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Wilder Derbyshire



Derbyshire
Wildlife Trust

Wilder by nature

www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

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On the cover

Eyam Moor © Fluid

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Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

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THE SUNDAY TIMES
**T Best Places
to Work 2024**



Dr Jo Smith
Chief Executive Officer

Welcome

When I travel across Derbyshire, I'm constantly inspired by the people I meet. From volunteers giving their time, to communities transforming local spaces, to young people discovering a passion for wildlife, I'm reminded that nature's recovery isn't something that happens to us, it's something we create together. There's no doubt that nature faces enormous challenges. Many of the species and habitats we love are under increasing pressure, and the scale of change needed can sometimes feel overwhelming. But throughout this magazine, you'll find reasons to be hopeful.

You'll read about ambitious projects that are helping to shape a Wilder Derbyshire. From securing our largest-ever land acquisition at Eyam Moor to advancing species recovery work and supporting communities to take action for nature where they live, these stories show what's possible when people come together with a shared purpose.

What encourages me most is the growing movement behind this work. More people are recognising that nature underpins our health, wellbeing and future prosperity. Together, we are creating greener neighbourhoods, restoring habitats, inspiring the next generation and making more space for wildlife to thrive.

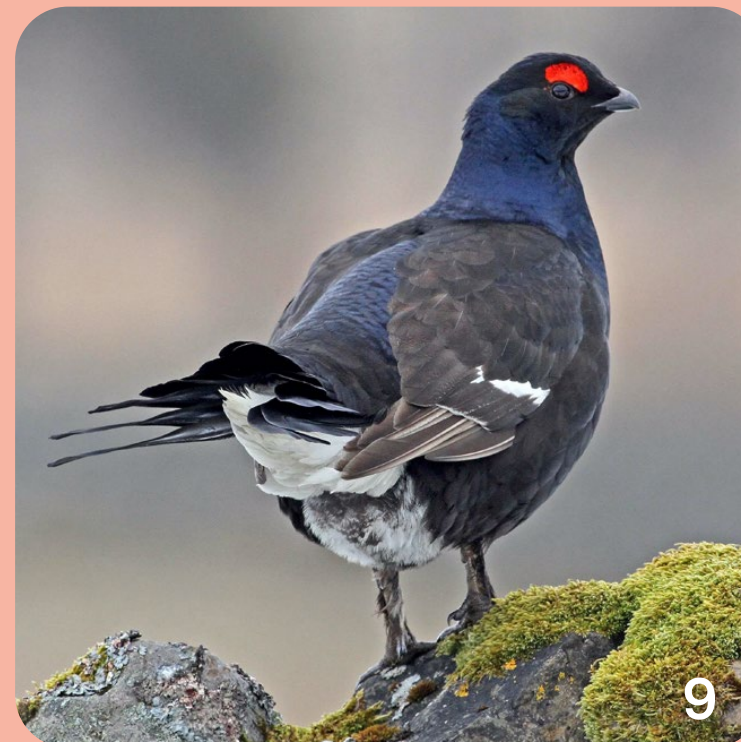
Earlier this year, many of you shared your thoughts through our member survey. Your passion for nature, your determination to see wildlife recover and your belief in a better future came through loud and clear. It was a powerful reminder that none of this happens alone.

Every success in these pages belongs to you too.

Thank you for standing alongside us, for believing in a Wilder Derbyshire, and for helping turn hope into action.

Jo Smith

Chief Executive Officer



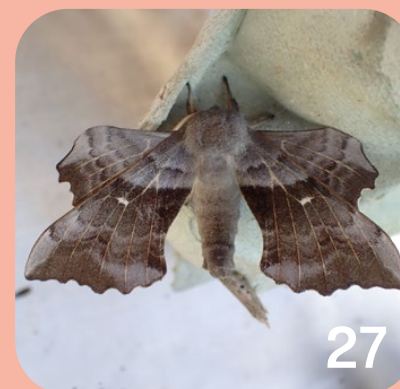
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Derbyshire News

SPOTTED



Share your images with us

www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlife/record-sighting



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1. Pale Tussock – Allestree Park
September 2025 © Emily Hughes
2. Green Shieldbug – Wyver Lane
November 2025 © Dave Evans
3. Kingfisher – Drakelow Reserve
September 2025 © Jon Mortin
4. Shaggy Ink Cap – Chesterfield
October 2025 © Sheila Curzon

Latest News

White storks historic return to the Midlands **takes flight**

White storks have returned to the Midlands for the first time in more than 600 years, with three birds arriving at our Willington Wetlands site.

The introduction of white storks at Willington is part of our ambitious plans to establish a healthy breeding population in the region, helping bring one of Britain's most iconic bird species back to the Midlands.

