



Walkers at Deep Dale  
Ian Weatherley

# Explore Derbyshire's wild side!

Take a trip to one of our nature reserves and discover the wonderful wildlife on your doorstep.



Small tortoiseshell  
on wild flowers  
Kieron Huston



Small scabious at  
Gang Mine  
Kieron Huston

## A little bit of house keeping...

Please remember that our reserves are home to lots of fantastic wildlife. Therefore, we ask that you don't camp or light any fires. Please also leave wild flowers, plants and fungi where they are for others to enjoy.

Dogs should be kept on leads and litter taken home with you. We also ask that you stay on the paths to avoid disturbing wildlife.

With your help and understanding we can make sure our reserves remain wonderful places for people and wildlife for years to come.



# Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

## A little bit about us

We are the only organisation working to protect all wildlife and wild places in Derbyshire for everyone to enjoy.

Established in 1962, we manage 43 nature reserves covering more than 688 hectares of Derbyshire. We also run loads of events so that everyone can get out and experience Derbyshire's wild side for themselves.

It's thanks to the fantastic support of our members and volunteers that we are able to continue with this work.

## Join us today!

For a small amount, you can support Derbyshire's wildlife and wild places and get all the latest information on lots of fab activities and events. Visit [www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk) or call 01773 881188.

## Get in touch

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 @derbswildlife

 Derbyshire Wildlife Trust



Charity No: 222212  
Company Limited by Guarantee No: 715675  
Front cover: Wild flowers at Gang Mine. Kieron Huston



# Derbyshire Wildlife Trust



# Our Nature Reserves



Defending wildlife, restoring landscapes, inspiring people  
[www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk)

# What to look for on our reserves...

Each reserve provides a vital refuge for animals and plants that are disappearing from our countryside. Whilst exploring, look for:



Water vole

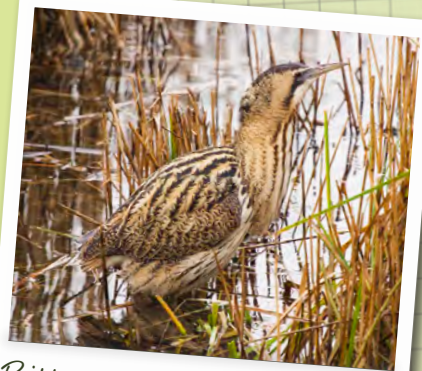
Ian Wilson

Water voles, which are suffering a devastating national decline, can still be seen regularly at Cromford Canal, Mapperley Woods and The Avenue Washlands.

26 31 17

The bittern, a rare member of the heron family, sometimes visits Willington, Drakelow and Carr Vale in winter.

39 41 16



Bittern

Elliott Neep

25 17 31

Keep an eye out for fungi at Lea Wood, The Avenue Washlands and Mapperley Wood. Look for puffball, colourful orange peel and elegant common bonnet.



Common bonnet

Paul Shaw



Bulbous buttercups

Kieron Huston

22 20 11-14

For meadows bursting with wild flowers each summer, head to Rose End Meadows, Hartington Meadows or our Wye Valley reserves.

25 31 43

Bluebells are plentiful across many of our woodland reserves in spring. Try Lea Wood, Mapperley Wood and Spring Wood.



Bluebells

Jim Higham



Barn owl

Margaret Holland

Visit at dusk and if you are lucky you might spot a barn owl at Woodside Farm or The Avenue Washlands.

32 17



Emperor dragonfly

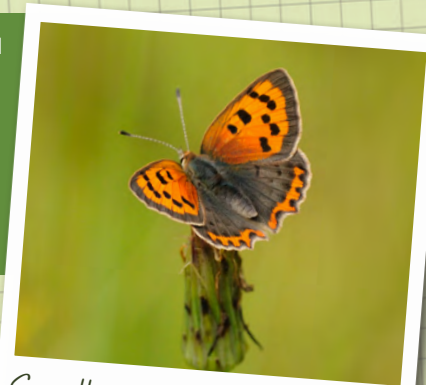
Tony Piri

Look out for jewel-like dragonflies and damselflies. Hilton Gravel Pits and Willington Gravel Pits are great places to try.

38 39

A visit to Rose End Meadows, Gang Mine and Hilton in the summer will reward you with clouds of butterflies!

