small in size**, and can be considered an extension to the farm’s land drainage system.

Each structure or technique performs a small amount of runoff storage or attenuation, gradually releasing flood water over 12 to 24 hours. It is the collective network, rather than individual features, that aims to provide flood mitigation in the immediate vicinity and further downstream.

Natural Flood Management is not the complete solution to flooding, but is one of many tools needed to manage flood events. These tools are more effective at reducing the frequency of flooding for high probability fluvial events (for example, less than a 1 in 20-year return period) compared to extreme events (for example, a 1 in 200-year return period). Used in conjunction with other flood management solutions, like hard engineering, Natural Flood Management will have a beneficial impact on slowing the flow of flood water downstream. Research at a number of small-scale catchments has shown this to be the case.



# NFM IN THE DERWENT CATCHMENT

Two large-scale flooding events occurred in the catchment in November 2019 and February 2020, causing damage to buildings and land, and resulting in a loss of income for landowners and local businesses.

NFM can play its part by putting in place practical measures which mimic natural processes to slow down water flow and retain water in the landscape. This is important within the Derwent catchment as it has the potential to provide a range of benefits to land managers/owners, the landscape and the wider community.

## BENEFITS FOR LAND OWNERS:

- ✓ Reduced soil loss across the holding
- ✓ Increased stability of the soil, and of riverside land
- ✓ Increased soil fertility, and reduced runoff, reducing costs
- ✓ Improved soil quality, which has additional benefits, including increased water retention, reducing the risks of summer drought
- ✓ Improved water quality for stock and wildlife, which can support meeting the requirements for the EU Water Framework Directive.

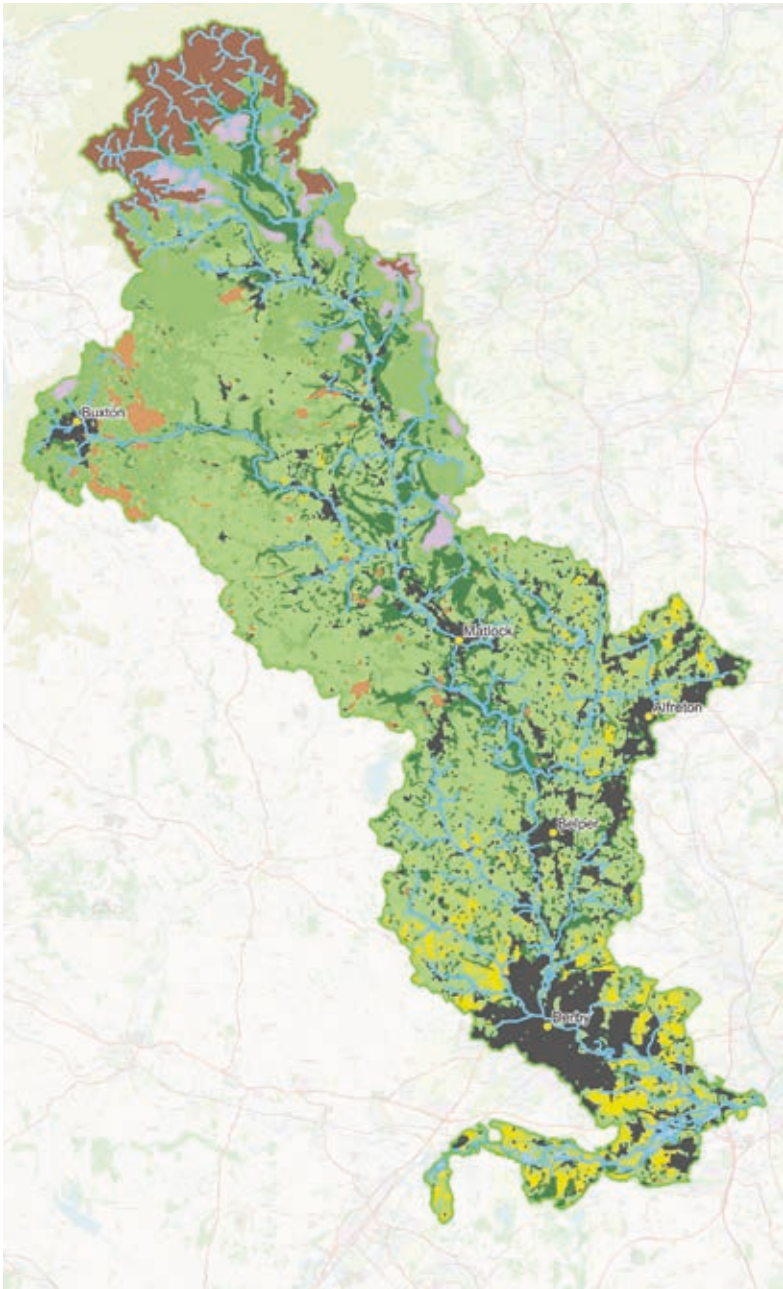


## BENEFITS FOR LANDSCAPE AND SOCIETY:

- ✓ Improved water quality
- ✓ Reduced sediment and pollution downstream
- ✓ Economic benefits from higher landscape quality, such as tourism, business investment and diversification
- ✓ Better opportunities for outdoor recreation, and the associated health and wellbeing benefits
- ✓ Creation of environments more resilient to climate change.



Flooding in Matlock within the Derwent catchment © DCC



## WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF WOODLAND CREATION?

Abundant wildlife and habitats are found in healthy woodland where natural processes can occur. They are tremendous places for species recovery and provide crucial food, shelter and routes for movement of species. In addition to this, the woodlands play a huge part in the sequestering of carbon and the functioning of the water cycle. This is critical as the country is now more prone to periods of high rainfall and flood events, followed by drought and ever-growing concerns about the effects of CO2.

Trees help to prevent floods in many ways – by taking in volumes of water through their roots and feeding it up through their trunk, branches and leaves, which then carry out transpiration back into the atmosphere. They also knit together the soil with

their numerous roots and enable the soil to retain much more water than most types of open land. Their very presence acts as a barrier to excessive water flow and, when beside watercourses, they can trap floating debris and slow down the flow, whilst also minimising the amount of agricultural and horticultural chemicals, such as pesticides and herbicides, that reach the watercourses.

In periods of drought the trees will have already created a soil more capable of holding water at their roots, fallen leaves and associated fungi etc. create strong resilient soils. These soils are more capable of retaining water and thus reduce the drying out effects during periods of low rainfall.





# GUIDANCE FOR COUNCILS

If you are a council within Derbyshire there is a program within the DWT that can bring improve habitats and conservation in your community. Wild spaces are fundamental to wellbeing, help alleviate the risks of flooding and create a vital corridor for the migration of wildlife throughout the county.

**Wild Peak** – The Wild Peak is a project that aims to inspire and implement long-term, landscape-scale conservation gains in the Wild Peak region.