The three have settled into a newly completed purpose-built enclosure, which sits within our 113-acre wetland reserve. The site is already home to Derbyshire's first beavers in more than 800 years, with rewilding creating thriving habitats for a wide range of species. With more than £300,000 of funding from Veolia Environmental Trust through the Landfill Communities Fund, we have worked with Celtic Rewilding to create an enclosure designed to support breeding, chick development and carefully managed releases into the wider landscape.



White storks release © Gemma Bradley

White storks once lived across Derbyshire and the Midlands but disappeared around the 14th century due to habitat loss and hunting. Recent sightings, including birds recorded over Willington Wetlands, show growing interest in the area, but none have yet stayed to breed.

We hope the project will encourage wild storks passing through the Trent Valley to settle, while volunteers and communities help support habitat restoration and follow the birds' journey through a new digital platform.



White storks release © Gemma Bradley

Find out more at www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/white-stork-willington-wetlands

Eyam Moor © Fluid



Eyam Moor © Fluid



A Landmark Moment for Nature: **Welcoming Eyam Moor**

We're delighted to share that we have secured our largest single land acquisition for nature and people to date, with the addition of 600 acres at Eyam Moor.

Motivated by a shared ambition to restore nature at scale, the landowners have generously donated the land, which we will manage in perpetuity for nature.

This remarkable site represents one of the region's most significant landscape-scale nature recovery opportunities and marks a landmark moment in our vision for a wilder, more nature-rich Derbyshire. Building on the community-powered success of our Middleton Moor appeal earlier this year, it shows what is possible when individuals, communities and organisations come together with a shared vision for nature's recovery.

Together with neighbouring sites, Eyam Moor will create a wildlife corridor spanning more than 1,000 acres. With upland heath, woodland, flushes and fen, the site offers a

rare opportunity to restore a resilient mosaic of habitats for wildlife.

The site is crossed by a number of public footpaths, allowing local communities and visitors to continue enjoying this special landscape as nature takes the lead in its recovery.

Eyam Moor also becomes our fourth Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) site, strengthening our role as a trusted provider of high-quality BNG and nature recovery. BNG requires developers to leave nature in a measurably better state than before. We use it to create more space for wildlife across Derbyshire. It provides a way to secure and restore land that would otherwise be beyond our reach, with every pound generated reinvested into creating, protecting and restoring habitats across the county.

We are incredibly grateful to the landowners for so generously donating this land for nature. Their vision and commitment mean that this landscape will be there for future generations and will give wildlife space to thrive.



Highlights 2025-2026

Middleton Moor © Jo Smith



Our vision is simple: a Wilder Derbyshire, where people and wildlife thrive together. Our Wilder 2030 strategy sets out how we will make this happen: by inspiring and enabling bold, transformative action where everyone can play their part. Here, we celebrate some of the progress we have made over the past year towards making these ambitions a reality.

2030 Goal

Rewild 100,000 acres of land and water

Progress

42,408 acres for nature*



42% of our 2030 target achieved*

We're creating **bigger, better and more connected** spaces for wildlife across Derbyshire, securing land, restoring habitats and building nature recovery networks at a scale that matters.



of which: **250 acres** influenced through biodiversity planning



and **1,000+ acres** connected through Biodiversity Net Gain



14% more funding secured than planned



8,150 acres secured for nature recovery this year

*Cumulative data since 2020

2030 Goal

Reintroduce pine marten, black grouse and white stork

Progress

Wildlife comeback underway



8 species recovery and reintroduction projects advanced



Partnerships established for pine marten and white stork



Projects progressed for beaver, black grouse, hazel dormouse, water vole and white-clawed crayfish



Habitat restoration supporting species including dingy skipper and willow tit



Black grouse
© Margaret Holland



Water vole Cromford Canal © Lorna Dickinson



Calke Abbey Crayfish Translocation © Dennis Richardson

Our Highlights



Be a Jay, Allestree



Tree planting, Duckmanton

2030 Goal

Support 250 communities to lead nature recovery in their own neighbourhoods

Progress

Communities taking the lead



Across Derbyshire, people are **turning** their **passion for nature into action**. From urban rewilding projects to community-led conservation, local groups are creating lasting change where they live.



128 groups working together for nature



4 Wild Peak communities actively delivering rewilding



35 new urban rewilding initiatives

2030 Goal

Grow a greener, fairer economy with people, wildlife and climate at its heart



We're bringing together businesses, landowners, communities and decision-makers to create a future where nature, climate and people thrive together.



Nature finance pilot developed with Haddon Estate and partners



Businesses and landowners united through Business4Nature



National award won for fairness, inclusion and community-led action

Progress

Foundations for lasting change

Volunteer Rachel Horton



To view our Annual Report in full, visit derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/our-impact



If you don't count it, it doesn't count!

