



Ymddiriedolaeth  
Natur  
Gwent  
Wildlife Trust

# Hedgehog

## *Erinaceus europaeus*

## Species Action Plan



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The hedgehog is a well-known and loved mammal, but has undergone a long historic decline in Britain. The trend between urban and rural populations differs, with urban populations appearing to be stable and possibly recovering, whereas rural populations are lower and show a continuing national decline. The hedgehog is found in most habitats, but is increasingly associated with urban areas, particularly parks & gardens, compared with open farmland. They tend to follow linear features, such as hedgerows and field margins and prey mainly on invertebrates, including ground beetles, worms, crane fly larvae and woodlice.

### Status

- ❖ Vulnerable (Wales) | Vulnerable (GB) – Red List of British Mammals (2020)
- ❖ Species of Principal Importance - Section 7 - Environment (Wales) Act 2016
- ❖ Priority Species - UK Biodiversity Action Plan (2007)

### Threats

- ❖ Reduction in habitat availability and quality due to agricultural intensification and pesticide use
- ❖ Reduction in habitat availability and quality due to modern garden design and pesticide use
- ❖ Poisoning due to use of slug pellets
- ❖ High proportion of the population killed through vehicle collisions

### Current Action

- ❖ Hedgehog Street campaign (PTES/BHPS) – ‘hedgehog highways’ in gardens and BIG Hedgehog Map
- ❖ Hedgehog Champions – raising community awareness and action
- ❖ Hogwatch (BHPS)
- ❖ "The state of Britain's Hedgehogs" report (PTES, 2022)
- ❖ Wye Valley AONB – A Priority Species for their Action Plans
- ❖ A number of locals care for sick/underweight individuals

	Objectives	Action
A	No net loss of occupied area for existing populations	1,2,3,5
B	Populations increasing in occupied area, abundance and viability	1,2,3,5
C	Hedgehog habitats increased in size, quality, resilience and connectivity	2,3,5
D	Knowledge and understanding of the species increased, leading to appreciation, sense of responsibility and action	1-5

	Key Actions	Target
1	Encourage reporting of incidental records to Big Hedgehog Map. Signpost volunteers to public surveys (footprint tunnels and trailcams). Establish training programme.	2024 2025
2	Produce/distribute advice booklet and work with key stakeholders to ensure appropriate habitat management	2025 2030
3	Undertake survey and mapping to identify populations, key areas and opportunities to build connectivity	2027
4	Increase awareness through media and publishing platforms, talks, events, training	2030
5	Respond to potentially damaging developments through the planning process; campaign for better site protections. Influence design of new developments.	2030

**Lead:** Gwent Wildlife Trust

**Key partners:** TBC