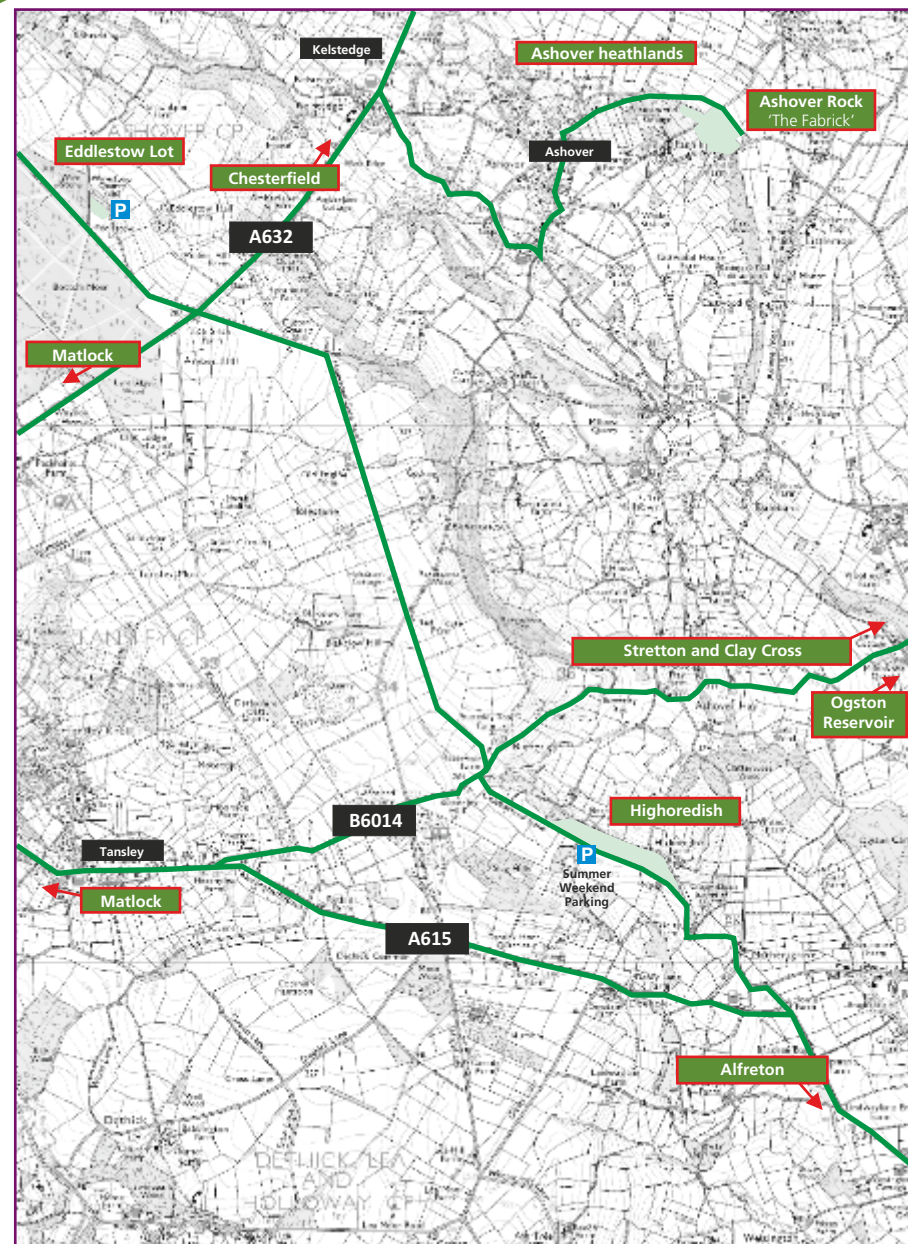


Ashover's heathlands



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Looking after our heathland wildlife

There's a wealth of wildlife you can find on the heathlands, including:

Bats

Various bats live around heathlands eating some of the many insects that thrive in these areas.

Brown hare

As well as providing food, heathlands are important places for the brown hare to hide from predators during the day. The brown hare does not dig a burrow, like a rabbit, but relies on camouflage and stealth.

