



Hedgehog

Erinaceus europaeus

Quick facts

Order Eulipotyphla

Conservation status

GB *Vulnerable*



England *Vulnerable*

Scotland *Vulnerable*

Wales *Vulnerable*

Global *Least Concern*

GB trend *Declining*

Size Body 150 - 300 mm;

tail 10 - 20 mm

Weight Up to 2 kg

Life span 2 - 3 years

The hedgehog, Britain's only spiny mammal, is unmistakable. It is found throughout mainland Britain and Ireland and has been introduced to Orkney, Shetland, the Isle of Man, and some of the Channel Islands.

Habitat

Prefers grassland near woodland edges, hedgerows, and suburban habitats.

Behaviour

Hibernates from around October to March / April. Emerges several times in winter to build a new nest. Outside of hibernation, may travel 1 - 2 km per night.

Diet & Feeding

Mainly invertebrates such as beetles, worms, slugs, caterpillars. Occasionally eggs of ground-nesting birds.

Reproduction

4 or 5 young born between April and September, raised by female. Young must reach weight of at least 450 g to survive first hibernation.

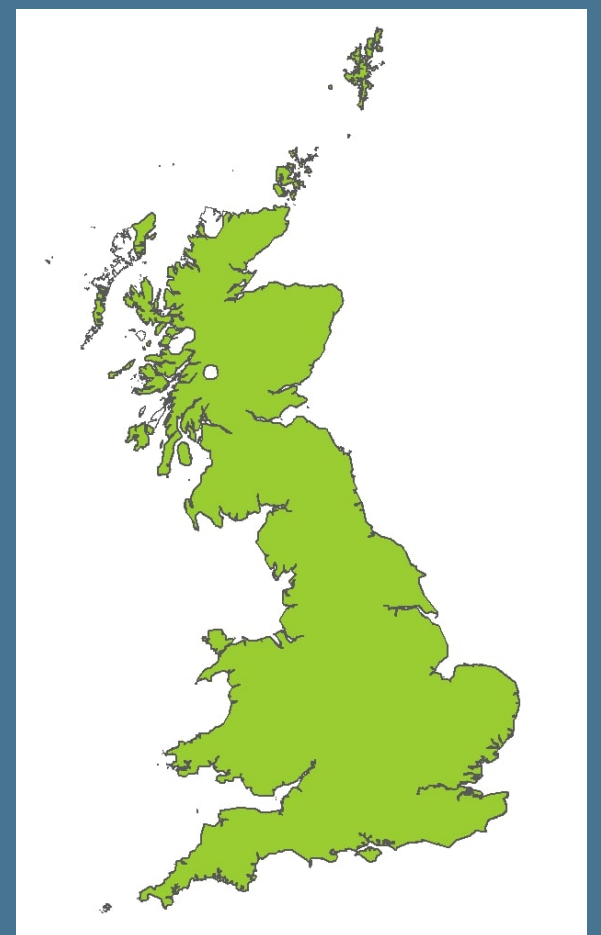
Conservation & Threats

Partially protected under Wildlife & Countryside Act. Hedgehogs may become

locally scarce or even disappear locally.

Threats include habitat loss from change from pastoral farming to arable crops. Chemicals used in intensive farming and in gardens present a threat through reducing prey and direct poisoning. Many are also killed on roads. Gardens provide food but also hazards including strimmers and burning bonfire heaps that are used as shelter.

Range



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