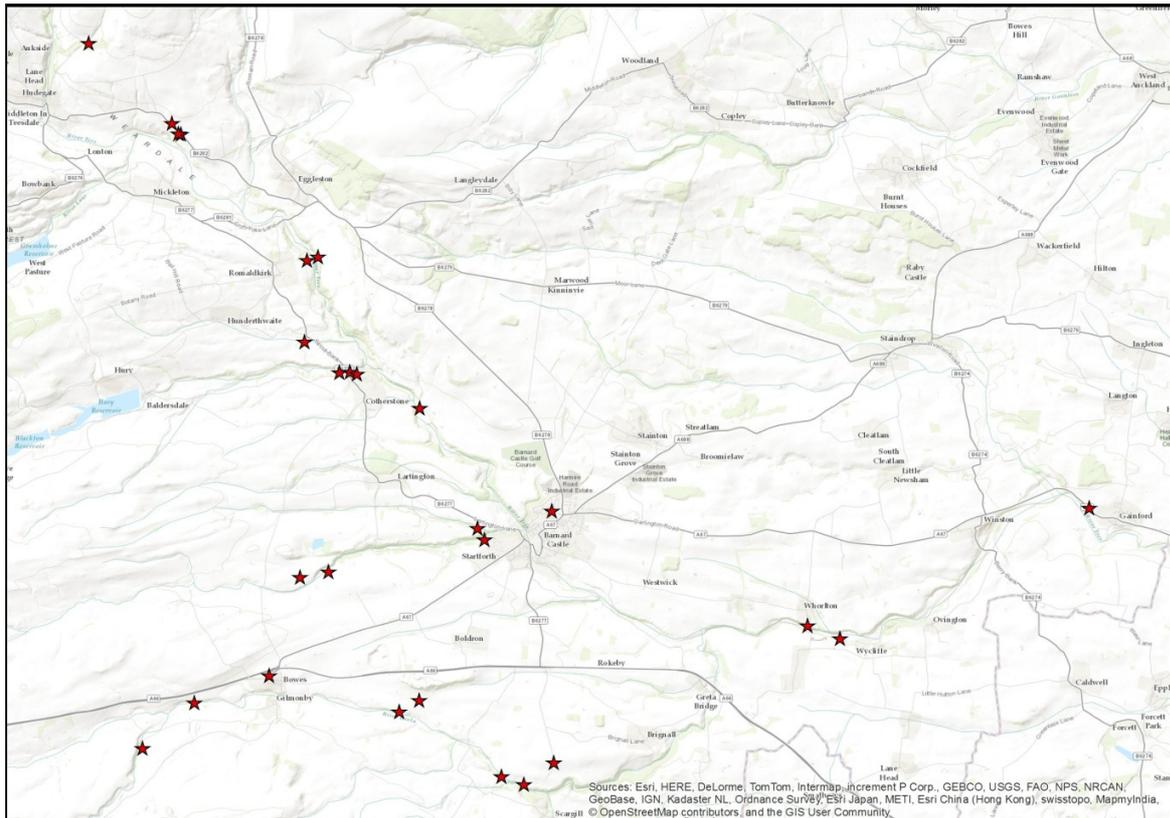


## WildTees and Wildlife Past and Present Progress Report March 2015

### WildTees Project

The WildTees Project has now concluded after running for three years. During that time remote-capture cameras were placed in 27 different locations across the Heart of Teesdale area.



**Map showing locations where remote-capture cameras were placed between March 2012 and March 2015**

Wildlife captured on the cameras during that time includes otters, badgers, stoat, foxes, roe deer, hedgehog, little owl and several other bird species. All records have been sent to the Environmental Records Information Centre North East (ERIC). Video montages have been created and updated throughout the life of the project and have been shown in various locations and to several groups. A final montage has now been put together and will be sent out to Wildlife Groups and other interested parties on request.

**Species captured on remote-capture cameras during WildTees Project.**

<b>Mammals</b>	
Badger	Domestic cat
Brown rat	Grey squirrel
Domestic dog	Mouse sp.
Hedgehog	Rabbit
Otter	Roe deer
Red fox	Weasel
Stoat	
<b>Birds</b>	
Blackbird	Blue tit
Carrion crow	Chaffinch
Collared dove	Common sandpiper
Domestic chicken	Goose sp.
Great tit	Grey heron
Grey wagtail	House sparrow
Jackdaw	Jay
Little owl	Mallard
Mistle thrush	Moorhen
Pheasant	Red breasted merganser
Siskin	Song thrush
Starling	Wood pigeon

In the final three months of the project the Durham Wildlife Trust (DWT) Education Officer spent two days each with three schools showing them how to create their own wildlife documentaries using the footage. The schools were Bowes Hutchison Church of England Primary School, St. Mary's RC Primary School and Montalbo Primary School. The structure of the sessions was such that during the first day they discussed different methods of sharing information and facts with people around them and looked at a clip of a David Attenborough documentary for some inspiration and to identify the different areas of work needed to create a nature movie of their own. The children investigated the different clues and signs that mammals leave behind and explored the school grounds to find out which animals shared their playing fields. They set up a motion activated wildlife camera up in the school grounds and watched footage that had been captured by cameras through the WildTees project. The children then worked in groups to research one of the animals species, create scripts and illustrations as part of their movies.

During the second day they checked the camera and continued work on the scripts before recording the movies using a video camera and Dictaphone. The Education Officer said it was great to see the different personalities of the children coming through in their work creating the movies.

The breakdown of the number of children worked with and their activities was:

**St Mary's RC** – 32 children

**Bowes Hutchinson** – Worked with the whole school (36 children). Key Stage 1 children created pictures for the movies and Key Stage 2 worked on the research, creating scripts and recording the shows.

**Montalbo** -28 children.

A DVD of the finished movies is available if required.

**Summary table**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Number</b>
Number of landowners contacted	40
Percentage responded positively	98%
Number of sites where cameras have been placed	27
Events held/attended	8
Number of volunteers	7 + DWT team + 7 Otter survey volunteers + camera hosts
Number of schools contacted	11
Number of schools worked with	8
Number of views of <i>WildTees</i> videos on DWT YouTube site Feb 2012 to March 2015	Circa. 2000
Media coverage achieved	2012 -Teesdale Mercury - 7 stories Northern Echo - 2 stories 2013 – Teesdale Mercury 3 stories. 2012/2013 Radio Teesdale – Drivetime interviews – 2.

## **Wildlife Past & Present Project**

The Wildlife Past and Present project has continued surveying for red squirrels and dormice but unfortunately there have been no positive results to date. Squirrel hair tubes were placed in Stob Green Plantation, Egglestone between March and May. Hair was found in one of the tubes and we are currently waiting for it to be analysed to see if it is from a grey or red squirrel. A group of volunteers helped to clean out the dormouse nesting boxes in Abbey Bridge Woods in February ready for the nesting season. They will be checked in the autumn to determine if they have been used by dormice or any other species.

In March a new call was put out for records of Bird's Eye Primrose in Lower Teesdale and leaflets were distributed requesting information, but to date the only positive responses that have been received have been for Upper Teesdale where there is a known population.