Did you know that Derbyshire Wildlife Trust hosts the **Derbyshire Biological Records Centre**? We collate and combine data on all species across Derbyshire. We work closely with County Recorders, local natural history groups, charities and individuals to collect new records on an annual basis. It's so important that we know what is out there – even the common species we need to know about. So get sharing today!

Share what you're seeing in your local area:
derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlife/record-sighting

SCAN ME



Looking ahead: a vision for a

Wilder Derby

the UK's greenest city



Katherine Clarke
Head of Wilder Communities



Boy holding worm

'Derby City celebrates becoming one of the UK's Top 10 Greenest Cities'
a headline Derbyshire Wildlife Trust has an ambition to read by 2033. But why does it matter?

Derby City is part of a critical nature-recovery landscape. It sits in the south of the county, covers approximately 78 square kilometres and is home to around 278,000 people.



Ariel view of Derby City

The problem

Currently, the Derby City landscape is a collection of fragmented green spaces, dotted within a concentration of buildings and infrastructure. Nearly one in five neighbourhoods in Derby are among the 10% most deprived areas in England, according to Lower-layer Super Output Area (LSOA) data. Additionally, green space is not accessible to everyone, and the city is not climate resilient.

The opportunities

However, Derby City is a regenerative city, a city of innovation. Building on our positive relationship and shared vision with Derby City Council, our collective ambition is for nature to become the mechanism that drives urban regeneration to make the city resilient and prosperous. We will shift its current state into one that boasts a blended, connected mosaic of ecologically healthy ecosystems supporting nature recovery, climate resilience, and delivering a suite of social benefits to its growing population.

To achieve this vision, transformative change is essential. The good news is that Derby's opportunities are plentiful.

There are **over 375 parks** and open spaces covering **900 hectares (13% of Derby City)**, intersected by rivers, canals and pathways. These are places that boast endless opportunity for both nature and people to move freely and safely around the city through connected and beautiful habitats.

The **Derby Nature Collective**, a cross-sector collective of organisations and individuals, are championing wildlife, putting them at the heart of making Derby better for people.

The **Our City Our River** project is moving towards Phase Three, improving flood resilience and nature in the city.

We have **substantial learnings** from the **Next Door Nature** and the **Allestree Park Community Rewilding** projects that are influencing land management practices in urban spaces.

Derby City Council are working towards becoming an **accredited Nature City** and, to achieve this, will create a Green Infrastructure Strategy utilising nature-based solutions to deliver environmental and public benefits.



Allestree work experience

This appetite and action puts Derby on a firm trajectory to move from the 22nd Greenest City into the Top 10 by 2033.

What does a Greener Derby look like?

Nature as a mechanism to drive urban regeneration in and around Derby City could result in:

- More connected space for nature in and around Derby.
- Existing space for nature being safeguarded by decision makers and communities.
- New developments and renovations supporting biodiversity, climate ambitions and nature access.
- Wildlife species being in recovery and populations growing and supported.

- Urban greening being prioritised and nature-based solutions making Derby climate resilient, biodiverse and better for people.
- People having access to good quality nature spaces within 15 minutes of their home, and nature access increasing significantly.
- Education, community and familial programmes embedding nature engagement into people's every day.
- Networks of communities supporting one another to deliver community benefit through nature recovery and nature-based solutions.

AGM Event Child with mattock at Be A Boar © Fluid



“Building on Derby’s pioneering decision to set flood defences back from the River Derwent, Phase 3 of Our City Our River, when funded, will create wetlands to improve flood resilience and nature. It will connect communities, transform post-industrial land into blue/green space, enable riverside renewal and create a ‘sponge city’ biosphere—driving regeneration and inclusive growth.”

Greg Broughton BSc MSc MCIWEM C.WEM
Sustainable Growth and Place Manager
Environment Agency

“Time spent in nature places, engaged in activities a person supports, can improve both their physical and mental health. Parks, gardens and waterways also provide social interaction and a sense of togetherness. Food-growing spaces support nature while helping people save money. Meanwhile, green skills education and training offer valuable opportunities for local jobs and economic growth. Altogether, Derby’s nature is a powerful asset for improving quality of life for all.”

Dr Jo Birch
Senior Officer - Connecting People with Nature
Natural England, East Midlands Area Team

“Derby has long recognised the importance of nature in urban life. From the pioneering creation of the Arboretum, the first public park of its kind in Britain, to the ambitious rewilding of Allestree Park, the city has continued to demonstrate how green spaces can transform places and improve lives. Building on this legacy, Derby has a unique opportunity to use nature-led regeneration to connect communities, enhance biodiversity, improve wellbeing and create a greener, more resilient city for future generations.”

