Wichelstowe
HEDGEHOG HIGHWAYS

Helping Britain's Most Loved Mammal Move Safely Through Wichelstowe



Together we can create a connected community where wildlife can thrive.

WHY HELP HEDGEHOGS?

Britain's only spiny mammal needs our help.

In 1995 it was estimated that Britain was home to around 1.5 million hedgehogs. However, since 2000, their numbers have fallen dramatically, making hedgehogs one of the fastest declining mammals in the UK.

1.5 MILLION
Estimated UK population in 1995

50%
Decline in countryside populations since 2000

33%
Decline in towns and cities since 2000

FASTEST DECLINING MAMMALS
Now considered one of the UK's most rapidly declining native mammals.

WHY ARE HEDGEHOGS STRUGGLING?

A loss of habitat and barriers in our landscape make it harder for hedgehogs to survive.

HABITAT LOSS
Gardens and natural spaces are being lost or changed.

BUSY ROADS
More roads mean greater risk and fewer safe routes.

FENCES & WALLS
Walls and fences block movement between gardens.

FRAGMENTED GREENSPACES
Disconnected habitats limit access to food and mates.

You may have noticed signs on roads next to public greenspaces to alert drivers to the presence of hedgehogs and other animals.

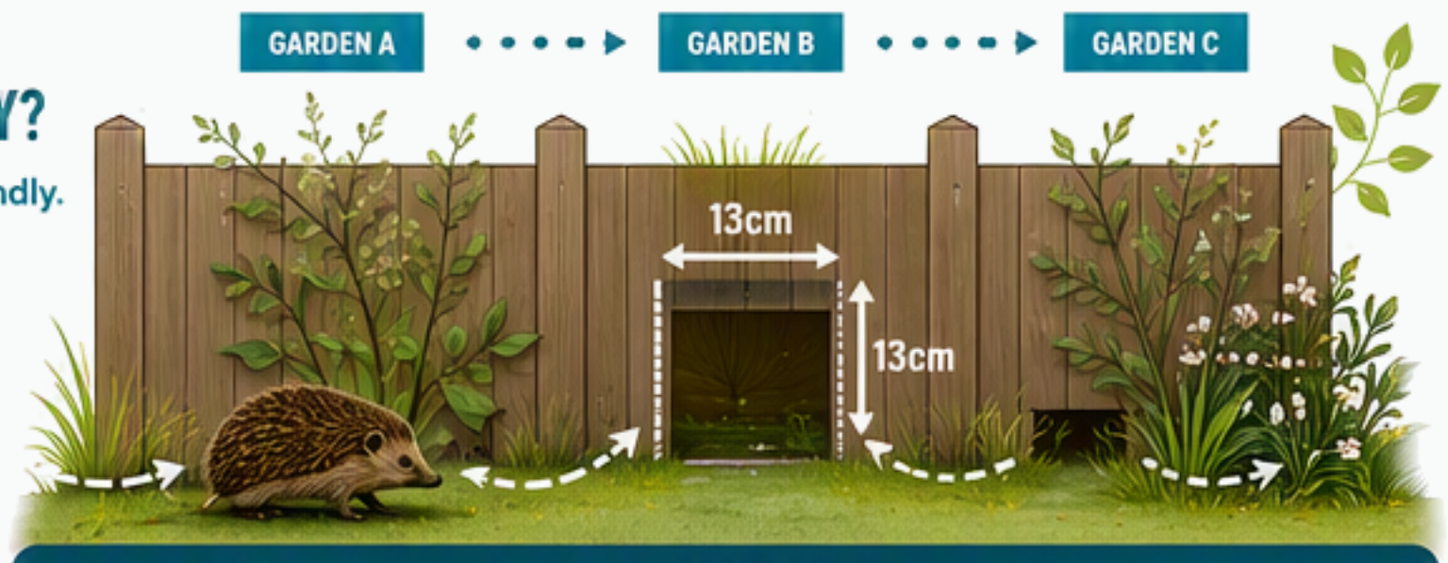


WHAT IS A HEDGEHOG HIGHWAY?

Simple. Effective. Wildlife Friendly.

A hedgehog highway is a hole, cut into the base of a fence or wall. These openings allow hedgehogs to move safely between gardens and the wider environment.

We encourage all new homeowners to keep these holes open to allow hedgehogs to pass through, as well as other animals like frogs and toads that may choose to make their home in your garden.



Hedgehogs can travel up to 1–2 KM EVERY NIGHT searching for food, water, shelter and mates.

Connected gardens create a valuable wildlife network across Wichelstowe.

MORE THAN JUST HEDGEHOGS

These highways help a range of wildlife.



GO THE EXTRA MILE

Simple actions can make your garden even better for hedgehogs and other wildlife.

1 RECORD YOUR HOGS

The BIG hedgehog map

Record your hedgehog highway and any hedgehog sightings on **'Hedgehog Street's BIG Hedgehog Map.'**

They have already found their way to East Wichel so it won't be long until they find their way west!

2 GET PLANTING

Plant a shrub bed next to the hole to provide cover and food.



These plants provide shelter and are great for pollinators like bees and hoverflies.

3 PROVIDE THE RIGHT FOOD

GOOD CHOICES



Fresh Water | Meaty Cat Food | Hedgehog Food

AVOID

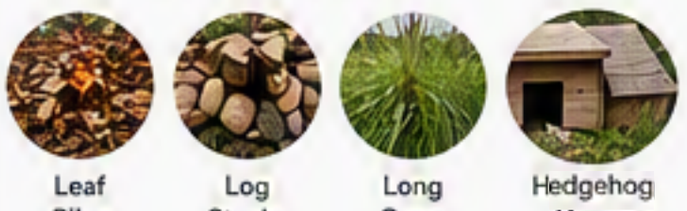


Milk | Bread

Milk and bread can cause stomach upsets.

4 CREATE A SAFE NEST

Hedgehogs breed and hibernate in nests within natural materials.



Leaf Piles | Log Stacks | Long Grass | Hedgehog House

You can buy or build a hedgehog home using untreated, sustainable softwood. Place it in a quiet spot, tucked away in shrub beds or next to your hedgehog highway.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

EVERY RESIDENT CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- Keep highway openings clear
- Avoid blocking access routes
- Plant wildlife-friendly shrubs
- Provide fresh water
- Record sightings
- Create nesting habitat
- Share the message

Small openings.
Connected gardens.
Stronger wildlife.
Stronger community.

Thank you for helping hedgehogs thrive in Wichelstowe.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

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