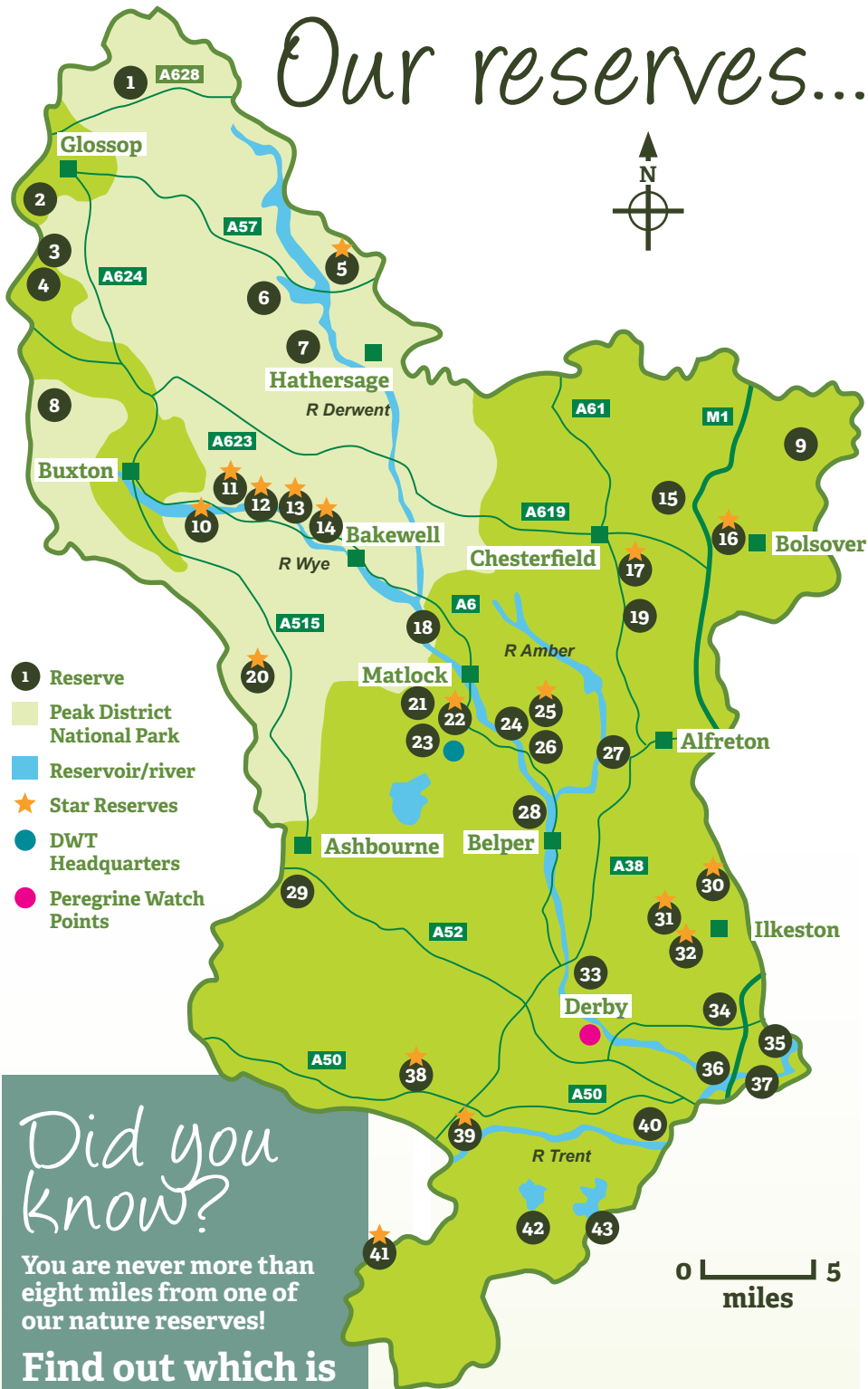
22 23 38



Small copper

Amy Lewis

# Our reserves...



## Did you know?

You are never more than eight miles from one of our nature reserves!  
Find out which is your nearest:

### 1 Brockholes Wood SSSI

GRID REF SK07179966

Car park off the A628, SK13 1HZ

One of a few remaining upland oak woodlands with moorland - a great place to look for mountain hares and woodland birds.

### 2 Long Clough

GRID REF SK03169253

An important grassland reserve with more than 150 species of flowers, sedges and mosses.

### 3 Broadhurst Edge Wood

GRID REF SJ99778741

Woodland and bilberry glades. See birds including tawny owl, whinchat and redpoll.

### 4 Watford Lodge LNR

GRID REF SK00558648

This small wetland hosts a range of species from frogs to birds.

### 5 Ladybower Wood SSSI

GRID REF SK20598671

Ladybower Inn, S33 0AX

One of a few remaining upland oak woodlands with moorland - a great place to look for mountain hares and woodland birds.

### 6 Hadfields Quarry

GRID REF SK16108242

Species-rich grassland, wetland and woodland. See palmate newts and green tiger beetles.

### 7 Overdale

GRID REF SK18348062

Upland pasture rich in plants. See pipits and skylarks.

### 8 Hillbridge and Park Woods

GRID REF SK01127869

An upland oak woodland rich with the colour and scent of bluebells in spring.