David Winslow
Greenspaces and Biodiversity Manager
Derby City Council

Autumn Tree and Leaf Detective

Check the boxes to record your progress.



☐ Beech



☐ Ash



☐ Oak



☐ Sweet chestnut



☐ Horse chestnut



☐ Hazel



☐ Silver birch



☐ Sycamore



☐ Hawthorn



☐ Elder

Derwent Living Forest

What has happened and what is next?



Ruth Pilbeam
Trent and Derwent
Programme Manager

The Derwent Living Forest vision is to create 30,000 hectares of wooded habitats and wetland by 2050 and establish a connection between the new woodlands of the National Forest in the south and the soon-to-be-established woodlands of the Northern Forest in the north. This is a partnership programme between key stakeholders, with 17 named organisations on our advisory group, and a programme area stretching across the whole River Derwent catchment within Derbyshire's county boundary.

Over the last six years we have worked as a partnership to deliver a pipeline of projects reaching out to Derwent communities, identifying opportunities for wooded habitat creation, and exploring both the public and private finance options that would enable delivery. These activities have been targeted to their most suitable areas of the catchment, as outlined in the following.

Upper Derwent

In the north of the county we work closely with neighbouring conservation organisations and large landowners, exploring how we can collaborate to deliver natural flood management and connect upland land managers with downstream benefits.

In the Upper Derwent, there is huge potential for natural flood management from wooded habitat creation and peatland restoration, restoring the naturally spongy, scrubby upland landscape that has been dried out over decades of drainage for intensive sheep farming and shooting estates.

Natural flood management would reduce flooding downstream and would slowly continue to release water during periods of drought, reducing the extremes that downstream communities face in severe weather events, and providing resilience to the increasing impacts of the climate crisis.

Through our Barr Brook project, we are creating a business case that pulls in funding from government, and those businesses benefitting downstream, and directing those funds towards the delivery and maintenance of nature recovery, ensuring land managers are paid fairly as they swap traditional farming on drained land, to wetter farming for natural flood management.

Middle Derwent

The Middle Derwent describes the landscape south of Chesterfield stretching from the Peak fringe towards Alfreton and down to Belper. It is mostly quite intensively farmed by small and medium-sized farms but with pockets of nature-friendly farming and space for nature. Given the fragmentation of land ownership, we're keen to work in aggregation with local farmers.

Through a series of research and innovation projects, we have identified this area as of significant potential for harnessing nature finance markets to support nature-friendly farming and nature recovery. This means developing a blended model of public and

private funding for peatland restoration, wooded habitat creation, biodiversity improvements and water storage, managed alongside productive farming.

Over the last year, we have reached out to farmers and we are now working as a collective, managing over 1,140 hectares of land, and developing a proposal for Round 3 of DEFRA's Landscape Recovery Scheme, expected to open in 2027. This scheme would fund two years of development, during which we would plan ambitious nature recovery across the landscape and secure agreements with buyers and investors to fund its delivery over twenty years.



Derwent Living Forest
Tree Planting by
Wild Solutions Ady



Derwent Living Forest
Tree Planting at Nestle

Lower Derwent

The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site is a huge asset to Derbyshire. It preserves evidence of the birth of the factory system and engages locals and visitors with our industrial heritage. Our natural heritage is intrinsically important to this history, reflected in stories such as mill workers being paid in salmon right up the Derwent, or communities gathering wildflowers around their villages for well-dressing.

There are aspects of the factory system which have caused historical harm to nature. It's well known that weirs block salmon from making it to the upper reaches of the Derwent, and that the intensification of sheep farming for the mills has degraded

nature across the landscape. However, the landscape of the Industrial Revolution still held vastly more diversity than it does now, so nature and industry do not have to be at odds!

We are excited to be working with Derbyshire County Council and the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, reviewing priorities for nature recovery in the World Heritage Site according to Derbyshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and then working together to design appropriate nature recovery plans. It's essential to us that nature is considered alongside built heritage, with both recognised as equally important parts of Derbyshire's cultural heritage.

Pilot Pig Project

Lea Wood



Amy Bennett
Wilder Landscapes
Officer



Pig at Lea Woods © Amy Bennett

A project, funded by the Landfill Communities Fund, has enabled us to introduce wild grazing by pigs into the Derwent Valley Landscape, more specifically, into a fenced area at Lea Wood Nature Reserve. Using pigs as ecological proxies for wild boar helps to recreate natural processes that were once carried out by free-roaming wild boar in the landscape. Pigs display many of the same natural behaviours as wild boar, including rooting, foraging and wallowing – behaviours that play a vital role in shaping healthy ecosystems.

