



# Wildlife habitats for you to explore

The special conditions that plants and animals, birds and insects need to thrive successfully are called **wildlife habitats**. Discover Peak District wildlife and habitats with this guide.

## Woodlands



Pied Flycatcher: RSPB

Forest covered much of the Peak District until people cut down the trees to make farmland and homes. But a few patches of ancient woodland remain, mostly in steep-sided valleys. You'll find some of the finest **ash** woodlands in Europe on the White Peak dalesides. **Sycamore, wych elm** and **hazel** grow here too. **Spring flowers** thrive on the light in ash woodlands, because ash leaves come late and form quite an open canopy. **Oak** and **birch** dominate the upland woodlands you'll see in the cloughs (valleys) of the Dark and South West Peak. Padley Gorge and Coombes Valley are glorious examples. Visit in spring for the **bluebells** and autumn for all sorts of **fungi**. Listen out for the many bird species such as **pie d flycatcher** and look out for the nests of the scarce **northern wood ant**.



Bluebell Wood: NT

## Rivers and streams



Wolscot Dale: David Slade NT

In the Dark and South West Peak there are small upland streams that flow down through cloughs, joining rivers in the lower valleys. Upland stream plant life is sparse. The White Peak rivers are rich in plant life, with carpets of **watercress** and **crowfoot**. Some provide a home to the rare **white-clawed crayfish**. Many of these water courses are seasonal and only flow when there's plenty of rain. Fish in the White and South West Peak upland streams include **bullhead** and **brook lamprey**. If you're lucky you might see a water vole. This endangered species lives in many Peak District waters.



Water Vole & Chaffinch: Matthew Capper RSPB

## Dew ponds



Dew pond: Emma Mortimer

Before piped water, people dug ponds for water for livestock. They are a valuable habitat for many aquatic plants, invertebrates and amphibians - especially **great crested newts**, Britain's largest and rarest newt. Look out for circular stone or concrete-lined ponds in fields on the limestone.

## Carnivorous plants



Sundew: Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

Two rare insect-eating plants live in the Peak District, the **sundew** (at Longshaw) and the **butterwort** (at Monk's Dale, Wye Valley). Their sticky leaves trap and curl round insects, secrete digestive enzymes and absorb the insect juices - so these plants can thrive in nutrient-poor soils.

## North meets South

Wildlife north meets wildlife south in the Peak District, and many species are at their geographical limit. The **stemless thistle** cannot live much further north. The globe flower is not found further south. Climate change will therefore have an impact on the region.



Stemless Thistle: Natural England

# PEAK HABITATS

## Moorlands



Roaches: NT

Moorlands provide a mosaic of habitats in the uplands of the Dark and South West Peak. Here life is harsh and plants can only grow low. **Heather** and acidic grasslands dominate the drier land. Where it is wetter, peat accumulates and **cotton grass** and **mosses** grow. Plants such as **cloudberry** and **cranberry** thrive in the wet flushes, blanket bogs, scrub, streams and gritstone edges. The bogs are **carbons sinks** - as important as tropical rainforest for removing carbon pollution from the air.

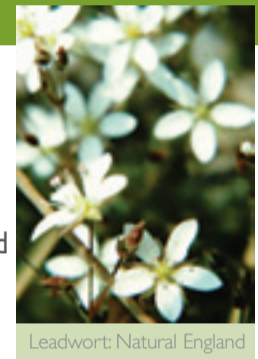


Mountain Hare: D Whiteley

Keep your eyes peeled for **mountain hare** and **water voles**. England's only **mountain hares** live in the Peak District moors. They are smaller than **brown hares** and in winter their coats turn white to blend in with snow-covered terrain. The abundant birdlife includes **red grouse**, **curlew**, **ring ouzel**, **golden plover**, **merlin**, **hen harrier** and **short-eared owls**.

## Industrial habitats

When our ancestors excavated for lead and limestone they inadvertently created rich habitats. Miners discarded their waste on spoil heaps. This created unique habitats for **metalophytes** (metal-tolerant plants). Look out for **mountain pansy**, one of the best-known metalophytes. You might see **spring sandwort** too, known locally as **leadwort**. Only plants that can survive on poor, thin soils are able to inhabit the disused limestone quarries of the White Peak. Plants like **fairy flax**, **eyebright** and many **orchid** species slowly colonize old quarries, bringing colour and beauty to places people left grey and scarred. Birds nest on the narrow ledges.