**DCP** – the Derwent Connections project aims to improve woodland habitat connectivity and reduce flood risks throughout Derbyshire.

**Urban rewilding** – with Derby and Chesterfield as our pioneers, urban rewilding aims to ensure people in cities throughout Derbyshire have access to nature where they live.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

As part of a county-wide approach to habitat conservation and creation, the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is working with councils to incorporate conservation and habitat creation into their neighbourhood planning. This gives communities the power to form and shape development in their area. Through the support of the Nature Recovery Advisors, councils have access of up to £18,000 in grant funding to improve their district for wildlife. Nature Recovery Advisors within the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust are available for consultations and site visits to discuss habitat features in your local area at present and how best to conserve and improve the region within your district planning. Using the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's Nature Recovery Network (NRN) for opportunity mapping, tailored step-by-step plans can be developed for councils, helping to put the right habitat in the right place. Using the NRN map the DWT advisors can improve neighbourhood planning by avoiding potentially high priority areas for connectivity and prioritising new areas of greenspace.

**Transforming the Trent Valley** – Transforming the Trent Valley aims to restore and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the Trent Valley including the wildlife-rich waterways and wetlands.

This section contains a selection of guidance, support and toolkits for improving the region for wildlife and acting to reduce flood risks across the county. Within this guidance there is advice on neighbourhood planning, Natural Flood Management, woodland creation projects as well as opportunities to access a tailored step by step nature recovery action plan designed to integrate nature into nature into your local community. There will also be guidance on improving and developing community spaces including allotments and tree nurseries, fundamental community spaces improving health and wellbeing whilst integrating nature into the local landscape.

A further suggestion for neighbourhood planning includes applying for a cultivation licence, this allows parish councils to manage their own roadside verges. This can be applied for through the Derbyshire County Council allowing for planting and cultivating on council-owned land. Using this licence, the community are able to create green corridors along maintained roadside verges that will increase natural flood defences and create space for wildlife in the community.

If you would support establishing an environmentally lead neighbourhood plan, contact the Derbyshire wildlife trust on [enquires@derbyshirewt.co.uk](mailto:enquires@derbyshirewt.co.uk) to arrange a consultation with a Nature Recovery Advisor.

Examples of local neighbourhood plans can be found: [www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-07/Neighbourhood%20plans\\_Campaigning.pdf](http://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-07/Neighbourhood%20plans_Campaigning.pdf)

## ADVICE FOR BUSINESSES

Local businesses play a vital role in the community and can all do their part for nature recovery, woodland creation and the alleviation of flooding. The scale of this work can vary depending the amount of land and time local business have to offer. Derbyshire Wildlife Trusts' Advisor team can provide advice and support on key nature recovery opportunities available to your business including appropriate management of greenspace, areas for woodland creation, increasing staff access to nature or creating a biodiversity action plan. For advice on opportunities and grant funding for woodland creation or Natural Flood Management on your land, our woodland creation and Natural Flood Management handbooks are the perfect starting point. To arrange a site visit and an opportunity to discuss the opportunities available on your land contact one of our Nature Recovery Advisors on: [enquires@derbyshirewt.co.uk](mailto:enquires@derbyshirewt.co.uk)

Alternatively for business owners with less access to land there are plenty of options for around your business that require less space, many of these options can be found in the 15 ways to reduce flooding handbooks or on the team wilder pages of the Derbyshire wildlife trust website. Some examples of this work include: window planters, waterbutts, insect hotels, setting up bird boxes or even wildflower meadows. Advice for all of these actions can be found on the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust website.

### Resources:

For more information and guidance also see our 'creating a wilder place to work' toolkit from Cheshire Wildlife Trust to help get you started.

[www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-10/Creating%20a%20wilder%20place%20to%20work.pdf](http://www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-10/Creating%20a%20wilder%20place%20to%20work.pdf)

## LINKING YOUR ACTIONS AND CONNECTING WITH THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Whether you are establishing Natural Flood Management measures, creating a woodland or community orchard or setting up bird boxes and wildflower planters, all of these actions can be incorporated into the wider community.

Working with the community is beneficial for numerous reasons, from the time and maintenance benefits that can be shared across support and volunteers, to helping to integrate your business into the community by creating a shared sense of ownership.

An example of this is Eco Heroes in Hartington. This movement works with the community throughout Hartington, including the local school, village church, youth hostel, parish council, conservation organisations including the Peak Park and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and volunteers within the village. Over a space of 2 years Hartington's Eco Heroes have championed creating accessible wild spaces across the community with a focus on native woodlands and wildflowers.

### "Where wildflowers lead, wildlife follows"

The community are now 40 strong with 9 areas across the village all helping to create wildlife corridors throughout the village. These have included: leaving the verges to grow wild, village wildflower planters, creating new wildlife ponds and even allowing a underused car park to be rewilded with native trees and wildflowers.

This community wide movement started from humble beginnings and a group of just 5 enthusiastic members of the community. With understanding and consideration of volunteer time commitments, taking on manageable project loads and ensuring that the community are engaged throughout this project has united groups from across the community to help bring nature back to the local area.

## WILDER CHURCHES

Another wildlife trust initiative is Wilder Churches. Churchyards are often the oldest enclosed piece of land in the parish supporting a large diversity of flowers and wildlife. Other Wildlife Trusts across the country including Somerset Wildlife Trust have established a selection of resources, webinars and management plans to provide everything needed to preserve the wildlife in your local churchyards.

<https://www.somersetwildlife.org/events/wilder-churches>

If your community is keen to review the opportunity for habitat conservation in local churchyards the Wildlife Trust's team of advisors can arrange a visit to provide sound ecological advice and use evidence led conservation to ensure the right habitats are allowed to thrive in the right locations. In addition to habitat improvement and conservation, plans can be considered with advisors to help increase options for the deceased including natural burials, a greener alternative to traditional style funerals.

This and many other aspects of neighbourhood planning can be developed through the Step-by-step guidance from the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust advisors. For advice on managing local green spaces including local churchyards contact the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's team of advisors on: [enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk)







## SUSTAINABLE URBAN DRAINAGE

A sustainable urban drainage system (SuDS) is designed to mimic natural drainage systems in order to manage rainwater run-off. By doing so SuDS's reduce the impacts of heavy rainfall, help remove pollutants from urban run-off and develop a system where water is managed whilst also benefiting local wildlife and creating an attractive greenspace within the local community.

In a conventional urban setting surface water from rainfall would be directed into pipes and drainage systems such as gullies in the road. With impermeable surfaces such as tarmac, surface water is channelled into our drains and sewage systems; a system often not capable of holding the vast quantities of water it experiences during periods of heavy rainfall. With urban drainage overwhelmed, pollutants such as oils, heavy metals and microplastics can be sent straight into the river systems. The goal with sustainable urban drainage measures is to slow the flow of surface water at source, diverting water away from urban drainage systems and holding water in soils, plants and the surrounding landscape.

