

# National Trust Press Release

20 March 2024

Images to accompany this story can be found in  [2024 Blossom](#)

## The best places to see blossom in Derbyshire with the National Trust

With spring arriving in spectacular clouds of white and pastel-pink blooms, the National Trust's annual blossom season celebrations have returned.

Running for a fifth year #BlossomWatch encourages people everywhere to celebrate the beauty of blossom and bask in the sights and scents of spring.

Inspired by the Japanese tradition of '*Hanami*', (which literally translates to 'flower viewing'), the National Trust is encouraging people of all ages to pause and take a moment to appreciate the temporary beauty of blossom that can be found in orchards, gardens, hedgerows and city parks.

Each month during spring, there are different blossoms to spot. In March and April, look for clouds of white and pink blooms from apples, pears, plums and damsons. Pink cherry blossoms join the show in April, while hawthorns and rowans close the seasons in May and June with delicate white flowers.

The charity is inviting people everywhere to join in with the celebrations by sharing their blossom images on social media and using the hashtag #BlossomWatch to help everyone enjoy this seasonal spectacle together.

As part of the National Trust's commitment to tackle the climate crisis and nature depletion, the conservation charity plans to plant and establish 20 million trees across England, Wales and Northern Ireland by 2030, with around four million of these being blossoming trees. Fruit trees and new traditional orchards are being planted at National Trust places, while native and historic varieties such as blackthorn and hawthorn will be chosen to support nature in other spaces.

Working with communities, the National Trust is also continuing its ambition to bring blossom back to urban spaces, by bringing people together to enjoy blossom and increasing access to nature.

Between March and May, dedicated blossom events will be taking place at over 100 locations across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

From National Trust orchards, to city centres, the blossom-themed events will encourage visitors to enjoy this annual spectacle with activities, artworks, picnics, games, walks, performances and more.

Here's where you can see some of the best displays of blossom at a National Trust place near you:

# Derbyshire

## Calke Abbey

With more than 600 acres of ancient parkland, nature reserves, wetlands and romantic gardens, Calke Abbey is home to a rich tapestry of flora throughout the year. One of the first signs of spring arriving at Calke is the delightful blossom that sweeps over the walled gardens. Early spring sees the peach and nectarine blossom flowering in the Peach House in the walled kitchen garden, followed by plum and apple blossom later in the season. Around the wider estate, look out for wild cherry, blackthorn and hawthorn blossom at this time of year. Pause on one of the benches around the estate to enjoy the sweet smell of the blossom and the possibilities of the seasons to come.

## Hardwick Hall

An Elizabethan country house created by Bess of Hardwick in the 1590s, Hardwick's orchards are full of various types of fruit from pear to greengage and damson, all of which play a part in the annual blossom display. These are complemented by some wonderful local varieties. The two most local varieties are Newton Wonder which was developed in Melbourne, Derbyshire and Bramley Seedling which was developed by Mary Ann Brailsford in Southwell, Nottinghamshire. The South Lawn is filled with the abundant purple and white blooms of the magnolia trees, flowering throughout the spring season.

## Kedleston Hall


Blossom is one of the first signs that spring is well and truly on the way. Kedleston Hall's Pleasure Grounds are home to a range of eye-catching blossom varieties including cherry, horse chestnut, apple and blackthorn, followed by purple and white wisteria later in the spring.

– ENDS –

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**For images:**

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## Notes to editors

### About the National Trust

The National Trust is a conservation charity founded in 1895 by three people: Octavia Hill, Sir Robert Hunter and Hardwicke Rawnsley, who saw the importance of the nation's heritage and open spaces and wanted to preserve them for everyone to enjoy.

Today, across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, we continue to look after places so people and nature can thrive. Entirely independent of Government, the National Trust cares for more

than 250,000 hectares of countryside, 780 miles of coastline and 500 historic properties, gardens and nature reserves.