Leadwort Natural England



Orchid: Mark Hamblin DWT

## Grasslands



Pyramid Orchid: Natural England

Grasslands vary as habitats, according to the pH of the soil and whether they are managed for grazing or as hay meadow. In the calcareous (alkaline) limestone dales of the White Peak, you'll see **orchids**, **rock rose** and **small scabious**.

Look out for some of the rich insect life such as the orange and black coloured **dark green fritillary** butterfly, rare moths and beetles.

In the Dark and South West Peak acidic grasslands, look out for **heath bedstraw** and **tormentil**. Neutral grasslands are found throughout the Peak District, with species such as **knapped** and **oxeye daisy**. **Yellow hay rattle**, **knapped** and **meadow buttercup** colour the hay meadows. The unimproved grazing grasslands are rich in invertebrates and nesting birds like **lapwings** and **skylarks**.

**Meadow ants** and harmless, snake-like **slow worms** are ground dwellers. You might even see a **hare**.

Dark Green Fritillary: Derbyshire Wildlife Trust



# Wildlife Wonders

Welcome to the Peak District! A unique place of stunning landscapes and an abundance of wildlife. In 1951 it became Britain's first National Park.

Human history and far older geological forces have created the land you see today. Tropical seas, river deltas, volcanoes and ice ages, farming, mining and quarrying all played their part in forging this varied landscape.

Different plants and animals need different conditions to live and that affects where you will find the wildlife of the Peaks. We suggest 8 magnificent locations where you can experience for yourself the wildlife contrasts between the high gritstone Dark Peak, the lower limestone White Peak and the South West Peak's

diverse landscape. All are easily accessible by public transport details of which you can find by ringing Traveline on 0870 608 2608.

More information on each location and habitat can be found on [www.peak-experience.org.uk](http://www.peak-experience.org.uk)



Barn Owl: Matthew Capper RSPB

## Wildlife Contacts

Contact these organizations for more information about nature reserves and guided wildlife walks in the Peak District

**Derbyshire Wildlife Trust**  
Tel: 01773 881188  
[www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk)  
**Staffordshire Wildlife Trust**  
Tel: 01889 880100  
[www.staffordshirewildlife.org.uk](http://www.staffordshirewildlife.org.uk)  
**RSPB Coombes Valley**  
Tel: 01538 384017  
[www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)  
**Natural England**  
Tel: 01629 816640  
[eastmidlands@naturalengland.org.uk](http://eastmidlands@naturalengland.org.uk)

**Carsington Water**  
Tel: 01629 540696  
[www.stwater.co.uk](http://www.stwater.co.uk)  
**Tittesworth Reservoir**  
Tel: 01538 300400  
[www.stwater.co.uk](http://www.stwater.co.uk)  
**National Trust High Peak and Longshaw Estate**  
Tel: 01433 670368  
[www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)  
**Peak District National Park Authority**  
Tel: 01629 816200  
[www.peakdistrict.gov.uk](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk)  
**Plantlife**  
Tel: 01722 342730  
[www.plantlife.org.uk](http://www.plantlife.org.uk)

## Visitor Centres

**Ashbourne** 13 Market Place, DE6 1EU Tel: 01335 343666  
Email: [ashbourneinfo@derbyshiredales.gov.uk](mailto:ashbourneinfo@derbyshiredales.gov.uk)

**Bakewell** Old Market Hall, Bridge Street, DE45 1DS  
Tel: 01629 813227 Email: [bakewell@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:bakewell@peakdistrict.gov.uk)

**Buxton** The Crescent, SK17 6BQ Tel: 01298 25106  
Email: [tourism@highpeak.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@highpeak.gov.uk)

**Castleton** Buxton Road, S33 8WN Tel: 01433 620679  
Email: [castleton@derbyshirewildlife.org.uk](mailto:castleton@derbyshirewildlife.org.uk)

**Edale** Main Street, S33 7HA Tel: 01433 670207  
Email: [edale@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:edale@peakdistrict.gov.uk)