SuDS's measures throughout cities can come in a variety of forms including ponds, green roofs, wetlands, permeable pavements and bioswales (a form of vegetated gully used to concentrate surface water and remove debris). All of which create an attractive greenspace throughout our towns and cities which have been attributed to improving local communities health and wellbeing.

Guidance, funding and case studies for sustainable urban drainage can be found on the SUSdrain and UK government websites.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/399995/RFI7086\\_sud\\_consult\\_doc\\_final.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/399995/RFI7086_sud_consult_doc_final.pdf)

[https://www.susdrain.org/files/resources/SuDS\\_manual\\_output/suds\\_manual\\_faqs.pdf](https://www.susdrain.org/files/resources/SuDS_manual_output/suds_manual_faqs.pdf)

## MANAGING LOCAL PUBLIC PARKS

Wood pasture in public parks is a habitat that was historically abundant across Derbyshire however, through rising agricultural and developmental pressure, the habitat has since been lost. The planting of scattered trees across an open habitat is an excellent way to increase tree cover, reduce flood risk and restore nature conservation value, whilst keeping the area open for public access or alternative land use.

The most simple way to achieve this is through planting a range of native tree species, appropriate for the area, across an existing greenspace, creating clusters of mini woodlands as well as standing trees. Existing trees need to be appropriately managed and to create a truly valuable Wood Pasture / local parkland site, the grassland should be managed to become species rich, varied and tussocky. If you are interested in creating and managing this habitat, contact the DWT Advisor team for support and information by emailing [enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk)



## KEY AREAS FOR WOODLAND CREATION AND NATURAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT

Through the Derwent Connections project the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust have established an 'opportunity map' for the extent of the river Derwent. In practice this map provides an overview of existing habitats across the county, opportunities for new habitat creation within the wider catchment, and a hydrological model of Natural Flood Management interventions along the Derwent river.

Using this map, the wildlife trust's team of nature recovery advisors are able to provide tailored advice for individuals, landowners and councils on habitat conservation and creation as well as understanding the impacts of Natural Flood Management measures within the catchment. By understanding the impact of flood management measures, the Wildlife Trust can further understand the impacts of heavy rainfall in the catchment and support communities in mitigating flooding for the future.

As a key legacy in the Derwent Connections project, the Derbyshire wildlife trust aim to continue to develop and populate the nature recovery network (NRN) map with continued relations

with landowners, communities and working group partners. As the NRN map continues to be populated we can grow our understanding of Derbyshire's mosaic of habitats and continue to strive towards connectivity between habitats across the country.

Additionally, a continually updated knowledge of flooding interventions across the county will improve flood resilience and our ability to target catchment wide interventions that will provide protection for communities across Derbyshire.

If you are creating new habitats or flood alleviation measures in your area we would be interested to hear about your projects and incorporate them into the NRN map. Alternatively if you are considering woodland creation or implementing flood management measures contact the Derwent Connections team on [enquires@derbyshirewt.co.uk](mailto:enquires@derbyshirewt.co.uk). The Trust can support with habitat creation advice to ensure that your project is prioritising suitable habitats in the correct location and the most effective measures to reduce flooding both in your local area and for neighbouring communities.



## GUIDANCE FOR WOODLAND CREATION

Through the Derwent Connections project, we are encouraging landowners, whether that be individuals or local councils, to create new deciduous woodlands. All woodlands, large or small, are of value and contribute to the network in the catchment. Support and funding is available for the creation of new woodlands, by either natural colonization or by planting.

The selected method depends on the characteristics of the site and objectives for it. Advice is available to help choose the most suitable method. The Nature Recovery Advisors team at Derbyshire Wildlife Trust can provide support with grant applications. Woodlands can often be created naturally by excluding livestock and deer. This can be done by creating boundaries such as hedge-laying and fencing and allowing existing shrubs near the site to colonise. Wind or birds often spread the natural seeds sources. This may take several years to create a woodland, but woodlands created in this way are normally more natural looking and more resilient to climate change.

If the council owns land or have members of the community with a surplus of land that may be available for creating woodlands you can find guidance, funding advice and further information in our woodland creation handbook add link to handbook on website.

Alternatively, if you would like personal advice around woodland creation, please do contact us on: [derwentconnections@derbyshirewt.co.uk](mailto:derwentconnections@derbyshirewt.co.uk). We have a team of Woodland Nature Recovery Advisors who can support on applying for the most suitable grant plan.

## TREE NURSERIES

One of The Derwent Connections legacy ambitions is to connect the National Forest to the Northern Forest along the Derwent river corridor. To procure the saplings that will create these woodland habitats, we are establishing a network of tree nurseries across the length of the Derwent river catchment, in schools and community grounds in both indoor and outdoor beds.

### THERE ARE A NUMBER OF BENEFITS THAT COME FROM CREATING A TREE NURSERY:

- Provide a source of trees for local woodland creation project
- Limited land is required for a large amount of saplings – in a 2m2 bed, over 100 whips can be grown.
- Reduces the need to source trees from other countries, reducing risk of importing pests and diseases
- Sourcing trees from places with a similar climate to predicted future conditions can future-proof our forests

If you are aware of any groups, community spaces or available land within the area that could house a tree nursery get in contact with the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust at: [derwentconnections@derbyshirewt.co.uk](mailto:derwentconnections@derbyshirewt.co.uk) to set up your own nursery. By contacting the Derwent Connections team appropriate advice and training can be provided on identifying native trees and seeds that will help create a diverse woodland throughout Derbyshire, and ensure that suitable habitats are created in the correct locations.

Information on creating tree nurseries from harvesting seedlings to planting trees can be found over on our website.

### RELEVANT LINKS

- <https://treegrowing.tcv.org.uk/grow>
- <https://www.forestryengland.uk/growing-future-forests-from-seed>

## SETTING UP A COMMUNITY ORCHARD

With over 35,000 traditional orchards recorded in England alone, its safe to say orchards are commonplace in communities throughout the country and its easy to understand why. Traditional orchards are an excellent space within the community for people to come together to plant and harvest locally grown fruits. Not only are orchards a fantastic community space, in 2007 traditional orchards were designated a priority habitat in the UK due to its variety of wildlife that can be supported by these spaces.

### BENEFITS:

- Community focal point, providing a space for community activities and cultivation of local fruits
- Habitat provided its vital for wildlife including both bumblebees and honeybees
- Almost any space in the community could be suitable for an orchard, school grounds, hospitals, care homes or council land etc.
- Provide an opportunity for skill learning and sharing

However, while community orchards are a fantastic focal point to include in a community space, they require more planning than just simply planting fruit trees in your available green spaces. For advice on suitable locations, tree species and funding routes for creating a community orchard contact the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust at [enquires@derbyshirewt.co.uk](mailto:enquires@derbyshirewt.co.uk). The team of nature recovery advisors can provide ecological advice on the most suitable locations for orchards to be established and support the creation of a management plan to ensure that your orchard is maintained effectively for community and wildlife purposes.

