


## **National Trust Press Release**

**22 September 2025**

Images to accompany this press release can be found here:  [Autumn Walks](#)

### **Step Into Autumn: The National Trust Unveils the Best Seasonal Walks in Derbyshire and the Peak District**

As the leaves turn and the air grows crisp, the National Trust is inviting everyone to experience the magic of autumn with its handpicked walking trails.

From gentle woodland strolls to invigorating countryside rambles, Derbyshire and the Peak District offer a spectacular backdrop for every kind of walker. With nature's colour palette on full display, this is the perfect time to explore the great outdoors.

The National Trust, renowned for caring for some of the UK's most treasured landscapes, is encouraging visitors to embrace the season and reconnect with nature. Whether it's a misty morning walk through ancient woodlands, an afternoon spotting fungi and wildlife, or a golden-hour wander along fruit-laden hedgerows, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

To celebrate the season, the conservation charity has curated a list of the top trails and scenic spots in Derbyshire and the Peak District where autumn truly comes alive. These walks are ideal for families, friends, or solo explorers looking to soak up the sights, sounds, and scents of the season.

To find out more visit: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk>

#### **Hardwick, Chesterfield, Derbyshire**

This autumn, wrap up warm and wander through the golden landscapes of Hardwick's 2,500-acre estate. Whether you're out with family, walking the dog, or enjoying a peaceful solo stroll, there's a walk to suit every mood. Choose from four scenic routes: the gentle Miller's Pond Walk, perfect for pushchairs; the adventurous Welly Walk, with ponds and hills; the historic Oak Walk, winding through old woodland and Grade 1 listed

parkland; or the new Sculpture Walk, where handcrafted stone sculptures reveal Hardwick's hidden histories.

Maps are available from Visitor Reception or can be downloaded from the website:

[Hardwick | Derbyshire | National Trust](#)

### **Longshaw Estate, Derbyshire near Sheffield, Peak District**

Discover spectacular views of the Peak District, stunning ancient woodlands, parkland and heather moorland, through a network of footpaths and bridleways. A wide variety of walks, for a range of abilities are on offer at Longshaw, from adventurous family trails, to exploring wide-open countryside across the moors. There's the chance to spot red deer as you take in a 6 mile route, with views of Derbyshire's Big Moor, or stroll for just over 2 miles and explore the ancient woodland of Padley Gorge. You can download a Longshaw map [here](#).

### **Ilam Park and The White Peak, Peak District**

Explore landscape that's been inspiring artists and poets for centuries. Whether it's a stroll by the River Manifold, a wander through ancient ravine woodlands or a hike over the hilltops, there are plenty of walks to be discovered when you explore the White Peak.

There are glorious walks through the Manifold Valley, home to limestone crags and woodlands. Take a walk along the Manifold track through the historic Hamps valley. Or soak up iconic views of the famous Thorpe Cloud, from Ilam Park, where there are plenty of places to sit, play and walk the dog. You can download a map of Ilam Park [here](#).

### **Calke Abbey**

Autumn brings a blaze of colour and sound to Calke Abbey. Stroll through Serpentine Wood and the historic Lime Avenue as the trees turn amber and gold, or crunch through leaves on the Tramway Trail. In the Deer Park, listen for the roar of rutting stags and watch for clashing antlers during this spectacular seasonal display. Dogs are welcome too — don't forget to stamp their Pooch Passport on your visit.

[Calke Abbey | Derbyshire | National Trust](#)

## **Foremark**

Foremark is alive with autumn colour and the crunch of leaves underfoot. Look out for fungi in all shapes and shades, from bright fly agarics to hidden treasures among the trees. Join the ranger team for a guided 'Fungi Friday' walk (17 October – pre-booking online is essential) to discover some of Foremark's best fungi and learn how to identify them.

[Foremark | Derbyshire | National Trust](#)

## **Staunton Harold**

Soak up autumn at Staunton Harold with its reservoir views and sweeping parkland. Dogs are welcome too, making it a great choice for a walk among woodlands and meadows glowing with fiery reds, oranges and golds. Stop off at the dog-friendly café for a warming drink before setting out, or follow the blue waymarked trail for a longer adventure that links to Calke Abbey's autumnal landscapes.

[Staunton Harold | Derbyshire | National Trust](#)

**– ENDS –**

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**For images:**  [Autumn Walks](#)

Please credit images as shown.

## Notes to editors

### About the National Trust

The National Trust is an independent 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.

We care for more than 250,000 hectares of countryside, 890 miles of coastline, 1 million collection items and 500 historic properties, gardens and nature reserves. In 2023/24 we received 25 million visitors to our pay for entry sites. The National Trust is for everyone - we were founded for the benefit of the whole nation, and our 5.4 million members, funders and donors, and tens of thousands of volunteers support our work to care for nature, beauty, history for everyone, for ever.

In January 2025 the National Trust marked its 130th birthday by launching its new 10-year strategy People and Nature Thriving. This strategy, which will guide the charity's work and direction from 2025-2035 and beyond, focuses on three key goals:

- Restore Nature
- End unequal access to nature, beauty and history
- Inspire more people to care and take action

The plans follow the largest public consultation ever carried out by the National Trust, with more than 70,000 people – including members, volunteers and industry partners – sharing their views on the Trust's work and direction. Read more about the National Trust's strategy [here](#).