**Glossop Heritage & Information Centre** Henry Street, Glossop, Derbyshire, SK13 8BW Tel: 01457 855920 Email: [info@glossoptouristcentre.co.uk](mailto:info@glossoptouristcentre.co.uk)

**Leek** 1 Market Place, ST13 5HH Tel: 01538 483741  
Email: [tourism.services@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk](mailto:tourism.services@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk)

**Matlock** Crown Square, DE4 3AT Tel: 01629 583388  
Email: [matlockinfo@derbyshiredales.gov.uk](mailto:matlockinfo@derbyshiredales.gov.uk)

**Matlock Bath** The Pavilion, DE4 3NR Tel: 01629 55082  
Email: [matlockbathinfo@derbyshiredales.gov.uk](mailto:matlockbathinfo@derbyshiredales.gov.uk)

**Upper Derwent Valley** Derwent Bamford, S33 0AQ  
Tel: 01433 650953

Written: Emma Mortimer Photos: Matthew Capper (RSPB), Joe Cornish (NT), Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, English Nature, Mark Hamblin (DWT), A. Moffett, Emma Mortimer, National Trust, North East Wildlife, RSPB, Severn Trent Water, David Slade, David Taylor, David Tolliday, D. Worland Design: [www.hammerdesign.co.uk](http://www.hammerdesign.co.uk) Printed with vegetable dye inks on recycled paper

## Rivendale Caravan Park

Buxton Road, Alsop-le-Dale, Derbyshire DE6 1QU  
Tel: 01335 310311  
Email: [greg@rivendalecaravanpark.co.uk](mailto:greg@rivendalecaravanpark.co.uk)  
[www.rivendalecaravanpark.co.uk](http://www.rivendalecaravanpark.co.uk)

Ideal for cycling & rambling on trails & footpaths leading directly from site. A nature trail through the wild flowers & orchids also on site. Meet the amphibians with our 2 ponds.



## Litton Village Shop

Th Old Smithy, Litton, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 8QX  
Contact: Carol Millington  
Tel: 01298 872881

A community run shop, selling groceries, logs, coal, homemade cards & sweets. Book exchange and Post Office services.



## Ye Olde Nag's Head

Cross Street, Castleton, Hope Valley, Derbyshire S33 8WH  
Contact: Nigel Reid  
Tel: 01433 620248  
Email: [nigel@yeoldenagshhead.com](mailto:nigel@yeoldenagshhead.com)  
[www.yeoldenagshhead.com](http://www.yeoldenagshhead.com)

Traditional, family-run 17th century Inn. Four-posters & jacuzzis available. Delicious home-cooked food, cosy bar with real fire, excellent real ales. Leave your car & head for the hills. Secure cycle storage. Parking.



## Bamford Post Office

Blackshaw Moor, Blackshaw Grange, Staffordshire ST13 8TL  
Contact: Brian Barker  
Tel: 08451 307633  
(no calls after 8pm, please)  
[www.campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk](http://www.campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk)

This open all year site is set in 6 acres and is an ideal base to enjoy the beautiful Peak District, Staffordshire Moorlands & the Potteries.

## Essential For Wellbeing

Carsington Water Visitor Centre, Big Lane, Nr Ashbourne DE6 1ST  
Contact: Mike Wakeman  
Tel: 01629 540871  
Mobile: 07881 821424  
[www.essentialforwellbeing.co.uk](http://www.essentialforwellbeing.co.uk)

We offer a comprehensive selection of all things natural to ensure your health & wellbeing. We sell organic & fairtrade foods, vitamins, minerals & supplements alongside bodycare & sports activity products. A large selection of products for people with special dietary needs is also available.

## Breach Farm B&B

Carsington, Nr Matlock Derbyshire DE4 4DD  
Contact: Mrs Michelle Wilson  
Tel: 01629 540265  
Email: [breachfarm@carsington.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:breachfarm@carsington.fsnet.co.uk)  
[www.breachfarm.co.uk](http://www.breachfarm.co.uk)

Accommodation in self-contained wing of beamed farmhouse, overlooking Carsington Water.



