

1 Elwick to Dalton Piercy Public Footpath

On the left hand side of the footpath down to Dalton Piercy is an ancient hedge. In late winter the white blossom of the **Blackthorn** opens before any leaves appear and is one of the first signs of spring. Just before the hedge meets The Howls there grow a few **Spindle bushes**. Look out for its curiously-shaped pink flowers and orange seeds in early summer and its bright red leaves in autumn. This is the only place in Cleveland where this tree grows wild.



2 The Howls

The Howls is an ancient woodland on a steep valley where three streams meet. You can often see **Roe Deer** tracks along the paths and the sand banks in the stream beds. Entry to the woodland is via a permissive footpath from the road up to the Hartlepool Water reservoir in Dalton Piercy.



3 Craddon Bank

It's said that when **Gorse** isn't flowering, kissing has gone out of fashion so you should find the odd flower on the swathes of **Gorse bushes** on Craddon Bank throughout the year. But go in May and they will be coated in dark yellow flowers that give off a delicious coconut smell.



4 Beacon Hill Marsh

Once described as "the most interesting conglom in the whole of the county". The seepage of water face of Beacon Hill has provided suitable condition range of wetland plants.



5 Little Owls

Is there anyone who doesn't like **Owls**? Your best chance to see one might be to look for them sitting on the **hedgerow trees** around Pudding Poke in the far west. Best to look in the early morning or early evening.



6 Badgers

Look closely at the ground and you might see signs of **Badgers** along the footpath and fields. Their tracks have five toes, unlike the four in **Foxes** and **Cats**. You might also see the small, round, snuffle holes that they dig and fill with large, soft **Badger** droppings to mark their territories.



KEY

	Wooded Area		Public Footpaths
	Becks & Water		Roads

7 High Stotfold

The track up to High Stotfold Farm is lined with white, scented **Violets** in spring. Heading north, the old Drovers Lane at High Stotfold has retained little bits of unimproved grassland where the rare **Adders Tongue Fern** still grows. Small and inconspicuous, like a young Dandelion leaf, you may have to get down on your hands and knees to find it. Towards Stotfold Moor and Winterley Hill, wide margins of the arable fields have been sown to provide food for farmland birds.

Popular Animal Tracks



DEER



DOG



BADGER



CAT



FOX



RABBIT



HEDGEHOG

8 Rooks

There is a prominent rookery in the village in the big trees over looking Church Bank. The **Rooks** are the first sign that spring is coming. They start to sit on their old nests from January and announce that the year has turned.

9 Hedgehogs

There has been increasing concern in recent years about a continuing decline in **Hedgehog** numbers. These natural inhabitants of woodland edges are seldom seen in the open countryside but gardens, especially those with shrubberies, suit them well and they are still commonly encountered in the village.



Creatures at the Ghyll

Down at the ghyll there are many different creatures.
But a lake down a bank is one of its features.

The water's not warm but very, very cold.
And if you were to swim in it, you'd be very bold.

Back to the creatures: look in the lake.
But don't slip over or your bones will break.

Plonk your net in and swish it about.
And keep doing this 'till a creature crawls out.

Pick it up and put it in your bucket.
Maybe catch a fish and take it home and cook it.

Use a magnifier to get a better look.
Then identify your creature by looking in your book

What? You don't have a book you say?
Well thats tough luck, come back another day.

Unless you can use your own personal knowledge,
As long as your brain isn't as mixed up as porridge!

I'm sure these creatures will entertain you.
And always give you something to do.

I hope you have fun. Now we are done
Come back again ladies and gentlemen

**By Sarah Forbes Year 6,
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The Limestone Landscape

WILD WATCH



WildWatch is an exciting opportunity to find out what wildlife is living in your area. The vast majority of our wildlife is never reported to national or regional authorities and this lack of information exchange can often lead to valuable wildlife areas being damaged or destroyed. By reporting what wildlife species you see, you can make a difference.

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Find out what wildlife is in
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Illustrations provided by pupils from St Peter's Elwick Primary School

Wild in Elwick

The wildlife and nature of Elwick village

