



Redstart

Fied and spotted flycatcher, redstart and willow and garden warbler breed in the woods. These migrant species are considered to be threatened because of their national scarcity and recent declines in population numbers. They require a diversity of high quality woodland habitats in order to breed successfully in the woodlands including open spaces, a rich under-storey of shrubs and nesting sites.

WOODLAND BIRDS

Red deer are found throughout the valley but concentrated in areas where the woodlands provide cover and shelter. They venture out into the surrounding grasslands to feed where they can sometimes be seen particularly at dawn and dusk. Deer are important in keeping valuable clearings open in the woodland but when the population is too high they can damage the shrub layer and ground flora in the woodland and prevent tree regeneration.

RED DEER



Red deer

VISITORS AND LOCAL PEOPLE

The project is also looking for people who are interested in getting involved in wildlife surveys, practical conservation action, historical research and interpretation projects. For more information visit: www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/biodiversity/action-for-wildlife/action-for-habitats/dane-valley-woodlands

If you would like to visit the woods; two long distance paths pass through the woodlands - the Dane Valley Way and Gritstone Way in addition to a number of other footpaths. Suggested local walking routes can be found on the Wincle website: www.wincle.org.uk/walks.html



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Ecosystem services is a term used to describe the benefits supplied by natural habitats and landscapes. Woodlands are important as a carbon 'sink' so playing a role in the mitigation of climate change. They are also important in flood and pollution control providing a buffer between the streams and river. This is particularly significant because the Dane is used to supply water to over 85,000 people in Cheshire and downstream of the Peak District, is recognized as a flood-prone catchment.

ECO-SYSTEM SERVICES

Field boundaries provide important links between the woodlands particularly where these include hedgerows and trees. In some locations these include ancient trees, commonly oak but sometimes crab apple, which themselves provide an important habitat for other wildlife including bats and fungi.

FIELD BOUNDARIES AND VETERAN TREES



Willow Warbler

WOODLAND OWNERS

The Peak District National Park Authority is encouraging landowners to adopt positive woodland management practices and to create new woodlands. It is also involved in a programme of awareness raising and education amongst all sectors of the population.

The Forestry Commission offers enhanced grant rates within the English Woodland Grant Scheme for woodland management designed to enhance the habitat for threatened woodland birds. Woodland Creation grants are also available to encourage extensions and linkages to the existing woodlands for biodiversity and landscape benefit and to reduce the chances of downstream flooding in the future. For further information see: www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infid-6dccn

Natural England can also support woodland maintenance and management through Environmental Stewardship. For further information see: www.naturalengland.gov.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/es/default.aspx

Through the Dane Valley Woodlands Project the Peak District National Park Authority can offer advice on woodland management and creation, and help with applications to both Environmental Stewardship and the English Woodland Grant Scheme. Please contact **Rebekah Newman** on **01629 816397** or **07890 274653** or email: rebekah.newman@peakdistrict.gov.uk

In some locations even though the native trees have been replaced with a commercial timber tree (such as larch, or in the late 18th or 19th century beech and oak) the ground flora is still rich.

Most of the woodlands are considered to be ancient with a history going back many hundreds of years. The oak and birch trees are complemented by a range of other trees and shrubs including rowan, holly, crab apple, hazel, and in the wetter areas, alder and goat willow. The ground flora includes species such as wood anemone, wood sorrel, bluebell, yellow archangel and greater woodrush which are considered to be indicators of the ancient origin of the woods.

ANCIENT WOODLANDS

Within the Peak District National Park the River Dane and its tributaries tumble south westwards from the gritstone uplands of the South-West Peak through steep sided valleys lined with native oak and birch woodlands. These woods are rich in a wide range of tree and shrub species and in woodland birds, bats and insects. They are also home to a herd of red deer. The woodlands are an important element in the landscape of the Dane Valley framing the views, filtering the light and fringing the villages. They also play an important role in the lives of local people and in the experiences they provide for visitors to the National Park.



