17 BIRDS AND MAMMALS Hedgehog houses and highways



Purchase (or self-make) and install habitat homes in carefully selected locations. Modify boundaries to allow hedgehogs to move freely around the site.

Suitability	Low and medium density housing if sufficient space available to install house(s) in suitable locations. Hedgehog highways in low, medium and high density housing.	
Management type	Wildlife 'housing'.	
Supplier information	Instructions on how to build a hedgehog houses:	
	Hedgehog Street: http://www.hedgehogstreet.org/wp-content/ uploads/2018/06/Hedgehog-Street-Hedgehog-houses-instructions-2018.pdf.	
	Wildlife Trust: http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-build-hedgehog- home.	
	RSPB: http://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/give-nature-a-home-in-your-garden/garden-activities/giveahogahome.	
	Hedgehog homes can be purchased from online sellers, e.g. the British Hedgehog Preservation Society. Consult with your local Wildlife Trust for advice on suitable suppliers.	
	Instructions on how to create hedgehog highways: http://www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/link-your-garden.	
Community engagement?	Yes – good opportunity to involve volunteer residents in a 'build a hedgehog house' activity and help to install on site. Could also encourage residents to monitor for signs of use and become involved with Hedgehog Street project; a partnership between People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) and the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS): http://www.hedgehogstreet.org.	
Benefits	Provides suitable place for hedgehogs to shelter, breed and hibernate	
Costs/Disbenefit	Financial cost: Low or make yourself – evidence suggests hedgehogs are more likely to use homemade houses: https://ptes.org/hedgehog-housing-census-the-results-are-in.	
Level of ongoing maintenance	Medium.	







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How achieved	Purchase and/or self-make and install habitat homes in carefully selected locations. Ensure there are spaces or holes (13 cm x 13 cm) at the base of fences or walls. To create hedgehog highways, remove a brick from the bottom of the wall, cut a small hole in the fence if there are no gaps or dig a channel underneath the wall, fence or gate.	
Timing of activity	Any time, although spring/summer is ideal as ready for hedgehogs house-searching in the autumn.	
Long-term management	Monitor condition of houses and highways. Clear out the hedgehog house once a year (late March - early April) to prevent the build-up of pests. Do not clean it out if a hedgehog is in residence. Check hedgehog highways are kept clear of obstructions (e.g. encroaching vegetation).	
Monitoring success	General recording (see page 6). Look for signs of habitation around house entrance (blocked with vegetation) and general sightings at night, hedgehog droppings etc. Set out footprint tunnels to find out if hedgehogs are present. Instructions can be found on the Hedgehog Street website: http://www.hedgehogstreet.org/about-hedgehogs/tracks-and-signs	