

Wildlife Recording Kit: Trail Camera

- Please ensure that all equipment borrowed is replaced; consider the people who are using the box after you.
- The borrower of the loan box is liable for the cost of any equipment lost or damaged.
- If anything is broken/lost, we would be grateful if you could let Surrey Wildlife Trust know as soon as possible so that we can replace this in time for the next people borrowing the box. You will be charged for any missing or broken equipment.
- Ensure that before surveying, you have the permission of the landowner to undertake these surveys.

Why survey?

Using trail cameras can help you to find out what you have in your space which can help you to better understand your site. Cameras can provide valuable insights into local wildlife populations and behaviour patterns. Knowing what you have on your site can help you make better decisions on what actions to take.

About the kit

This kit provides you with a trail camera that can be set up on your site to see the wildlife you may not have spotted before. They are fantastic for spotting badgers, foxes, hedgehogs, birds, mice and much more!

These cameras are expensive, so please ensure when setting them up they are hidden from the public as much as is possible. Please also ensure you have the landowner's permission before setting up the camera.

When to survey

You can survey anytime of year and the camera can be used during the day, and at night.

Equipment included:

What's included in the kit
Trail camera
Re-chargeable AA batteries x 8
SD card
Trail camera strap
Copy of camera booklet
USB cable
Battery charger

Instructions on use

1. Put the camera onto 'Test' to set it up.
2. From here, you can select whether to take photos (add symbol) or videos (add symbol) - the current length of video is 1 minute.
3. Once the settings are sorted, you can choose where to place your camera. Use the strap to attach it in place ensuring it is at the correct height of the animal you would like to capture. This could be a tree, stake or a garden chair etc.

4. Once the camera is in place, switch the camera to 'On' and then there will be a count down until the screen turns off (steps 3 and 4 are interchangeable).
5. Once you have captured your photos/videos, turn the camera back to test and press replay (add symbol). You can use the arrows to click through your captured footage.
6. If you want to download your photos/videos, you can plug the camera into a laptop/computer and move from the camera folder to your own folders. Please note, any footage left on the camera when it is returned, will be deleted.
7. Then press menu and from this area, you can delete any footage that is not wanted. You can either 'delete all' or select individuals. Once you click on this option, you will be asked to confirm you wish to delete the footage. Alternatively, you can delete the footage from the folder on your laptop/computer.

Using the equipment safely

Before you use this equipment think about your risk assessment for the location and for the activities.

The following are some suggestions of hazards you might need to consider:

- Ground Surface – are there roots, holes, or kerbs to trip over?
- Weather – are participants appropriately dressed and have suitable protection from wet or hot weather?
- Plants and animals – brambles and stinging nettles can cause discomfort and participants should watch out for low branches.
- Germs – have participants got open cuts which might get muddy, and do they have an opportunity to wash their hands before eating?
- Using equipment – do you and other participants know how to use the equipment safely, is there a chance someone could hurt themselves?
- Appropriate supervision – are all children accompanied by a parent or guardian, and are they being appropriately supervised?
- Lone working – ensure you tell someone when undertaking surveys and they are aware of where you are and when you should return. Make sure you have a fully charged mobile phone and know where you can get signal.
- Group management – how will you ensure that participants don't get lost and are where you want them to be?
- Plan B – do you have an alternative activity or location if there is a problem with your planned activity?

Top tips

- The length and sensitivity of the video can be altered by following instructions in the manual that comes with the camera. Please ensure these are altered back to the original settings when you return the kit.
- Try moving the camera and have it at different heights to capture a range of wildlife.