For more information on the benefits of a community orchard and examples of successful community orchard projects:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/5908/19732401.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/5908/19732401.pdf)

Alternatively, connect with other orchard projects in your area using the orchard network:

<https://ptes.org/campaigns/traditional-orchard-project/orchard-network/community-orchards/>

## ACCESS TO COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND VOLUNTEERS

As part of projects run by the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, teams are available to support councils and community groups with upcoming conservation work or events. As such the Derwent Connections team have supported at a variety of events over the course of the project. If your community group, school or local council are hosting an event and would like the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to deliver content, run a stall or support ongoing work we have a team available to provide assistance.

Additionally within the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust we have a team of over 15 volunteers who support on a variety of project and reserve work. Not only does the Trust have its own team of volunteers, across all projects the Trust is working with a range of groups within the community, such as schools, community groups and church groups. Many of these groups are often interested in supporting project work. Within both our team of volunteers and community group support from across the county, there is always support on offer in your area.

If you are hosting an event or conducting conservation works in your community and are looking for extra support from trust staff, volunteers or would like to be connected to active community groups in the area, contact the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust on [enquires@derbyshirewt.co.uk](mailto:enquires@derbyshirewt.co.uk)

## WORKING WITH LOCAL LANDOWNERS

Within the Derwent Connections Project the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust have established an ‘opportunity map’ for the extent of the river Derwent. In practice this map provides an overview of existing habitats across the county, opportunities for new habitat creation within the wider catchment, and a hydrological model of Natural Flood Management interventions along the Derwent river.

Land ownership data has been combined with our opportunity map to highlight individuals with the potential to make a large scale difference in Natural Flood Management and habitat connectivity within the Derwent River catchment.

Using this information, the Wildlife Trust’s team of nature recovery advisors are able to provide tailored advice for individuals, landowners and councils on habitat conservation and creation as well as understanding the impacts of Natural Flood Management measures within the catchment. If parish councils are looking to work with local landowners and would like the support from a Derbyshire Wildlife Trust nature recovery advisor in order to build a strong working relationship contact the Derwent Connections project team on: [derwentconnections@derbyshirewt.co.uk](mailto:derwentconnections@derbyshirewt.co.uk)



## GUIDANCE FOR NATURAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT

Along with woodland creation a key focus of the Derwent Connections project is Natural Flood Management. Flood management works to slow the flow of water within the river catchment to help reduce the maximum flood peak of a river as well as delaying the time of a floods arrival. Natural methods to achieve this utilise natural features within the landscape that help slow and store water. This includes improving wetlands, and natural barriers to water such as leaky wooden dams that naturally occur in rivers surrounded by woodland.

The Derbyshire Wildlife Trust are encouraging landowners whether that be individuals or local councils to use more natural measures to reduce flooding on their land. The cumulative sum of Natural Flood Management methods being used across the Derwent catchment helps slow the flow of water into the river Derwent with these actions all helping to reduce flooding. Support, guidance and funding is available for Natural Flood Management projects.

The selected method of Natural Flood Management depends on the characteristics of the site and objectives for it. Advice is available to help choose the most suitable method. The Derbyshire Wildlife Trust’s team of Nature Recovery Advisors can provide support with grant applications and project plans.

If the council owns land or have members of the community with surplus land or is experiencing flooding you can find guidance, funding advice and all further information in our Natural Flood Management handbook [https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-10/landowners%20handbook\\_NFM.pdf](https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-10/landowners%20handbook_NFM.pdf).

Alternatively if you would like personal advice around Natural Flood Management measures, please do contact us on: [derwentconnections@derbyshirewt.co.uk](mailto:derwentconnections@derbyshirewt.co.uk).



PUTTING YOUR COMMUNITY ON THE MAP

At the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, we aim to provide a database of local community actions, whether that be individuals, councils, schools or community groups. We believe that by creating a centralised map of actions, not only will it inspire groups within Derbyshire to take action towards creating a landscape rich with biodiversity, this map will act as a centrepiece for groups to share their actions and learn from each other. A network of interconnected habitats and slowing the flow of water throughout the Derwent catchment cannot be achieved in isolation but requires unison and collaboration across neighbouring communities.

With this in mind, you can highlight your work and contact details through the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's Team Wilder webpage. <https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/map-your-action>

Simply fill in your details and a brief description of your councils action online and join the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's community of individuals taking action for nature.

A NETWORK OF COUNCILS

As well as plotting your council on the map we invite you to join our community of councils. On the Derwent Connections webpage we are inviting councils to share their contact details as well as resources they have used or created while transitioning to a greener community. By sharing these resources, we can create a knowledge sharing platform allowing local communities to teach and learn from each other.



If you would like to join our network of councils send your details, a brief description of the work you have conducted to our Derwent Connections inbox as well as any resources you would like to be made publicly available. [Derwentconnections@derbyshirewt.co.uk](mailto:Derwentconnections@derbyshirewt.co.uk)

ACCESS TO FUNDING

With numerous large scale habitat creation projects happening across the county, both within the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and across our partner organisation there is plenty of support for green projects.

For advice on funding for woodland creation or Natural Flood Management projects, the Wildlife Trusts Woodlands and Natural Flood Management handbooks provide the information you need to get started.

Alternatively, for more personalised advice or advice on funding for all other projects within your community contact our team of nature recovery advisors on [enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk) who will be able to guide you on the best source of funding for your project and support you when completing grant applications.



GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS

School groups and educational centres are a great starting point for conservation within the community, whether that be school groups engaging and volunteering with project work or establishing a greener school environment. However, your school chooses to get involved, the educational, developmental and wellbeing benefits are a vital addition to the school curriculum.

Not only are wild spaces fundamental to wellbeing, but they also help alleviate the risks of flooding and create vital corridors. Educational centres should not be separate to these wild spaces.

There are a number of benefits that can be had for your school and students from participating:

- Improved health and wellbeing from participating in outdoor activities
- Improved care for nature and the natural environment
- Physical examples and activities that tie into the curriculum
- Interesting and engaging activities and projects for learners to be involved in
- Resources for schools to access

Across Derbyshire schools are taking action to help wildlife within their community and within the school grounds. Here are just some of the ways schools have been getting involved:

- Tree planting
- Maintaining potted plants
- Setting up tree nurseries
- Taking actions to slow the flow of water in their school grounds

All these actions support the creation of a wilder Derbyshire and are fundamental to the education of young people.