Spring Wood bursting with bluebells  
Nigel Law

### 9 Hollinhill and Markland Grips

GRID REF SK5127531

Park on A5004 Long Hill and walk in Woodland and grassland rich in wild flowers including bluebells and orchids.

### 10 Deep Dale and Topley Pike SSSI

GRID REF SK10457206

Wye Dale car park, SK17 9TE

A spectacular dale where you can admire the abundance of wild flowers. Look for the deep pink blooms of bloody crane's-bill and take a peek in the cave.

### Wye Valley Reserves

GRID REF SK13807326

Miller's Dale car park, SK17 8SN is a great place to start your adventure.

The Wye Valley is home to a string of nature reserves. Discover limestone dales, quarries and ancient woodlands bursting with wild flowers and birdsong in the summer. All along the Monsal Trail, these are perfect a full day's walk, a short stroll or a pit stop whilst on a bike ride.

### [11] Chee Dale SSSI

### [12] Miller's Dale Quarry SSSI

### [13] Priestcliffe Lees SSSI

### [14] Cramside Wood SSSI

### 15 Duckmanton Railway Cutting SSSI

S44 5DN, GRID REF SK42397037

Rocks and fossils give this reserve geological interest, while grassland flowers attract a variety of butterflies.

### 16 Carr Vale

S44 6GA for the Peter Fidler car park or GRID REF SK45917022

One of the best birdwatching sites in Derbyshire. There is plenty to see all year round, from wigeon, teal and wintering ducks to breeding warblers, waders and sand martins in the summer. It's also a great place to see dragonflies and you can walk through a reedbed!



Fly agaric  
Elliott Neep

**17 The Avenue Washlands** ★

S42 6NG for the Mill Lane entrance or  
GRID REF SK39666705

The Avenue Washlands consists of reedbed, marsh, ponds and grassland, which attract many birds such as tufted duck, wigeon, snipe and little grebe as well as skylarks, yellowhammer and nesting warblers. Water voles, great crested newts and dragonflies have also made their homes here.

**18 Rowsley Sidings**

DE4 2LF, GRID REF SK26056490

Wild flowers and invertebrates abound in this small wet woodland.

**19 North Wingfield**

GRID REF SK404643

Harvest mice live in the grasslands and wetlands here.

**20 Hartington Meadows** ★

GRID REF SK14936094

Hartington Station car park, SK17 0AZ

Close to the Tissington Trail, these meadows are full of wild flowers in early summer. From traditional haymeadow flowers such as yellow rattle to limestone species such as fragrant orchid, the plants attract a range of insects including butterflies and day-flying moths such as the chimney sweeper moth.

**21 Hopton Quarry SSSI** 🏠

GRID REF SK26095624 or DE4 4HE

A former quarry renowned for its orchids and butterflies.

**22 Rose End Meadows SSSI** ★

DE4 3QD for the St Mark's Close entrance or  
GRID REF SK29235659

These special meadows have never been treated with artificial fertiliser or herbicide and they create a vivid picture of how Derbyshire's limestone farmland looked around a hundred years ago. The reserve is full of wild flowers through spring and summer, from buttercups and bluebells to orchids and great burnet.

**23 Gang Mine SSSI**

GRID REF SK23645553

Off Porter Lane, DE4 4FT or park at the  
National Stone Centre car park

Explore this little reserve and look for specialist lead-tolerant flowers and glow worms!

**24 Derwentside**

GRID REF SK32645536

Adjacent to Cromford Canal – view from  
footpath only

Wild daffodils, wood anemones and other woodland flowers flourish in this reserve.

**25 Lea Wood** ★

GRID REF SK31835623 or DE4 5AE

High Peak Junction car park

Ancient semi-natural woodland, good for bluebells in spring. Home to northern wood ants and excellent for fungi in autumn.

**26 Cromford Canal LNR/SSSI**

GRID REF SK34805196

Cromford Wharf car park, DE4 3RQ

This former working waterway is rich in wildlife, including dragonflies, grass snakes and water voles.



Nuthatch at  
Mapperley Wood

Paul Shaw

**27 Oakerthorpe LNR**

GRID REF SK390553

Anchor Inn, DE55 7LP

Frogs, toads and grass snakes are among the many species to be found on this small nature reserve.

**28 Wyver Lane**

GRID REF SK34464920 or DE56 2EF

Park in layby

An important wetland reserve, home to otter and good for birdwatching. Permit needed for bird hide.

**29 Holly Wood**

GRID REF SK17404311 or DE6 2DQ

Visit this woodland in spring to see bluebells.