THE DANE VALLEY WOODLANDS



Woodlands from Bosley Cloud

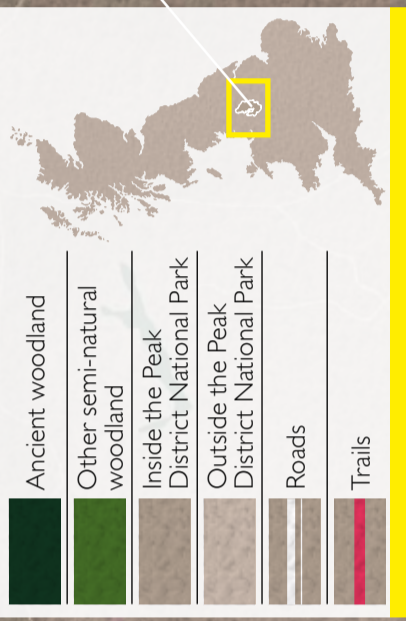
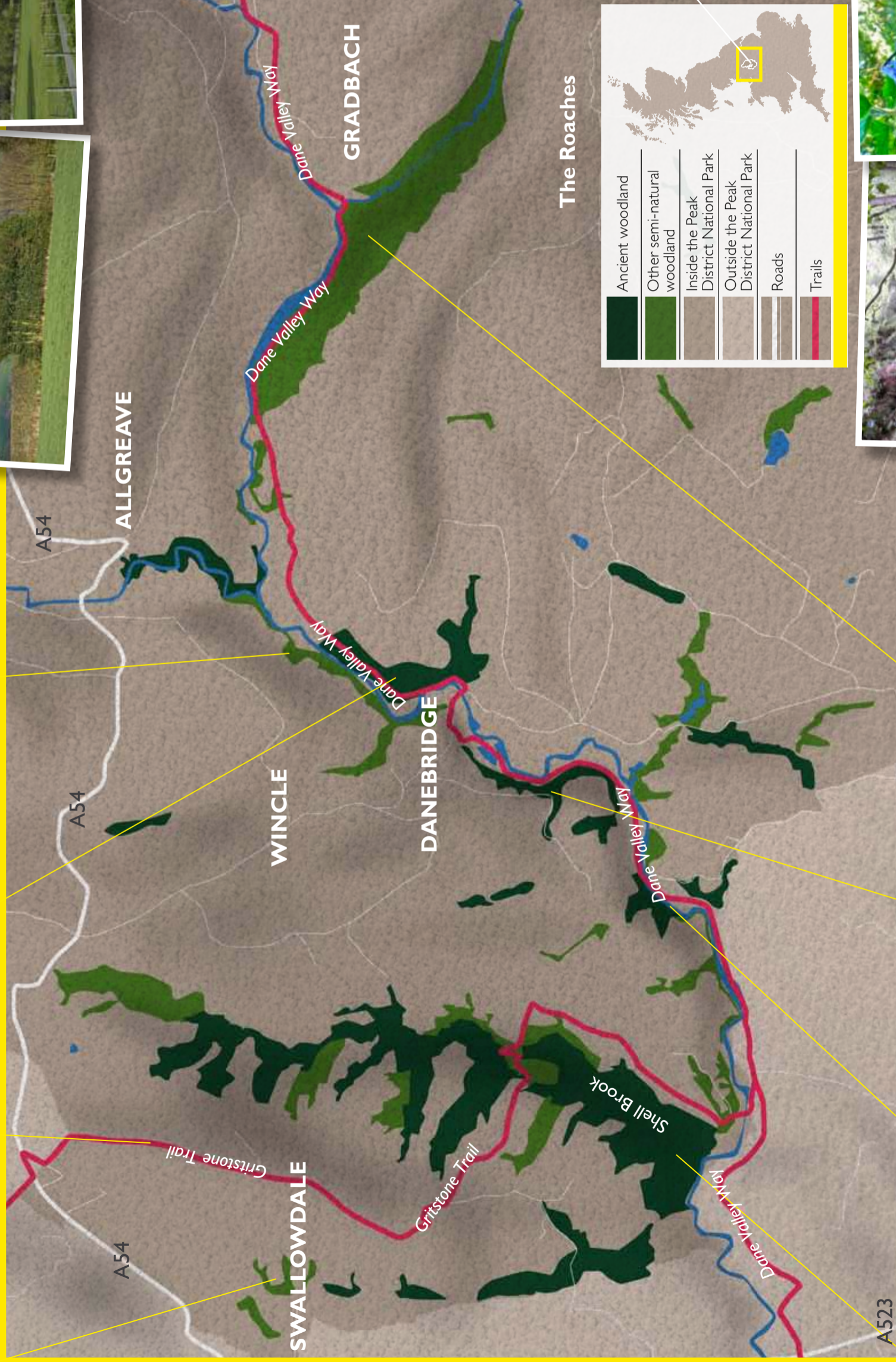
PEAK DISTRICT OAK/BIRCH WOODLANDS

Semi-natural woodland dominated by oak and/or birch was probably one of the most common habitats over much of the Peak District prior to woodland clearance by prehistoric people. Today it is largely confined to cloughs and valley-sides in the Dark and South-West Peak where it is the main woodland type. Small fragments of wet or ash woodland are present along flushes and on the lower slopes and clough bottoms, contributing significantly to their wildlife value.

Nationally, upland semi-natural woods have declined by about 30 - 40% over the last 60 years. The historical decline in the economic value of coppice for charcoal production and oak bark for tanning has led to a decline in sustainable management and consequent woodland loss and deterioration, often through livestock grazing. Up until 1985 forestry policy also encouraged replacement with productive conifers on some sites. Rates of woodland loss in the Peak District between 1909 and 1974 range between 8 and 68% in different areas.



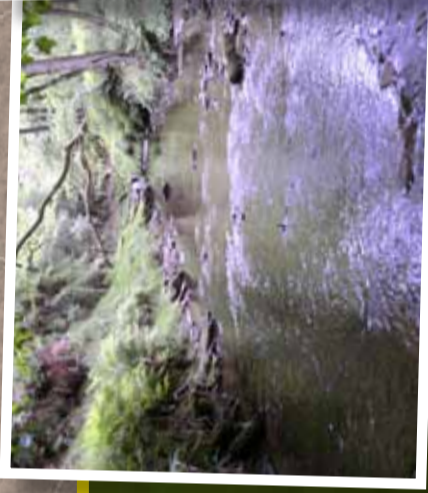
Hogsclough and Allgreave deer



Flycatcher



Bluebells



The woodlands between Danebridge and Allgreave are rich in bird life including piped and spotted flycatchers and redstarts.

The Dane Valley Way passes through an ancient woodland site with a carpet of bluebells.

The Gritstone Trail traverses the top of Wincle Minn. From here you can view the valley up to the origin of the river on the moorlands to the east.

Swallowdale is at the head of a hidden valley on the border of the national park with a high concentration of ancient woodland.

Back Forest, in the ownership of the National Park Authority, is a mixture of native broad-leaves and conifer plantation, with a ground flora dominated by bilberry.

Woodlands south of Danebridge have been harvested for timber in the past. Today they provide habitat for a range of wildlife alongside game birds.

The river Dane is commonly lined with trees. Historically water has been used to power several mills. Conduits also deliver water through the woodlands to Bosley and Rudyard reservoirs.

Woodlands extend up all the tributaries within the Shell Brook valley. This is the cove area for a herd of red deer.