This section contains guidance, support and toolkits for bringing nature back into school grounds and connecting school groups to conservation projects in the region. Within this guidance there are educational resources, a selection of toolkits and guidance on habitat creation with your facilities and means of connecting with other local schools in the region who share the same conservation ambitions.





## HOW TO BECOME A SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL

There are a number of ways the educational centres can become more sustainable within the community. Firstly, sustainability can start on the school grounds. Utilising the 15 ways to reduce flooding toolkit, 12 months wild calendars and our selection of nature activities the school can have a year of conservation focused activities that can be tailored to any size outdoor space.

To download the 15 ways to reduce flooding and 12 months wild calendars find them located on the team wilder website;

<https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/toolkits-and-resources-team-wilder>

For all other nature-based activities, find nature spotter and how-to guides on the wildlife watch pages <https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/activities>

However the school's connection with wildlife does not have to end once you leave the school site. School groups across the county are connecting up with their local community groups and conservation organisations with examples happening in the Hope Valley, Buxton and Hartington to name a few. By connecting schools with local community groups not only is the school helping to create a wider impact that stretches beyond the school site but also the learning gained from volunteering and community work is invaluable at any age.

If your educational centre would like to be connected with conservation projects and local community work the Derbyshire wildlife trusts Wilder Derbyshire Map has a log of community groups and like-minded schools in your area with relevant contact details to start meaningful conversations. <https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/map-your-action>

Alternatively, to be connected with local organisations in your area directly, contact the Derwent Connections Engagement team on [derwentconnections@derbyshirewt.co.uk](mailto:derwentconnections@derbyshirewt.co.uk). By reaching out to the Derwent Connections team directly, the school can also be incorporated into any project volunteering opportunities that arise throughout the project.

The Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is now accredited to train new Forest School leaders. This is another alternative that can upskill teachers, enabling them to deliver learning outdoors.



## EDUCATIONAL CONTENT

The Derbyshire Wildlife Trust hosts a range of educational content suitable for school across Derbyshire. With both tailored lessons on the benefits of woodland creation, rivers and Natural Flood Management as well as nature based educational content that can be used inside and outside of the classroom setting.

The Wildlife Trust offers a variety of wild outings for schools including educational workshops and resources. We can even come to you and work in your school grounds. Plus, it's all linked to the curriculum! The benefits of connecting children with nature are well known and can be found at the natural learning initiative [https://naturalstart.org/sites/default/files/benefits\\_of\\_connecting\\_children\\_with\\_nature\\_infosheet.pdf](https://naturalstart.org/sites/default/files/benefits_of_connecting_children_with_nature_infosheet.pdf)

<https://naturalearning.org/>

Working together with schools means we can give children a chance to see the wildlife on their doorstep, build confidence and self-esteem as they discover their 'Wild Life'.

To start learning with the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust check out our schools website;

<https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/abouteducation-activities/school-visits>

Alternately if you would like to check out resources for inspiration, ideas and activities you can run at school find this all here at Wildlife Watch, the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Database for educational content <https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/activities>



## SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF WOODLAND

Through the Derwent Connections project, we are encouraging landowners whether that be individuals, local councils or educational facilities to create new deciduous woodlands. All woodlands, large or small, are of value and contribute to the network in the catchment. Support and funding is available for the creation of new woodlands, by either natural colonisation or by planting.

### IF YOU WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT:

- Funding
- Woodland creation methods
- Advice
- Grant applications

please do contact us on: [derwentconnections@derbyshirewt.co.uk](mailto:derwentconnections@derbyshirewt.co.uk). We have a team of advisors who can support on the next steps for you and your school.



## TREE NURSERIES

Many schools do possess the available space for a tree nursery. To procure the saplings that will create these woodland habitats throughout the Derwent Connections project area, we are establishing a network of tree nurseries across the length of the Derwent River catchment, in schools and community grounds in both indoor and outdoor beds.

### THERE ARE A NUMBER OF BENEFITS THAT COME FROM CREATING A TREE NURSERY:

- Provide a source of trees for local woodland creation project
- Limited land is required for a large number of saplings – in a 2m2 bed, over 100 whips can be grown.
- Reduces the need to source trees from other countries, reducing risk for importing pests and diseases
- Sourcing trees from places with a similar climate to conditions we expect in the future can futureproof our forests

If your school is interested in housing a tree nursery, get in contact with the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust at: [Derwentconnections@derbyshirewt.co.uk](mailto:Derwentconnections@derbyshirewt.co.uk).

By contacting the Derwent Connections team appropriate advice and training can be provided on identifying native trees and seeds that will help create a diverse woodland throughout Derbyshire, and ensure that suitable habitats are created in the correct locations.

Information on how to create a tree nurseries can be found over on our website.

### RELEVANT LINKS

<https://treegrowing.tcv.org.uk/grow>

<https://www.forestryengland.uk/growing-future-forests-from-seed>



## CREATION OF WILDFLOWER MEADOWS

An alternative method for increasing biodiversity throughout the local area includes establishing wildflower meadows. In recent years, over 95% of British wildflower meadows have disappeared. A combination of farming and the popularity of a tidy garden has resulted in a severe drop in wildflower meadows and gardens. However, wildflower meadows provide important habitats for wildlife. Insects and pollinators thrive, birds can feed and small animals can shelter. Therefore, it is encouraged to utilise space throughout the community whether it be roadside verges, parkland or along paved areas throughout the community. Wildflowers can help provide vital resources such as supporting local wildlife and acting as a form of sustainable urban drainage and Natural Flood Management.

If establishing a wildflower meadow is something you would like to do within your school there are some considerations you need to take before you get started. For more information on establishing a wildflower meadow on school grounds we have a wildflower toolkit covering essential information around, wildflower species, soil type and how to maintain the wildflower patch.

<https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-06/Wildflowers%20toolkit%20FINAL.pdf>

However before you set up a wildflower meadow, there are some important considerations to take:

### UNDERSTANDING YOUR SOIL TYPE:

Soil consists of three main components, clay, sand and silt – when in equal ratio this is called loam. If your soil is hard when dry and sticky when wet this is likely to have a high clay content. If your soil is light, water drains through easily and easy to dig this is likely to have a high sand content. It is also important to understand your soil pH before choosing which seeds to sow. Wildflower seed mixes are designed for various soil types and situations. If you would like any advice on the type of soil you have on your land and would like advice on seed mix and management plans our team of nature recovery advisors can provide the assistance you need to get started. To find out more about creating your own wildflower patch contact us at [enquires@derbyshirewt.co.uk](mailto:enquires@derbyshirewt.co.uk)

Selecting the right species to plant is very important. The main thing to ensure is that these are native species.