## Leek Camping & Caravanning

Apesford, Bradnop, Leek, Staffordshire ST13 7EX  
Contact: Susan & Paul Rowbottom  
Tel: 01538 382839  
Mobile: 07833 971090  
Email: [susan@middlefarmbandb.co.uk](mailto:susan@middlefarmbandb.co.uk)  
[www.middlefarmbandb.co.uk](http://www.middlefarmbandb.co.uk)

Recently renovated stone farm buildings, set within grounds you are free to explore.

## Three Horseshoes Inn

Buxton Road, Blackshaw Moor, Leek, Staffordshire ST13 8TW  
Contact: S Goldstran  
Tel: 01538 300296  
Email: [enquiries@threehosesin.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@threehosesin.co.uk)  
[www.threehosesin.co.uk](http://www.threehosesin.co.uk)

Family-run Inn and Country Hotel with luxury rooms, carvery, brasserie & facilities for conferences & private functions.

## Storehouse Gift Shop

Carsington Water Visitor Centre, Big Lane, Nr Ashbourne DE6 1ST  
Contact: Anne Dutton  
Tel: 01629 540696  
[www.stwater.co.uk/carsington](http://www.stwater.co.uk/carsington)

The gift shop is attached to the main reception with a large range of merchandise; toys, cards, glassware, jewellery souvenirs, optical range & small selection of food.



## Middle Farm B&B

Apesford, Bradnop, Leek, Staffordshire ST13 7EX  
Contact: Susan & Paul Rowbottom  
Tel: 01538 382839  
Mobile: 07833 971090  
Email: [susan@middlefarmbandb.co.uk](mailto:susan@middlefarmbandb.co.uk)  
[www.middlefarmbandb.co.uk](http://www.middlefarmbandb.co.uk)

Recently renovated stone farm buildings, set within grounds you are free to explore.

## Three Horseshoes Inn

Buxton Road, Blackshaw Moor, Leek, Staffordshire ST13 8TW  
Contact: S Goldstran  
Tel: 01538 300296  
Email: [enquiries@threehosesin.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@threehosesin.co.uk)  
[www.threehosesin.co.uk](http://www.threehosesin.co.uk)

Family-run Inn and Country Hotel with luxury rooms, carvery, brasserie & facilities for conferences & private functions.

## The Old School Tearooms

Hollow Lane, Cheddleton, Nr Leek, Staffordshire ST13 7HP  
Contact: Carol O'Neill & Bill Tomkinson  
Tel: 01538 360340  
Mobile: 07971 815933  
[www.theoldschooltearooms.co.uk](http://www.theoldschooltearooms.co.uk)

Team room located in old school room, built in 1855, specialising in home cooked meals, daily specials & Sunday lunches. Craft room selling local crafts.



## Causeway House Crafts

Back Street, Castleton, Hope Valley Derbyshire S33 8WE  
Contact: Roger Vincent  
Tel: 01433 620343  
Email: [rog.vincent@virgin.net](mailto:rog.vincent@virgin.net)  
[www.cinnamon-bear.co.uk](http://www.cinnamon-bear.co.uk)

Castleton's largest gift shop, large range of books, cards & much more including the Cinnamon Bear Coffee Shop

## High Peak Garden Centre

Hope Road, Bamford S33 0AL  
Contact: Edward Proctor  
Tel: 01433 651484  
Email: [gymor@hpgc.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:gymor@hpgc.wanadoo.co.uk)

Family-run garden centre with independent retailers including on site cafe, antiques, outdoor clothing, aquatics & furniture. Stocks a full range of garden plants & sundries.

## Stonecroft Country Guesthouse

Grindsbrook, Edale, Hope Valley Derbyshire S33 7ZA  
Contact: Julia Reid  
Tel: 01433 670262  
Email: [stonecroftdale@btconnect.com](mailto:stonecroftdale@btconnect.com)  
[www.stonecroftguesthouse.co.uk](http://www.stonecroftguesthouse.co.uk)

A charming, period country residence with an emphasis on elegance & comfort throughout, where you can enjoy a taste of old fashioned hospitality not often seen today.



Traditional, family-run 17th century Inn. Four-posters & jacuzzis available. Delicious home-cooked food, cosy bar with real fire, excellent real ales. Leave your car & head for the hills. Secure cycle storage. Parking.

Accommodation in self-contained wing of beamed farmhouse, overlooking Carsington Water.

The gift shop is attached to the main reception with a large range of merchandise; toys, cards, glassware, jewellery souvenirs, optical range & small selection of food.