At Lea Wood, large areas of the 4-acre meadow are currently dominated by dense bracken, which suppresses plant diversity and limits opportunities for a wider range of flowers and grasses to thrive. Through their natural instincts—rootling, digging, snuffling and wallowing—the pigs will help to break up these dense patches to create a more varied environment that supports a wide range of plants, insects, reptiles, birds and other wildlife. Their activity introduces a rich mosaic of microhabitats: small wallows that can hold water for amphibians, patches of bare earth for basking reptiles and opportunities for wildflowers to grow. So as not to cause ecological shock, we are starting with a size, roughly a third of the whole meadow for the pigs to work their magic in. They will be on site from July until October time and may visit again in the future.

Volunteers will play a central role in the project, supporting the Trust's team with regular welfare checks, fence inspections and day-to-day monitoring of the pigs. Access to Lea Wood Nature Reserve will not be impacted, as the fenced area is set back from paths, giving visitors a front row view of the pigs at work.

The long-term ambition is to develop a pig grazing strategy across our sites in the Derwent Valley to demonstrate what is possible when natural processes are allowed to shape the landscape once again. The pigs will help to restore healthy, functioning ecosystems that are better able to adapt to and withstand the impacts of climate change.



Two pigs at Lea Woods © Amy Bennett

Wildlife Wonders

Over the past year, our records centre has been buzzing with reports of incredible wildlife. From shy mammals to striking birds, here are just a few of the fascinating species members like you have spotted and shared with us.

Batman Hoverfly

Batman Hoverfly

Myathropa florea

Spotted – Hayfield

When – April 2026

Who – Brian Gee

Hoverflies are the most popular group of flies, being attractive with their furry bee-like bodies and yellow stripes. They are important pollinators and have even been called 'the butterflies of the flies' or 'flower-flies'. This particular species gets its intriguing name from the distinct, dark Batman-like logo on its thorax (the section behind its head).

Meadow Saxifrage

Saxifraga granulata

Spotted – Cressbrook

When – May 2026

Who – Katherine Clarke

Meadow saxifrage is a plant of damp hay meadows, chalk grassland and churchyards. The plants produce tiny red bulbils at the base of the stem. These are the 'granulations' that give the plant its name (granulata) and form completely new genetically identical plants. The promotion of #NoMowMay ensures that wildflowers like the lovely meadow saxifrage get the chance to flower and set seed in our lawns, churchyards and public spaces.

Meadow Saxifrage



Poplar Hawk-moth

Poplar Hawk-moth

Laathoe populi

Spotted – Buxton

When – May 2026

Who – Jon Mortin

The poplar hawkmoth derives its name from the tree species on which it depends for survival. Females lay their eggs on the underside of poplar leaves in the spring. This is our commonest of the large hawk-moths, having a wingspan of 6.5-9cm. When disturbed, these moths flash reddish-brown patches normally hidden on their hindwings. Sadly, this stunning moth lacks a functional proboscis and survives solely on energy reserves from its caterpillar stage, resulting in a lifespan of only a few days.

Red-and-Black Froghopper

Cercopis vulnerate

Spotted – Middleton by Wirksworth

When – May 2026

Who – James Boon

This little bug can be seen sitting on plant stems during spring. They feed by sucking juices out of grasses and other plants. The nymphs of this species, rather than producing the frothy "cuckoo spit" on plant stems like many other common froghopper species do, feed on plant roots hidden beneath the soil, using the sap to form protective, subterranean spittle nest.



Red-and-Black Froghopper



Share what you're seeing in your local area:
derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlife/record-sighting

SCAN ME





Land Acquisition



Dave Savage
Head of Landscape Recovery – North

What does Derbyshire wildlife look for when acquiring a piece of land to add to our portfolio of over 60 wildlife sites, Dave Savage Head of Landscape Recovery – North, explains how two sites in Derbyshire came into our management.

One of the best parts of my role at Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is leading on land acquisition. Finding a site that fits with our strategy, assessing its ecological benefit, finding funding and getting the sale over the line to completion is truly a team effort that involves project managers, ecologists and our board of trustees. Two of the most recent acquisitions for us are Eyam Moor, a classic heathland site containing mixed upland habitats on the edge of the Dark and White Peaks, and Middleton Moor, a network of different grasslands in the White Peak near Wirksworth.