### YOU CAN MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS ABOUT WHAT SPECIES TO PLANT USING A NUMBER OF FACTORS:

- Looking at what similar native species are around and on the site you wish to plant and selecting similar species mixes
- Taking into account your soil type
- Using Derbyshire County Councils Portal to see what the local planting and management advice is – [https://maps.derbyshire.gov.uk/connect/analyst/mobile/#/main?mapcfg=Ordnance\\_Survey\\_Maps](https://maps.derbyshire.gov.uk/connect/analyst/mobile/#/main?mapcfg=Ordnance_Survey_Maps)
- Another tool to use is the Forestry Commission Ecological Site Classification tool – <https://www.forestryresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/fthr/ecological-site-classification/#::~:~:text=Ecological%20Site%20Classification%20%28ESC%29%20is%20a%20web-based%20decision,the%20site%20to%20suit.%20How%20to%20access%20ESC4>



Combining these methods will give you a good idea of what native trees to plant.

## USING NATURAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT MEASURES ON SCHOOL LAND

Within Derbyshire heavy rainfall events are causing more regular flooding. Many councils are now taking action to protect the community against flooding. One such way to protect against flooding is Natural Flood Management. Examples include, water storage, pond creation and reducing hard surface areas including pathways and playgrounds by replacing them with more water permeable surfaces.

If your school would like to take steps towards reducing flooding in the area you can find guidance, funding advice and all further information in our Natural Flood Management handbook

[https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-10/landowners%20handbook\\_NFM.pdf](https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-10/landowners%20handbook_NFM.pdf)

For small scale projects suitable for any space also check out our 15 ways to reduce flooding toolkit with ideas on how to harvest rainwater, create a green roof or plant wildflowers within school grounds.

<https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-05/15%20brilliant%20ideas%20to%20stop%20flooding%20May%202022%20proof%203.pdf>

Alternatively, if you would like personal advice around Natural Flood Management measures, please do contact us on: [derwentconnections@derbyshirewt.co.uk](mailto:derwentconnections@derbyshirewt.co.uk).

## PUTTING YOUR SCHOOL ON THE MAP

At the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, we aim to provide a database of local community actions, whether that be, individuals, councils, schools or community groups. We believe that by creating a centralised map of actions, not only will it inspire groups within Derbyshire to take action towards creating a landscape rich with biodiversity, this map will act as a centrepiece for groups to share their actions and learn from each other. A network of interconnected habitats and slowing the flow of water throughout the Derwent catchment cannot be achieved in isolation but requires unison and collaboration across neighbouring communities.

With this in mind, you can highlight your schools actions and any suitable contact details through the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's Team Wilder webpage.

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

Simply fill in your details and a brief description of your councils action online and join the Derbyshire wildlife trusts community of individuals taking action for nature.

## GUIDANCE FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

Community group action is a great starting point for conservation in the local area, whether that be groups engaging and volunteering with project work or establishing a greener environment within your local community. However, your group chooses to get involved, the educational, developmental and wellbeing benefits will be welcomed by many members of the community.

Wild spaces are fundamental to wellbeing, helping alleviate the risks of flooding and create a vital corridor for the migration of wildlife throughout the county. Your local community can take actions in the area to ensure that these wild spaces are available

for the whole community. Across Derbyshire community groups are supporting with work within their community and with local councils, tree planting, maintaining potted plants, setting up tree nurseries and taking actions to slow the flow of water in their area. All these actions support the creation of a wilder Derbyshire and are invaluable in community spaces.

This section contains guidance, support and toolkits for bringing nature back into the local area and connecting community groups to conservation projects in the region. Within this guidance there are a selection of toolkits and guidance on habitat creation, detailed information on setting up a community group and even professional advice from Hope for the Future on building a strong relation with your local councils.

## SETTING UP A COMMUNITY GROUP

Setting up a community group in your local parish is a great way to take action for nature with other passionate individuals. Wilder Communities make the spaces where we live, work or study wilder. From neighbours working together to create greener streets, to a group of friends doing a litter pick or starting a community allotment, to a bunch of enthusiastic volunteers coming together to make their village or town centre greener. These are your communities and it is up to you how you make them wilder, all groups are different. You don't have to be a wildlife expert, anyone who is passionate about making a difference for wildlife in their local area can be part of a wilder community.

Whether you are already an established group or just starting out we have a range of resources to help grow your community group and take action in your local area. All of these can be found on the community action page of our website:

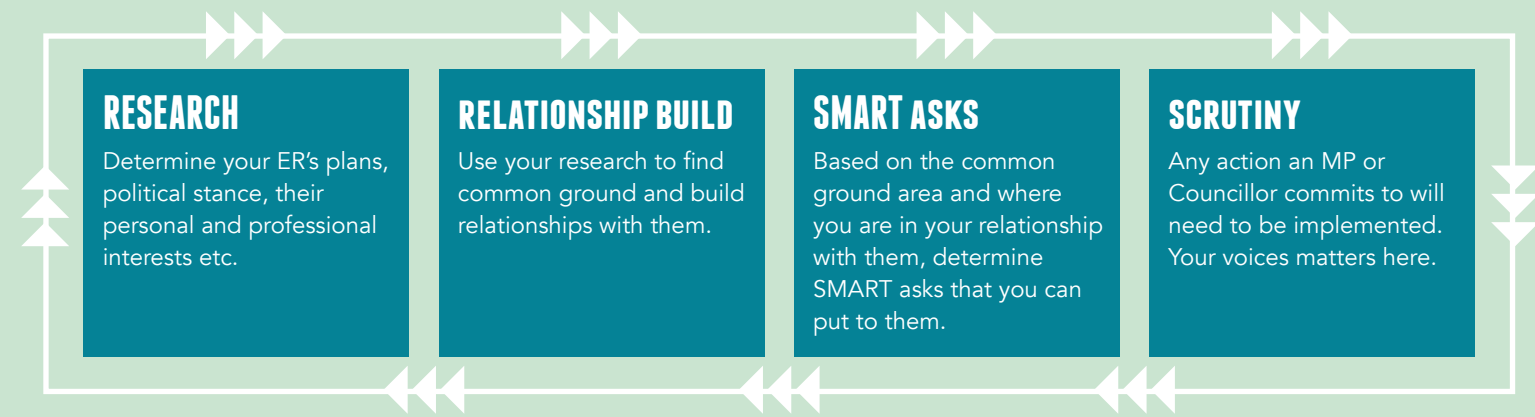
<https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/community-action>







## ENGAGING YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES



### CREATING A WILDER COMMUNITY

An example a wilder community is Eco Heroes in Hartington. This movement works with the community throughout Hartington, including the local school, village church, youth hostel, parish council, conservation organisations including the Peak Park and Derbyshire wildlife trust and volunteers within the village. Over a space of 2 years Hartington's Eco Heroes have championed creating accessible wild spaces across the community with a focus on native woodlands and wildflowers.