Family-run garden centre with independent retailers including on site cafe, antiques, outdoor clothing, aquatics & furniture. Stocks a full range of garden plants & sundries.

A charming, period country residence with an emphasis on elegance & comfort throughout, where you can enjoy a taste of old fashioned hospitality not often seen today.

Team room located in old school room, built in 1855, specialising in home cooked meals, daily specials & Sunday lunches. Craft room selling local crafts.

Family-run Inn and Country Hotel with luxury rooms, carvery, brasserie & facilities for conferences & private functions.

Family-run garden centre with independent retailers including on site cafe, antiques, outdoor clothing, aquatics & furniture. Stocks a full range of garden plants & sundries.

A charming, period country residence with an emphasis on elegance & comfort throughout, where you can enjoy a taste of old fashioned hospitality not often seen today.

Team room located in old school room, built in 1855, specialising in home cooked meals, daily specials & Sunday lunches. Craft room selling local crafts.

Family-run Inn and Country Hotel with luxury rooms, carvery, brasserie & facilities for conferences & private functions.

Family-run garden centre with independent retailers including on site cafe, antiques, outdoor clothing, aquatics & furniture. Stocks a full range of garden plants & sundries.

A charming, period country residence with an emphasis on elegance & comfort throughout, where you can enjoy a taste of old fashioned hospitality not often seen today.

Team room located in old school room, built in 1855, specialising in home cooked meals, daily specials & Sunday lunches. Craft room selling local crafts.

Family-run Inn and Country Hotel with luxury rooms, carvery, brasserie & facilities for conferences & private functions.

Family-run garden centre with independent retailers including on site cafe, antiques, outdoor clothing, aquatics & furniture. Stocks a full range of garden plants & sundries.

A charming, period country residence with an emphasis on elegance & comfort throughout, where you can enjoy a taste of old fashioned hospitality not often seen today.

Team room located in old school room, built in 1855, specialising in home cooked meals, daily specials & Sunday lunches. Craft room selling local crafts.

Family-run Inn and Country Hotel with luxury rooms, carvery, brasserie & facilities for conferences & private functions.

Family-run garden centre with independent retailers including on site cafe, antiques, outdoor clothing, aquatics & furniture. Stocks a full range of garden plants & sundries.

A charming, period country residence with an emphasis on elegance & comfort throughout, where you can enjoy a taste of old fashioned hospitality not often seen today.

Team room located in old school room, built in 1855, specialising in home cooked meals, daily specials & Sunday lunches. Craft room selling local crafts.

Family-run Inn and Country Hotel with luxury rooms, carvery, brasserie & facilities for conferences & private functions.

Family-run garden centre with independent retailers including on site cafe, antiques, outdoor clothing, aquatics & furniture. Stocks a full range of garden plants & sundries.

A charming, period country residence with an emphasis on elegance & comfort throughout, where you can enjoy a taste of old fashioned hospitality not often seen today.

Team room located in old school room, built in 1855, specialising in home cooked meals, daily specials & Sunday lunches. Craft room selling local crafts.

Family-run Inn and Country Hotel with luxury rooms, carvery, brasserie & facilities for conferences & private functions.

Family-run garden centre with independent retailers including on site cafe, antiques, outdoor clothing, aquatics & furniture. Stocks a full range of garden plants & sundries.

A charming, period country residence with an emphasis on elegance & comfort throughout, where you can enjoy a taste of old fashioned hospitality not often seen today.

Team room located in old school room, built in 1855, specialising in home cooked meals, daily specials & Sunday lunches. Craft room selling local crafts.

Family-run Inn and Country Hotel with luxury rooms, carvery, brasserie & facilities for conferences & private functions.

Family-run garden centre with independent retailers including on site cafe, antiques, outdoor clothing, aquatics & furniture. Stocks a full range of garden plants & sundries.

A charming, period country residence with an emphasis on elegance & comfort throughout, where you can enjoy a taste of old fashioned hospitality not often seen today.

Team room located in old school room, built in 1855, specialising in home cooked meals, daily specials & Sunday lunches. Craft room selling local crafts.

Family-run Inn and Country Hotel with luxury rooms, carvery, brasserie & facilities for conferences & private functions.