



## DESCRIPTION

The hedgehog is Britain's only spiny mammal, with thousands of spines covering its back. It has soft fur underneath, hiding its long legs.

## BEHAVIOUR

Hedgehogs are one of the few British mammals that hibernate in winter.

## TYPICAL HABITATS

Woodland, urban gardens, farmland, grassland.

## RANGE

Throughout the British Isles.

## FIELD SIGNS

### Footprints

Hedgehog tracks are best identified by using a footprint tunnel. They are five-toed, with a sharp claw on the end. They are 2.8cm in width and 2.5cm in length. To record footprints, a tunnel can be placed alongside hedgerows and in gardens. A footprint guide and protocol are both available from The Mammal Society.

### Droppings

They can be found in grassland and farmland, and in people's gardens. They are crinkly, often studded with shiny fragments due to their diet of insects. Variable size, 15-50mm long, 8-10mm thick.

Colour: blue-black

Smell: Sweet smelling, hint of linseed oil.

