



The White Peak consists of calcium-rich limestone, a sedimentary rock that produces a poor, shallow **alkaline** soil. It also has many clear streams.



The Dark Peak is a moorland area consisting of mainly gritstone, a sedimentary rock that produces a sandy, **acidic** soil where only tough plants survive.



The mountain hare lives above 300m. Its colour changes to white to blend in with the snow. They graze on heather shoots and live in heather 'forms', a shallow depression in the ground.



The red grouse is a bird that eats heather seeds and nests in heather 'scrapes', a shallow depression in the ground.



The dipper is a small bird that lives near fast-flowing, clear streams. It searches for insects under water.



The water vole is a small, mouse-like mammal that lives in ditches and waterways on the moors.



The nuthatch is a small, woodland bird that nests in holes in trees such as ash, which it climbs in search of insects to eat.



The ash tree is a tall, tough, fast-growing tree that allows light to reach the ground, meaning plants can grow around its base. It can tolerate alkaline soils.



Common Heather is a low-growing shrub that has tiny leaves which stops it losing too much water, essential in the windy conditions of the moors. It is pollinated by wind and bees and lives in acidic soil.



The short-eared owl is a moorland bird of prey that can be seen hunting voles by day. It nests on the ground.

Bilberry is a low-growing, deciduous shrub that produces edible berries. It is pollinated by bees and flies and grows in acid soil.



Cotton grass is actually a member of the sedge family, found in blanket bog areas and it can survive in peat, a very acidic soil.





The bilberry bumblebee is an insect that likes cool conditions. It nests at the base of bilberry and heather plants.



The early purple orchid is a flower that grows in non-acidic soil.

Dog's Mercury is a poisonous plant that spreads under trees and grows in alkaline soils.





The white-clawed crayfish is Britain's only fresh-water crayfish. It lives in clear, limestone streams.



The peregrine falcon is our fastest bird of prey that sometimes nests in limestone quarries and will eat small birds.