Defining Principles

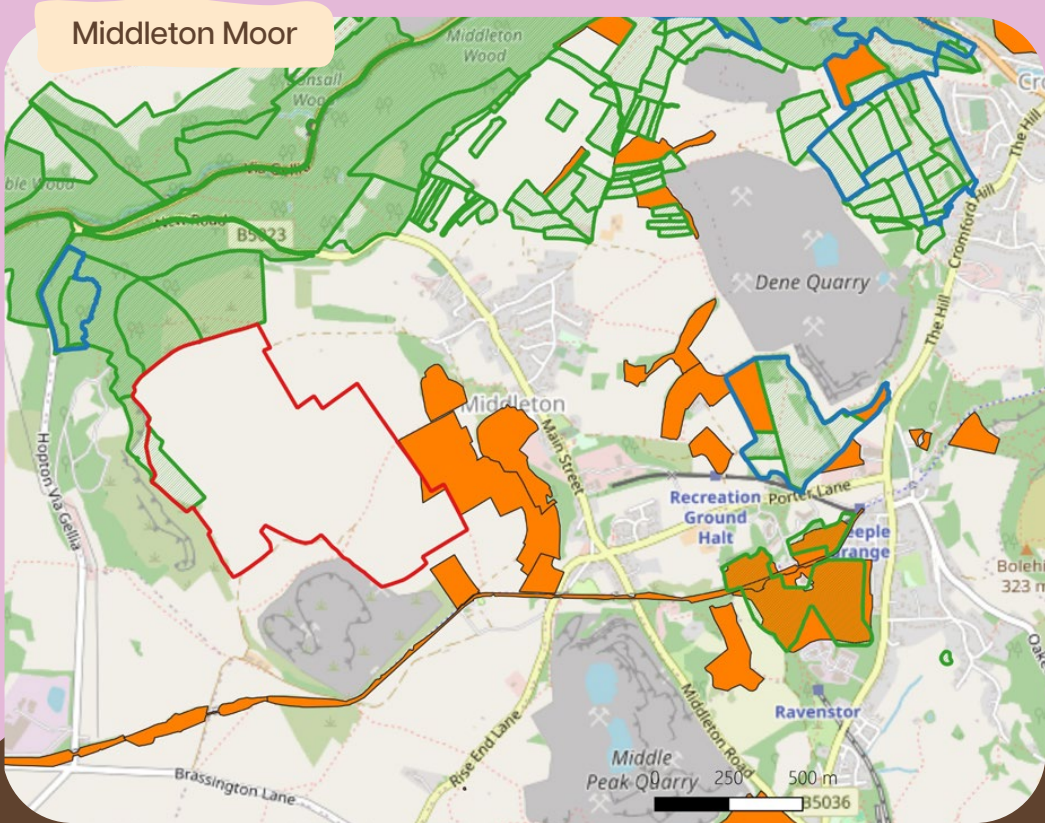
Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is offered a lot of land but sadly most of this land does not fit with our acquisition policy. The first principle in this strategy is size. The 2010 Lawton Review, Making Space for Nature, highlighted that landscapes should be bigger, better and more joined up, and we set a target size of at least 50Ha. The only exceptions to this are when a site borders an existing wildlife site and its purchase makes that site bigger, if it is an existing high value wildlife site that is at risk, or if it connects other sites in a landscape making a network of sites across a whole landscape. We may acquire a site if it will help us raise funds to expand our conservation work. Finally we look for sites where we can add value for wildlife, something we can improve to provide a home for nature.



Two new but very different sites

Middleton Moor achieves all of these elements. The map shows the network of sites Middleton falls within. These include the Via Gellia site of special scientific interest (SSSI), a number of local wildlife sites and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's sites at Rose End Meadows, Gang Mine and Dunsley Meadows. At 54.6 hectares it is comfortably big enough and is directly adjacent to rich wildlife sites. But those are just facts; you must visit Middleton to understand its significance. Most of the site is made up of agriculturally improved grassland which has previously had manure or fertiliser added. This strengthens the grasses, making them outcompete the wildflowers that are important for bees, butterflies, small mammals and birds.

In the short time Derbyshire Wildlife Trust has owned the site wildlife has started to return, with skylark and meadow pipit nesting in the now undisturbed sward, kestrels hunting the voles and mice, making the fields their home, and swifts and swallows gorging themselves on the vast insect life thriving in the pastures. But that isn't the whole picture at Middleton, which also contains corners that are botanically incredibly rich. Calcareous slopes are rich with orchids, birdsfoot trefoil and kidney vetch, whilst a pond provides important habitat for great crested newts and common toad. Our team of ecologists are currently carefully assessing the site to make sure we make the right management decisions.



