



people's
trust for
endangered
species

Spotting wild mammals

Counting on wild neighbours

Towns and cities are home to a surprising number of wild mammals. Sharing what you see in your garden, allotment, a local park or churchyard gives a picture of the wildlife on our doorstep and can warn us about worrying declines. Hedgehog numbers have fallen by a third in urban areas in less than 20 years. In response, we launched a campaign to save them. Without the help of thousands of wildlife watchers, we wouldn't have known to act.

Green spaces, and the wildlife they support, are important: they provide food, clean air and water, and make us healthier and happier. They protect our homes from flooding and trees reduce the effects of pollution and heat waves. Counting our wild neighbours, and knowing how numbers are changing, tells us about the health of these green spaces — something we all count on.



From gardens to neighbourhoods to cities...

Big or small, gardens and green spaces can support and encourage wildlife. If they're accessible and animals can move between them, there's always something they can offer wildlife. Trees, compost heaps and log piles are practically all-you-can-eat buffets for hedgehogs and other small mammals, encouraging a feast of invertebrates that recycle



nutrients and improve the soil. Rockeries and walls provide sites for insects to sunbathe, nesting sites for solitary bees and wasps, and hibernation sites for frogs and toads.

Ponds or water features provide watering-holes and homes for amphibians and aquatic insects. And there's room for a nest-box in even the smallest garden.



Know your nuts!

Squirrels crack the shell into two or more pieces (the middle row in the picture), mice and voles gnaw a round hole (left and right rows), and mice (but not voles) leave gnaw-marks on the outside of the shell, too.



A joined-up habitat

Connecting gardens (and adjacent patches of green such as a grass verge or local park) means that animals can move between different features: making a CD-sized hole in the base of a fence can make a big difference for animals like hedgehogs.

Hedgehog Street (our joint campaign with the British Hedgehog Preservation Society) has more information on hedgehog highways and encouraging hedgehogs in your neighbourhood.

www.hedgehogstreet.org

Who's who

A fifth of gardens are home to grey squirrels, foxes, mice, voles, hedgehogs and bats, but over 40 species have been recorded in surveys of gardens.

Recognising them is often straightforward—the bushy tail of a fox, the spines of a hedgehog or black and white markings of a badger are easy to identify—but for animals out and about during the early hours or at night, a sign might be the only clue.



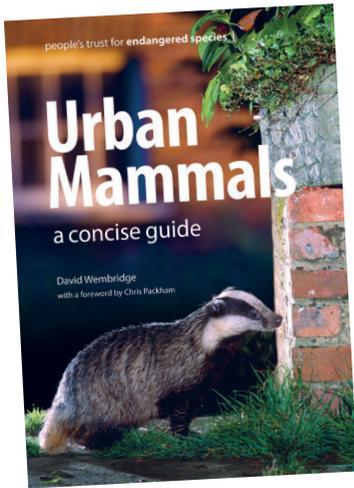
The droppings of many animals are distinctive calling cards that tell other animals who's in the neighbourhood.

Food remains and tracks can also be giveaways that mammals are about.



More about mammals can be found at ptes.org/LWM and in *Urban Mammals*, published by Whittet books and available from PTES at the special price of £8.99.

If you don't have a survey pack already and would like one, send your name and address to LwM@ptes.org or take part online at www.ptes.org/LwM



Urban Mammals: a concise guide

By David Wembridge

“An informative introduction and an engaging read” **BBC Wildlife**

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