#### 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.



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.





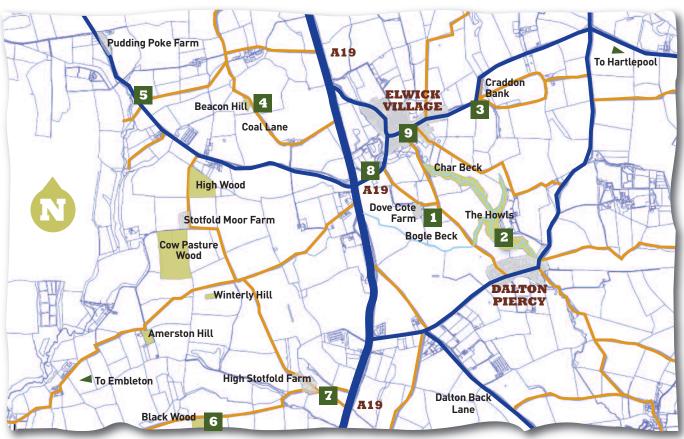
#### 5 Little Owls

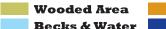
Is there anyone who doesn't like **Owls**? Your best chance to see one might be to look for them sitting on the **hedgerow trees** around Pudding Poke in the far west. Best to look in the early morning or early evening.

#### 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.









#### 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**









#### 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, St Peter's Elwick Primary School



















Illustrations provided by pupils from St Peter's Elwick Primary School

# in Elwick

The wildlife and nature of Elwick village