#### “Where wildflowers lead, wildlife follows”

The community are now 40 strong with 9 areas across the village all helping to create wildlife corridors throughout the village. These have included, leaving the verges to grow wild, village wildflower planters, creating new wildlife ponds and even allowing a underused car park to be rewilded with native trees and wildflowers.

This community wide movement started from humble beginnings and a group of just 5 enthusiastic members of the community. With understanding and consideration of volunteer time commitments, taking on manageable project loads and ensuring that the community are engaged throughout this project has united groups from across the community to help bring nature back to the local area.

### HOW TO TALK TO YOUR LOCAL POLITICIAN

Effective community groups regularly share a common feature, a strong relationship with the local councils and elected officials. This section covers how to create an effective relationship with your local council and why this can benefit your community group. For this section we have partnered with Hope for the Future a Sheffield based environmental organisation, working to equip communities, campaigners and groups across the country to communicate the climate emergency with their local politicians.

### WHY ENGAGE YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES?

Engaging with your Member of Parliament (MP) or local council can be an important part of achieving change at a local level. Your MP can act as an advocate for your cause from a local to a national level, using any specific role or relationships they have within parliament or government. Councillors can also be advocates for change on a local level, and, as councils, deliver policies that have a direct impact upon woodland creation and Natural Flood Management projects in your area that MPs won't have themselves.

### HOW TO ENGAGE YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Engaging your local politician should be tailored depending on what type of elected representative they are (MP, Councillor, Mayor etc.) and who they are as individuals, but there are core principles which can guide you. Start by researching your elected representative to understand their interests to find common ground upon which you can build a relationship.

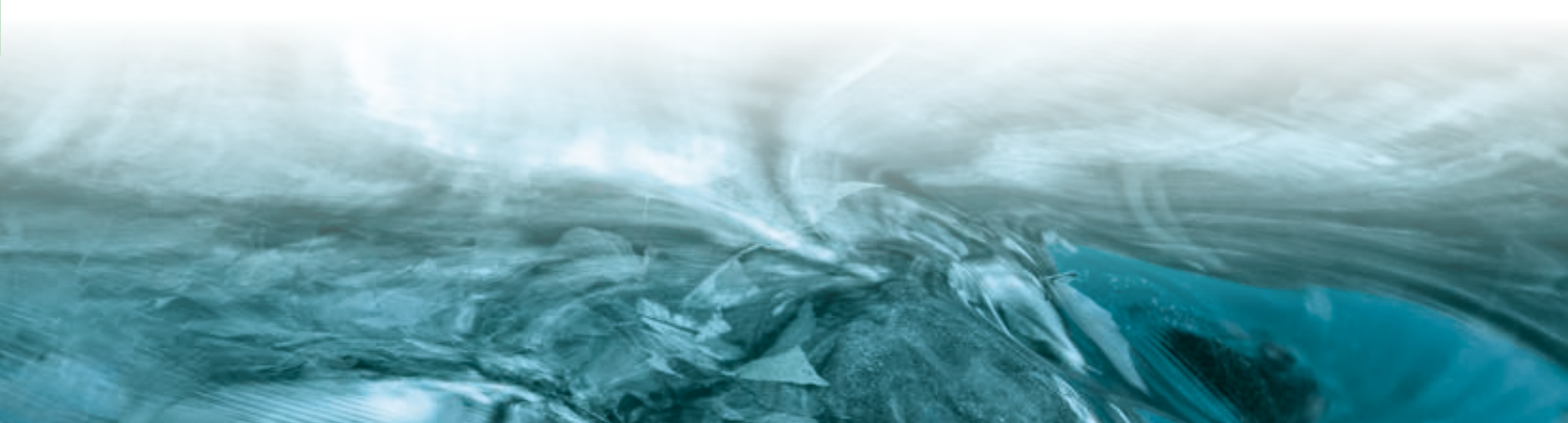
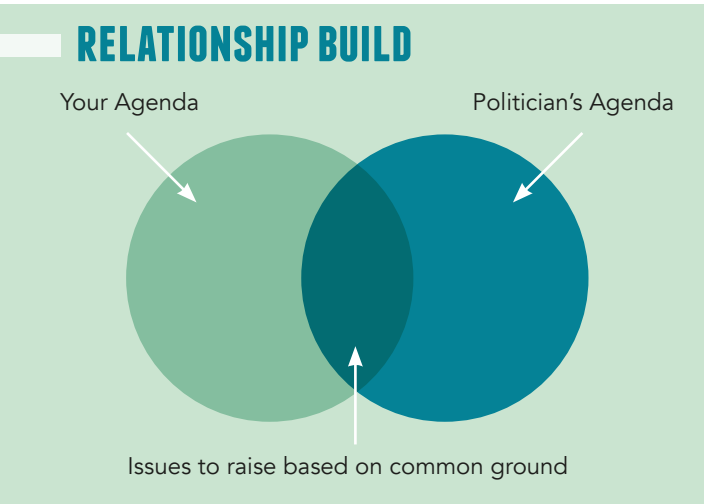
You should then make your engagement personalised and **SMART**. **SMART** means that when, for instance, you are asking a local councillor to take action on an issue of importance to you, you make this request:

- Specific
- Measurable
- Attainable
- Relevant
- Time based.

You also have opportunities to scrutinise your elected representatives, to make sure they are implementing the actions that they have committed to. This could be at an MPs surgery or by asking questions directly to the council in the council chamber. Your voice matters and there are many ways you can ensure your elected representatives hear it.

### HOPE FOR THE FUTURE SUPPORT

Engaging your elected representatives, of any type and at any level, can be a daunting prospect. Hope For The Future can support you right the way through this process. They provide training, research support, and guidance tailored to you. All to make sure you have your voice heard by your elected representatives.







## DERBYSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST RESOURCES

Further to the guidance and support from Hope for the Future, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust offers a range of toolkits and webinars for campaign actions, these include guidance on creating a petition, further guidance on working with your elected representatives and more actions that will help support your cause.

<https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/toolkits-and-resources-team-wilder>

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/contact-your-mp>

As well as contacting and working with your local MP, the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust also have advice and can support with running as a parish councillor. In Many communities roles on the parish or town council are voluntary and often recruiting for more members. If you would like to be involved with taking actions directly in your community this is a fantastic opportunity to take action.

For More advice and training check out the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and Hope for the Future websites where we can support you with any further information and guidance you need to support your cause.

## VOLUNTEERING WITH THE DERBYSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

Community groups are always welcome to support ongoing project work with the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. With 3 large scale habitat creation projects and 2 major urban rewilding projects there is no shortage of project work community groups can be involved with. There are a number of ways community groups can involve themselves with project work including becoming a connected organisation and taking actions in line with project goals, volunteering on the project with site management and habitat creation or even helping the project host events as members of staff.

Within the Derwent Connections project, community groups from across Derbyshire have been doing just that, with community groups setting up tree nurseries and seed harvesting in their local allotments, volunteering at tree plantings and even co-hosting events with school groups in the local area.