Song thrush

The song thrush likes to eat berries, bugs and snails and there is no shortage of these on heathlands.

Reptiles

The common lizard, slow worm and grass snake like to live in a well-drained, sunny habitat with plenty of insects to eat.

Small heath butterfly

This species prefers a dry environment where it lays each egg on a single blade of grass.



Volunteering

Would you like to help care for your countryside? There are plenty of opportunities to help manage the countryside. Tools and training provided. For more information Call Derbyshire on **01629 533190**.

Other heathlands to explore

If you have enjoyed exploring the heathlands at Ashover, there are other heathland walks in Derbyshire to try.

The Midshire's Way links several heathland sites together on the ridge above the Derwent Valley. The walk starts at Duffield then leads you along the high gritstone ridge of the Chevin, near Belper. Firestone Hill with its rich heathland is just to the north. Continue on the Midshire's Way for a few miles and you will reach the heathlands of Alderwasley Park.

And there is a lovely walk from Cromford to Matlock Bath which takes you along Hearthstone Lane and Bilberry Knoll, near Riber.

Leaflets on these walks are available free from Call Derbyshire on **01629 533190**.

Discover Ashover's heathlands



Discover Ashover's heathlands

Heathlands are great places to visit.

We own three heathland sites near Ashover which you can explore. Here you can enjoy interesting wildlife and stunning views over the Derbyshire countryside.



Ashover Rock

Ashover Rock, or the Fabrick as it's also known locally, is close to the village of Ashover. There are great views of the surrounding countryside and you can easily find it by following paths from Ashover, or from Alton Lane.

Feel free to wander wherever you like at Ashover Rock - this site has formal open access land designation which means that you have the right to roam. The brown person disc (right) shows that this land has open access.



Eddlestow Lot

This small heathland is on the site of the old Wirestone Quarry. There is a car park and picnic site from which you can explore the local area. You can also walk on many of the Forestry Commission owned woodland paths nearby.

You can find Eddlestow Lot off the A632 Matlock to Chesterfield road, near the top of Slack Hill. The car park is off Robridging Road.

Highoredish Quarry

High up on a ridge, there are stunning views over Ogston Reservoir from Highoredish. On a clear day, you can see Lincoln Cathedral - although you will need binoculars! Circular walks are marked from the car park.

The car park is only open at weekends between Easter and October, although you can use the site all year. The car park can be opened for walking groups by contacting us on **01629 823204**.

Highoredish is on the north side of Coldharbour Lane which joins the B6014 Tansley to Stretton Road.



Feel free to wander wherever you like at Highoredish - this site has formal open access land designation, so you have the right to roam.

Preserving our heritage

Over the next few years we are going to restore more than 17 acres (that's the equivalent of 9.5 Wembley football pitches) of heathland around Ashover. We want to make sure that these heathlands are not lost forever.

We need to make sure that trees, shrubs and bracken don't take over the heather, bilberry and gorse. So we will be chopping down some trees in some areas and spraying the bracken to stop it growing.

We will also be mowing some of the heather so it re-grows offering shelter to different bugs, beasts and animals. Wood will also be stacked into piles to provide homes for insects.

We have had some money from the SITA Trust to pay for this work. The Trust is a funding organisation that supports community and environmental improvement projects.

Heathlands are important habitats for a variety of wildlife. They are often found near sandstone rock on sandy soil. Much more of our countryside used to be covered by heathland, but over the years a lot of it has been lost. There are only 200 acres (that's the equivalent of 113 Wembley football pitches) left in Derbyshire, outside the Peak District National Park, and we need to make sure we preserve what is left.

Heathlands are similar to moors but, in Derbyshire, are generally smaller, scattered areas. For more information on moors and what is being done to save these important areas visit **www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk**

Looking after our heathland wildlife

We play a lead role in making sure we look after a wide variety of wildlife and the habitats they live in. We are trying to protect several key species at Ashover. We need to make sure that they have a chance to thrive - we don't want to lose them.

For more information about our partnership and biodiversity plans go to **www.derbyshirebiodiversity.org.uk**.

