



DESCRIPTION

Brown hares are similar to rabbits, but are larger in size, with longer black-tipped ears and longer legs. Brown hares are often seen resting in ‘forms.’ These are shallow depressions in the ground or grasses (see photo).

TYPICAL HABITATS

Woodland, farmland, grassland. Brown hares are mostly commonly seen in farmland habitats, particularly where cereal crops are grown.

RANGE

Widespread across the UK with the exception of northern Scotland. Most commonly found in eastern England: Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire.

FIELD SIGNS

Footprints

Their footprints are distinctive by the position of their feet. Their long hind feet are parallel and the fore feet are often between them, depending on speed of travel. Forepaws width 4cm, length 4cm; hind feet 4.5cm width, 15cm length.

Droppings

Brown hare often leave droppings on bare ground on farmland and edges of grassland. They are larger and more flattened than the rabbit (1.5cm-2cm in diameter). They can vary, depending on the diet.

Colour: greenish brown

Smell: sweet smelling, like a damp digestive biscuit with a hint of mown hay.