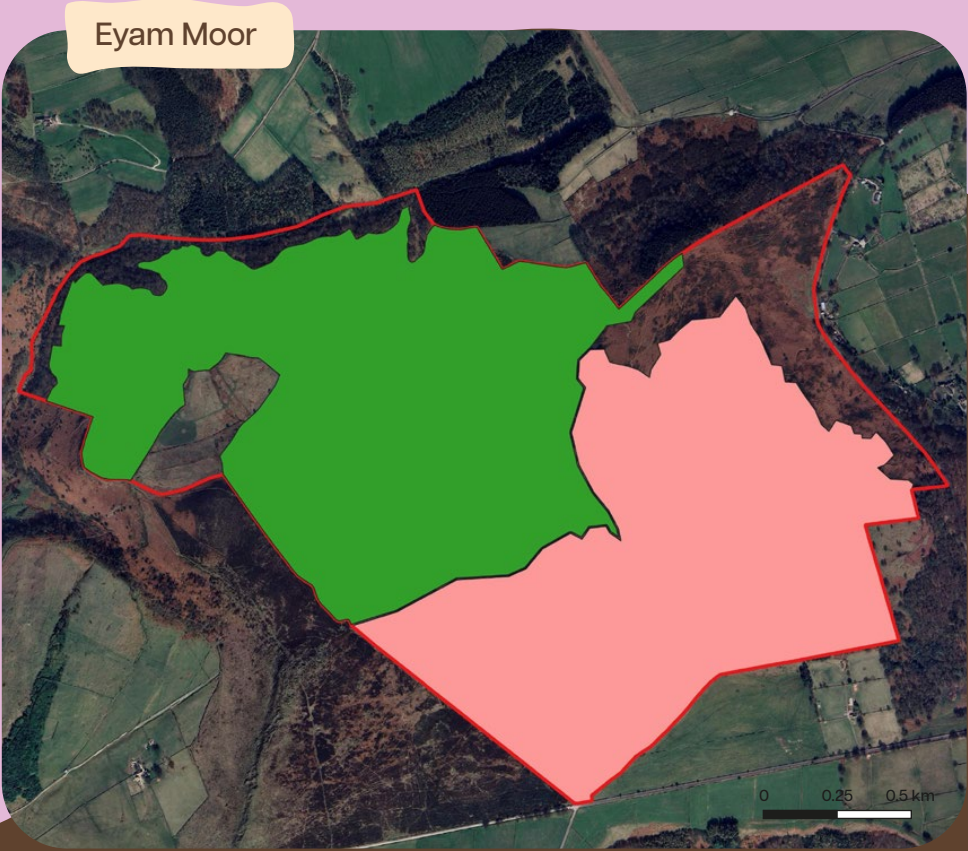
Wildlife Networks

- Middleton Moor
- DWT Reserves
- SSSI
- Local Wildlife Sites

Scale: 1:15,000 Date: 16-06-2026 Author: Dave Savage Basemap: © Google Map Data 2022 / © OpenStreetMap Contributors

Funding

Middleton was purchased through a grant provided by Biffa Award and the amazing generosity of donors who raised **£182,000** towards the price. Eyam was purchased for Derbyshire Wildlife Trust through the unbelievable generosity of a local couple who wanted to do something on a large scale to benefit wildlife. They will remain owners of Eyam Moor with the intention that the site is a legacy to Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.



Protected Sites

- Site Boundary
- Woodland Creation Area
- Peatland Restoration Area

The 243Ha Eyam Moor is a spectacular site found above the famous plague village of Eyam. It is mostly a mixed dwarf shrub heath containing heather, cross leaved heath, bilberry, crowberry and cowberry amongst other species. Despite not being surrounded by other Derbyshire Wildlife Trust - owned sites, this is a significant size, with neighbours

who have dedicated their own 162Ha for wildlife, making a combined 1000 acres. As well as heathland, Eyam Moor contains acid grassland and a small area of woodland that is SSSI quality. As with Middleton, Eyam is being carefully assessed by our ecologists to make sure we have the biggest impact for wildlife.

My Wildlife:

Kit's work experience at Allestree Park

As we reflect on the first year of delivering our Wilder 2030 strategy, we are reminded that nature's recovery depends on people as much as places.

One of the most inspiring parts of this journey is seeing young people gain first-hand experience of nature recovery and discover how they can play a part.

Kit Bateman, a Year 10 student at Allestree Woodlands School, recently joined us for work experience. Kit spent time with staff and volunteers involved in the Allestree Park community rewilding project, learning about the people and skills behind nature recovery.

We caught up with Kit to find out what they learned, and why opportunities like this matter.

What sparked your interest in nature?

From a young age, I have been interested in nature. Watching documentaries about the natural world and humanity's impact on the planet showed me how different parts of an ecosystem interact and inspired me to help wildlife at risk from human activity.

I have always wanted to work in conservation and environmental science, but before my placement I hadn't realised how many opportunities there are to get involved in community conservation projects like Allestree Park.