If your community group would like to get involved with project work at the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust in any of the ways mentioned or you can propose new opportunities for collaboration we would be keen to hear from you. To start conversations about how we can work together contact the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust at [enquires@derbyshirewt.co.uk](mailto:enquires@derbyshirewt.co.uk) where our team can discuss project opportunities with your group.



## GUIDANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS

If you are looking to improve your area for wildlife, there are many actions you can take both at home and within your community great whether that be volunteering with project work or establishing a greener home and community. However you choose to get involved, the educational, developmental and wellbeing benefits are invaluable.

Wild spaces are fundamental to wellbeing, helping alleviate the risks of flooding and create a vital corridor for the migration of wildlife throughout the county, your home and community should be no exception. Across Derbyshire individuals are supporting with work within their community and within the local community,

tree planting, maintaining potted plants, setting up tree nurseries and taking actions to slow the flow of water around their home. Together, individual actions accumulate to creating a wilder Derbyshire.

This section contains guidance, support and toolkits for bringing nature back to your doorstep and connecting likeminded people to conservation projects in the region. Within this guidance there are educational resources, a selection of toolkits and guidance on habitat creation at home and means of connecting with other local schools in the region who share the same conservation ambitions.

## CREATING WOODLAND ON YOUR LAND

The Derwent Connections project is Derwent Valley wide woodland creation project working to connect the Northern Forest in northern England to the National Forest in the south of Derbyshire and Staffordshire. The intention for this connectivity is to provide a critically important habitat corridor allowing species movement in response to climate change. In the first year of the project across the community, the Derwent Connections project will also be focusing on Natural Flood Management, helping to slow the flow of water in the Derwent valley and in turn helping to reduce the impacts of flooding.

For a more detailed look at the project ambitions, project boundary and visions for the future take a look at the Derwent Connections project vision.

<https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-05/Derwent%20Connections%20Project%20Vision.pdf>

In order to re-establish a woodland corridor throughout the Derwent valley the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust are working in partnership with local landowners providing advice and funding opportunities to establish woodland creation on their land. If you own or manage land in the derwent river valley, and would like to

help reduce flooding or establish woodland contact our Derwent Connections team on [derwentconnections@derbyshirewt.co.uk](mailto:derwentconnections@derbyshirewt.co.uk). Our team of Nature Recovery Advisors will be in contact with you to arrange a site visit and discuss funding opportunities for your project.

We also provide advice for woodland creation in our Woodland creation handbook, a toolkit designed for landowners guiding them through site management and funding sources.





## CREATING A WILDFLOWER MEADOW ON YOUR LAND

Wildflower meadows are another fantastic way to improve the variety of species on our patch, whether it be roadside verges, driveways, gardens or a window box.

In recent years, over 95% of British wildflower meadows have disappeared. A combination of farming and the popularity of a tidy garden has resulted in a severe drop in wildflower meadows and gardens. However, wildflower meadows provide important habitats for wildlife. Insects and pollinators thrive, birds can feed and small animals can shelter. Therefore, it is encouraged to utilise space throughout the community whether it be roadside verges, parkland or along paved areas throughout the community wildflowers can help provide vital resources such as supporting local wildlife and acting as a form of sustainable urban drainage and Natural Flood Management.

If establishing a wildflower meadow is something you would like to do within the local community, there are some considerations you need to take before you get started. For more information on establishing a wildflower meadow in your community we have a wildflower toolkit covering essential information around, wildflower species, soil type and how to maintain the wildflower patch.

<https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-06/Wildflowers%20toolkit%20FINAL.pdf>

However before you set up a wildflower meadow, there are some important considerations to take:

### UNDERSTANDING YOUR SOIL TYPE:

Soil consists of three main components, clay, sand and silt – when in equal ratio this is called loam. If your soil is hard when dry and sticky when wet this is likely to have a high clay content. If your soil is light, water drains through easily and easy to dig this is likely to have a high sand content. It is also important to understand your soil pH before choosing which seeds to sow. Wildflower seed mixes are designed for various soil types and situations. If you would like any advice on the type of soil you have on your land and would like advice on seed mix and management plans our team of nature recovery advisors can provide the assistance you need to get started. To find out more about creating your own wildflower patch contact us at [enquires@derbyshirewt.co.uk](mailto:enquires@derbyshirewt.co.uk)



## INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS TO HELP REDUCE FLOODING AT HOME

Natural Flood Management can come in a range of scales across the county, from local councils setting up natural urban drainage systems in their towns to locals with land ranging from estates like Chatsworth to a small personal garden; every individual can take actions to slow the flow of water.

For residential homes and gardens under 0.5 hectares the Derbyshire wildlife trust has established the 15 ways to reduce flooding handbook. A toolkit providing a range of actions you can take at home that help capture and slow the flow of water in the local area. These actions range from renter-friendly actions such as potting plants and waterbutts and simple actions like allowing your grass to grow, to those for landowners who can establish long term changes to their land such as ponds, rain gardens and wildflower meadows and even planting trees.

All of these actions can be found in the 15 ways to reduce flooding handbook found on the Derbyshire wildlife trust website.

For landowners with land over 0.5 hectares not only are actions like establishing wildlife ponds and installing a water butt excellent ways to capture rainwater on your land, we also encourage landowners to consider woodland creation, planting hedgerows and considering Natural Flood Management actions. If this is an avenue you are interested to pursue, contact the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust at [derwentconnections@derbyshirewt.co.uk](mailto:derwentconnections@derbyshirewt.co.uk) and they can arrange a site visit in your area. Alternatively register your land online at our website.

## WORKING TOGETHER IN PARTNERSHIP

Derwent Connections project is delivered in partnership with the Environment Agency, Natural England and funded by the Green Recovery Challenge Fund as well as People's Postcode Lottery.

Green Recovery Challenge Fund





# CONTACT DETAILS FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you are interested in installing Natural Flood Management, woodland and habitat creation on your land or in your parish, and would like more information or help, here are useful contacts:

ORGANISATION	CONTACT INFORMATION
Derbyshire Wildlife Trust	<b>Telephone:</b> 0177 388 1188 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:derwentconnections@derbyshirewt.co.uk">derwentconnections@derbyshirewt.co.uk</a>
Environment Agency	<b>Telephone:</b> 0370 850 6506 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk">enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk</a>
Forestry Commission	<b>Telephone:</b> 0300 067 4000 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:fe.england@forestry.gsi.gov.uk">fe.england@forestry.gsi.gov.uk</a>
Natural England	<b>Telephone:</b> 0300 060 3900 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk">enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk</a>
The Woodland Trust	<b>Telephone:</b> 0330 333 3300
Rural Payments Agency	<b>Helpline for queries on eligibility of features for BPS:</b> 0300 020 0301