

MK:Hogwatch



Volunteer Survey Information Pack



MK:Hogwatch (MKHW)

Welcome to the MKHW team and thank you for volunteering your time and supporting a valuable biodiversity project



What is MKHW?

Local Citizen Science project organised by the Parks Trust's biodiversity team to investigate the population of hedgehogs within Milton Keynes

Why survey?

Hedgehogs are an indicator species which feed on soil invertebrates and the decline in their numbers nationwide signals a decline in the natural environment

When?

Surveying is repeated twice a year
Spring - April/May after hibernation
Autumn - September/October before hibernation

Where?

Across MK at selected Park's Trust greenspaces / parks and individual house gardens - just like yours!

**Any questions please email MKHW team at:
Mkhogwatch@theparkstrust.com**

MK is great for hogs

Hedgehogs are now one of the fastest disappearing animals in the UK, with approximately a third of the population lost since 2000.

They are declining rapidly in the countryside and urban parks and gardens are of increasing importance.

The Parks Trust actively creates & maintains wildlife corridors across all their greenspaces & parks.

We know that hedgehogs are found across Milton Keynes (through reported sightings and road kill) but we should do everything we can to maintain and support our population.



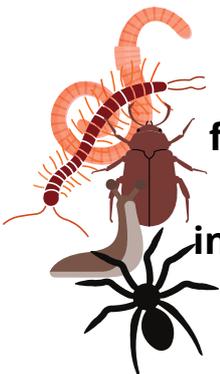
Open
greenspaces
woodlands,
water &
hedgerows



Variety of seasonal
flowers &
vegetation
attracts insects &
natural materials
for nests

**MK is a good
example of
'wildlife' friendly
urbanization**

Different habitats
provide good
supply of
favourite foods
worms, spiders,
insects & molluscs



Established & accessible wildlife corridors
with linked urban gardens & linear grid roads

Guide to Surveying



Survey checklist

- ✓ footprint survey tunnel & plate
- ✓ supply of 5 nights bait food
- ✓ supply of 5 nights tape mix
- ✓ A4 paper
- ✓ animal ID guides
- ✓ recording sheet
- ✓ own paintbrush

Where to place tunnel?

- * alongside linear feature (wall/fence/hedge)
- * flush to ground & clear, easy access in/out
- * in short grass

Check there are open/clear access points for hogs to easily visit your garden - holes in/under fences & garden gates **Size: 13x13cm**



Daily checks /action

- (1) safely remove paper tracking & replace with new sheets
- (2) reapply fresh paint to masking tape
- (3) replace bait food, even if not eaten
- (4) investigate & record findings (use ID guide)

Reporting

Please scan & email your 5 day recording sheet to:

MKhogwatch@theparkstrust.com

Your surveying data using postcode/grid reference is shared with **Bucks & MK Environmental Records Centre**

BMERC: <https://www.bucksmkerc.org.uk/>



Important health & safety guidelines

- Wear protective gloves when removing/replacing tracking paper
- Do not touch any animal deposits
- Wash your hands after tunnel daily checks
- Store your tracking papers in a sealed bag



Hedgehog friendly gardens

Follow the Parks Trust advice & welcome hogs into your garden

How you can help Hedgehogs



Create a wild corner



How You Can Help Hedgehogs



Put out food & water



How You Can Help Hedgehogs



Link your garden



How You Can Help Hedgehogs



Make your pond safe



How You Can Help Hedgehogs



Check before strimming / mowing



How You Can Help Hedgehogs



Build a log pile / undisturbed leaves



How You Can Help Hedgehogs



Stop using Chemicals



How You Can Help Hedgehogs



0. Become a Hedgehog Champion and spread the word

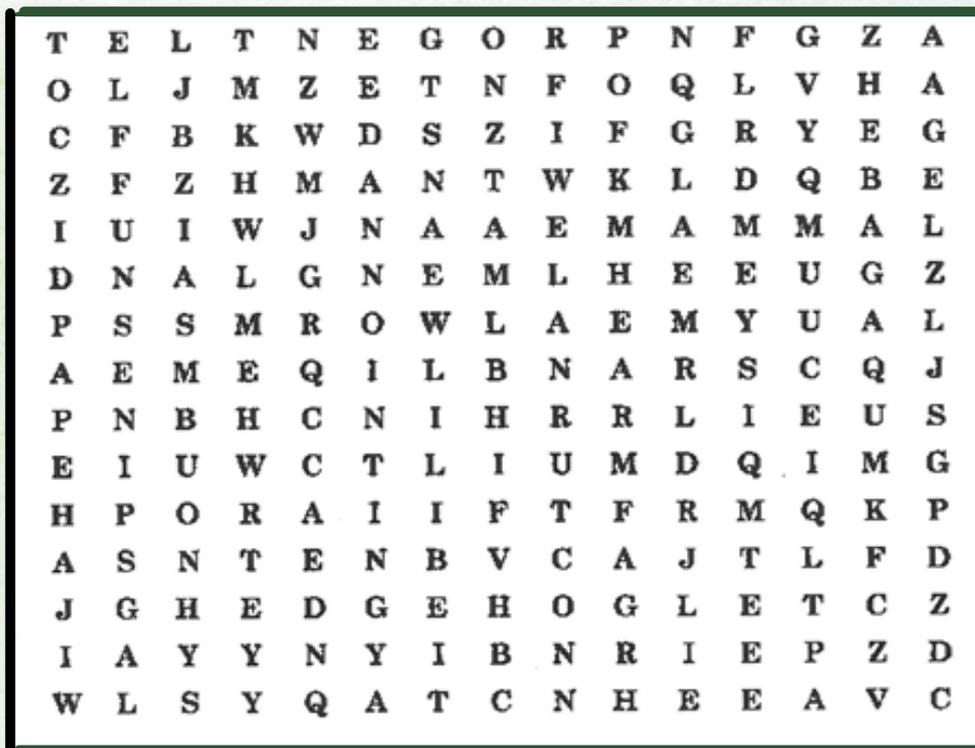


register at
www.hedgehogstreet.org

join our army of over
35,000 volunteers...

Enjoy your MKHW surveying & welcoming hogs into your garden
Your Recording form and animal ID are attached to this pack
Any questions please contact MKHW team at:
Mkhogwatch@theparkstrust.com

Hedgehog games



annointing
boar
England
nest
gentle

insectivore
hibernation
mammal
nocturnal
sow

habitat
hoglet
snuffle
shy
spines

Ireland
hedgehog
furry
mealworms
squeaking

Hedgehog Crossword

(answers at the bottom of page)

Across

1. The sound it makes when it is surprised.
5. This is a favorite bedding material.
8. What they do to protect themselves.
9. The animal that hunts for its food.
11. What a baby hedgehog is called.
13. Use these when you first handle a hedgehog.
14. This is a nickname.

Down

2. When an animal sleeps all day and night.
3. What hedges eat in the wild.
4. Where they are found in the wild.
6. The sound it makes when it is content.
7. An animal that is caught for food.
10. The sharp points on its back.
12. A country where hedgehogs are found.