What stood out to you most about the rewilding project?

I was amazed by the impact the project continues to have on the local area. The introduction of grassland wildflowers, grasses and shrubs on the old fairways is helping the soil store more carbon, reduce flooding and drought, and support pollinators and insects.

The reeds planted around the lake are also helping recycle nutrients, support fish and invertebrate populations, and reduce silt build-up and algae growth. It was incredible to see the difference in biodiversity since the project began and understand the positive impact this is having across the ecosystem.

Was there a moment from the week that inspired you?

Planting reeds on the banks of the lake was a highlight, knowing that I will be able to see the impact of that work develop over time.

I also loved simply spending time outdoors, which led to some incredible animal encounters. One moment I will remember for a long time was watching a moorhen duckling find its mother moments before an aggressive coot was about to attack.

What did you learn about conservation careers and the role of communities?

The placement showed me how many different skills and careers are needed to support nature recovery, from public engagement and finance management to carrying out site surveys.

I also learned that conservation is not just about wildlife; people and communities play a vital role too. Everyone can contribute, through volunteering, learning, supporting projects or connecting with local green spaces.

How has the experience influenced your future plans?

As part of my Geography GCSE, we study how landscapes change over time, and seeing the rewilding project first-hand has helped me understand how change can happen gradually through many small actions.

The placement has also introduced me to different career pathways, and I am now considering these options more seriously. I hope to study environmental science and build a career helping nature recover.

Why are opportunities like this important for young people?

I think it is vital that young people have opportunities to experience nature recovery first-hand. We need to help the next generation develop a respect for the planet they will inherit and inspire them to take action.

What would you say to Derbyshire Wildlife Trust members about supporting projects like Allestree Park?

The value nature provides to our economies, cities, countryside and communities is impossible to capture. It's simple: without nature, we couldn't survive.

By supporting local rewilding projects, we are helping not only nature, but ourselves, to thrive.



Kit Bateman

Every Voice for Nature



Tom Flynn
Fundraising and
Volunteering Trainee



Marsh tit © Margaret Holland

What our members told us

Earlier this year, we asked what matters most to you, what inspires your connection with nature and what motivates you to take action.

Hundreds of you responded, and the message is clear:
our community cares deeply about nature and wants to see it thrive.



Why you joined

- 89%** want to help bring nature back
- 51%** love spending time in wild places
- 33%** want to support communities to take action

**Nature and
wildlife recovery
unite us all**



What keeps you involved

- 74%** want to see real progress for wildlife
- 69%** value knowing their support makes a difference
- 46%** feel part of a community that cares

**Impact +
belonging
= lasting
connection**



Why nature matters

- 88%** want to see wildlife recover
- 87%** care about future generations
- 76%** value nature for wellbeing
- 76%** are concerned about climate change

**Nature matters
for both people
and planet**



Your priorities

- 95%** support restoring habitats
- 63%** support climate action through nature
- 54%** support influencing decisions

**Strong backing
for bold action**



How you want to be involved

- 76%** enjoy visiting and experiencing nature
- 70%** support through membership
- 32%** want to volunteer and take action
- 24%** interested in campaigns

**From connection
to action, every
role matters**

You are part of a
**passionate, powerful
community** ready to
stand up for nature.

We'll use your feedback to:

- Show more clearly the **impact you're making**
- Create more **ways to take action**
- Share more **hope and success stories**



Thank you for sharing your voice.

Your passion, ideas and support are helping shape a stronger future for nature in Derbyshire.

"Nature is the beating heart of everything."

Martin



Rose End © Kayleigh Wright

Questions or concerns about your personal data? Get in touch with us using the details below.

T: 01773 881188, **Post:** Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Sandy Hill, Main Street, Middleton, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 4LR. **E:** membership@derbyshirewt.co.uk

A woman with short blonde hair, wearing a blue patterned shirt and purple trousers, sits on a large stone wall. A brown and black dog sits next to her. The background is a lush green forest with a dirt path leading into the distance.

A lifelong love of wildlife

inspired Judy to leave a gift in her will to Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.

"I moved to the Peak District in my twenties and lived and worked there for almost 50 years. Derbyshire Wildlife Trust seemed like the obvious local charity to support, with its sound intentions to restore and improve opportunities for wildlife.

I feel it's a charity that works hard to fulfil its purpose, engaging volunteers, acquiring land for wildlife-friendly management, and reintroducing species such as beavers.

Remembering Derbyshire Wildlife Trust in my will feels like the best contribution I can make."

Gifts in wills like Judy's help restore habitats, bring wildlife back and create a wilder Derbyshire for future generations.

To find out more, contact giftsinwills@derbyshirewt.co.uk or scan the QR code to write your free will today.

