

D3-D3B Wildlife Guardians

Project Summary	The project provided opportunities for local people, including individuals of all ages, families, and community and youth groups to participate in wildlife recording and countryside management. Activities included wildlife surveying, recording and practical conservation tasks and took place throughout the valley, enabling people to contribute to the sustainability of the Lower Derwent Valley landscape area. It incorporated initiatives such as Where the Wild Things Are and Wildlife Rangers, and fed directly into Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's database to form a baseline against which changes in species distribution can be measured in the future.	
Lead Organisation	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust	
Partners	Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Entomological Society, Butterfly Conservation, DerwentWise Scheme staff, WildDerby, National Stone Centre	
Location	Derwent Valley	
Duration of project	Date: April 2014 – December 2018 Yrs:1-5	
Total cost of project	£74096.00	
Volunteer time	£5200.00	
In-kind time	£7067.00	
Outputs	<p>Original target</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 Practical training sessions • 390 participants for practical training • 43 walks, talks and family events • 860 participants walks, talks and family events • 20 youth and family rangers sessions for Wildlife Rangers • 5 Family Learning session • 300 youth and family rangers participants 	<p>Achieved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 events • 410 participants for practical training • 70 walks, talks and family events • 4569 participants walks, talks and family events • 24 youth and family rangers sessions for Wildlife Rangers • 4 Family Learning session • 366 youth and family rangers participants
Headlines/added value	Nature Memories Boxes was an additional strand to this project that encompassed the creating of 3 nature memory boxes to help patients with dementia rekindle memories of nature and wildlife, helping put patients at ease. Boxes were tried with patients at 2 Derby hospitals with positive results. 2 boxes are with the knowledge and learning teams for continued use with patients. 1 box was made for an age UK group for continued use with their groups.	

	No. of records created for Local Biological Record Centre -1540 No. of community groups engaged - 25
Outcomes	<p>Through this project many people have gained the skills to be able to carry out wildlife surveys in Derbyshire through id and survey training workshops. The records received for bees, butterflies and birds have been entered onto databases at DWT. Watervole and Otter training was also delivered.</p> <p>Adults and children have been engaged at family events and on walks and talks learning all about many topics including wildflowers, trees, bats, birds and the history and heritage of some of the natural landscapes in the Derwent Valley.</p> <p>The wildlife youth ranger programme has given many children and their families practical conservation skills through sessions that have included making an otter holt, rhododendron management, butterfly meadow enhancement and tree seed collection. Alongside the practical tasks they have learnt identification skills and had fun with games and activities.</p> <p>Patients with dementia have benefitted from sessions accessing the nature memories boxes, helping them to rekindle memories of nature and wildlife as a distraction from their environment. The boxes are accessible to staff, patients and their families for future use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B2 An <i>increased public understanding</i> of the value of the landscape, and of the need for it to be conserved and restored • D3 Increased <i>knowledge</i>
Lessons Learnt	Wildlife Youth Rangers became a family group, a more targeted approach at young people without parent supervision was needed to attract young people.
Any recommendations going forward	<p>It is recommended that volunteers are supported to continue surveying and collecting data for collation and recording at DWT.</p> <p>Further funding for nature memories boxes is underway that includes linking school children in the creation of boxes to be taken into varying care homes and lunchtime clubs.</p> <p>DWT are looking into the creation of a Wildlife Youth Rangers group.</p>