**30 Erewash Meadows** ★

GRID REF SK44654959 or NG16 5PR

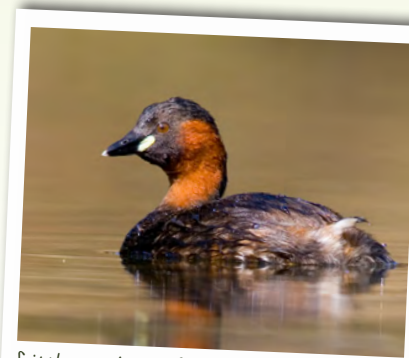
On the Nottinghamshire border, this reserve forms part of the largest area of floodplain grasslands and wetlands in the Erewash Valley. Best known for the birds that visit, the reserve is also home to grass snakes, amphibians, dragonflies and water voles.

**31 Mapperley Wood** ★

GRID REF SK43574360

Mapperley Reservoir car park,  
DE7 6BR, Boat Lane

The narrow belt of woodland and acid grassland glade is a glorious carpet of bluebells in spring and as summer approaches it bursts with birdsong. Permit required for bird hide.



Little grebe - found  
at Cromford Canal

Tom Marshall

**32 Woodside Farm** ★

DE75 7JL for the Pit Lane entrance  
or GRID REF SK44954398

The Trust's farm is home to many farmland birds, wild flowers including orchids, invertebrates, brown hares and water voles.

A great day out to see farming and conservation working hand-in-hand. Do a spot of pond dipping and follow an art trail.

**33 Morley Brickyards SSSI**

GRID REF SK38914180 or DE7 6DF

Flooded former clay pits providing refuge for amphibians and water violet.

**34 Risley Glebe**

GRID REF SK46113586 or DE72 3SR

A small reserve with over 150 plants including cowslips and some scarce ones.

**35 Barton Pool**

GRID REF SK504331 – view from path

This small wetland reserve is important for its insects, especially hoverflies, and its old pollard willows.

**36 Golden Brook Storage Lagoon** 🏠

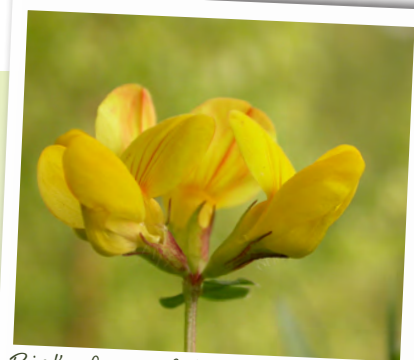
GRID REF SK46873334 or DE72 3AQ

A small reserve with lots of wildlife including wetland birds, butterflies and wild flowers.

**37 Lock Lane Ash Tip** 🏠

GRID REF SK48233168

Scrubland birds, moths and butterflies are the highlights of this former ash tip.



Bird's-foot trefoil found at  
Hartington Meadows

Philip Precey

**38 Hilton Gravel Pits SSSI** ★

GRID REF SK25363134

Willowpit Lane, DE65 5FW

Great crested newts and black poplar trees are among the species that find a safe haven at Hilton. The reserve is also a good place for dragonflies, with 14 species recorded here. Common twayblade, southern marsh orchids and fungi also grow here among the wet woodland.

**39 Willington Gravel Pits** ★

GRID REF SK29132761 or DE65 6YB

The former gravel quarry at Willington is teeming with bird life all year round, from ducks in winter to sand martins and common terns among others in summer. Dragonflies and damselflies are plentiful here too. Permit needed for bird hide.

**40 Witches Oak Water** 🏠

GRID REF SK43972957

Shardlow Quarry, Aston Lane

A large wetland site with open pools. Perfect for dragonflies and wintering duck. Group visiting only, contact us for more details.

**41 Drakelow** 🏠 ★

GRID REF SK22392043

Park inside the grounds of the  
former power station, DE15 9TE

A haven for birdwatchers in the Trent Valley. From tantalising glimpses of bittern in winter to large numbers of cormorants, ducks, waders and birds of prey. There are five hides, an education hide and pond dipping platforms as well as a nature trail! Visit early for the chance to see bird ringing.

**42 Carvers Rocks SSSI**

GRID REF SK33262265

Limited parking in the layby on  
A514 Ticknall Road, DE73 7JP

One of the last lowland heath habitats with marsh violets, bluebells, hazel coppice and plenty of birds.

**43 Spring Wood SSSI** 🏠

GRID REF SK37822201 or park at Severn

Trent car park at the southern end of the  
reservoir, LE65 1RN

Mixed woodland carpeted with bluebells in spring. Hides provide views over Staunton Harold Reservoir. Permit only.

Please note: the map only provides approximate locations.

Visit our website:

- For directions and parking information (Please note, postcodes are for the general area)
- For more species and habitat information
- For mobility access information

SSSI – Site of Special Scientific Interest

LNR – Local Nature Reserve

🏠 Some of our reserves require a permit so we can ensure precious wildlife is protected. Give us a call to request one.

★ Star Reserves – These are wonderful places to see wildlife

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