

In June 2016 Worthys Conservation Volunteers built ten hedgehog tunnels for use during the summer and autumn. This involved cutting corrugated plastic sheet to form triangular tunnels and another for the removable slide. The slide incorporated a bait container, masking tape covered in ink made from graphite and vegetable oil and recording paper. This was an interesting change from the volunteer's usual activity of bird & insect counts, seat erection or ground clearance.

Four tunnels were loaned to the Kings Worthy Primary School in July, where the pupils eagerly sought evidence of hedgehogs within the school grounds. The tunnels were well placed in a variety of habitat around the school grounds.

During the autumn, tunnels were loaned to residents from around the area who had signed up to the project at the Church Fete in May. A tunnel kit was supplied to each participant and comprised: the aforementioned tunnel and slider, a quantity of commercial hedgehog bait, an instruction sheet, ten sheets of recording paper, an identity sheet of potential mammal footprints and sheet to record the results.

The kit was loaned for at least five nights to increase the potential recording of hedgehogs in the area.

Hedgehogs were recorded at various locations across the whole of Kings Worthy with the exception of the southern extreme - Church Green. A typical site would have visits by hedgehogs on two nights, the most frequently visited sites were in Vale Way and North Road area with prints on each night.

#### **Survey Results & Map**

<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Postcode</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Hedgehog Paw Prints</b>	<b>Month</b>
1a School	SO23 7QS	Potting shed	1 night	June
1b School	SO23 7QS	Beech hedge	1 night	June
1c School	SO23 7QS	Hazel arch	none	June
1d School	SO23 7QS	KS2 gardens	2 nights	June
2	SO23 7NZ	Front garden	5 nights	September
3	SO23 7RL	Back garden	2 nights	September
4	SO23 7QY	Back garden	1 night	September
5	SO23 7PN	Front gravel drive	3 nights	September
6	SO23 7LL	Hedge by public car park	5 nights	September
7	SO23 7TT	Front garden	none	September
8	SO21 1AX	East Garden	1 night	September
9	SO23 7QQ	Front garden	2 nights	September
10	SO23 7LF	Front garden	2 nights	October



Quote from participant Lynne Thorne: "Until I took part in the survey I hadn't ever really given quality time to thinking about hedgehogs and their plight. When I discovered they were responding to being fed and that different ones appeared to come each night I/we developed a real sense of connection. Since then I have been left wondering what else we could and should be doing!"

*John Leeks, December 2016*