

Wild Swaffham Prior: Science Week

Hedgehogs: Sightings & Signs;
Highways & Splats
Year 3 & 4 (Bees)



Mike Barker - Professional Ecologist

Hedgehogs in Swaffham Prior & what can we do

Firstly - sorry I can't come in to see you. I am an Ecologist.

Who knows what ecology is?

It is the study of animals and plants in the places they live - their habitats...

I do surveys for animals like newts, bats and badgers for my job.

I especially like pond surveys - even though I have fallen in!!

Wildlife in Swaffham Prior

- ▶ Have you noticed more birdsong and wildlife in Swaffham Prior this spring and summer?..
- ▶ Less traffic means that we can hear the birdsong better



Hedgehogs in Swaffham Prior & what can we do

Gardens are important homes of wildlife including hedgehogs.

And also less animals are being killed on the roads, so there might be more hedgehogs in Swaffham Prior this year!

What's in you garden - what have you seen any Hedgehogs?



Hedgehogs in Swaffham Prior & what can we do

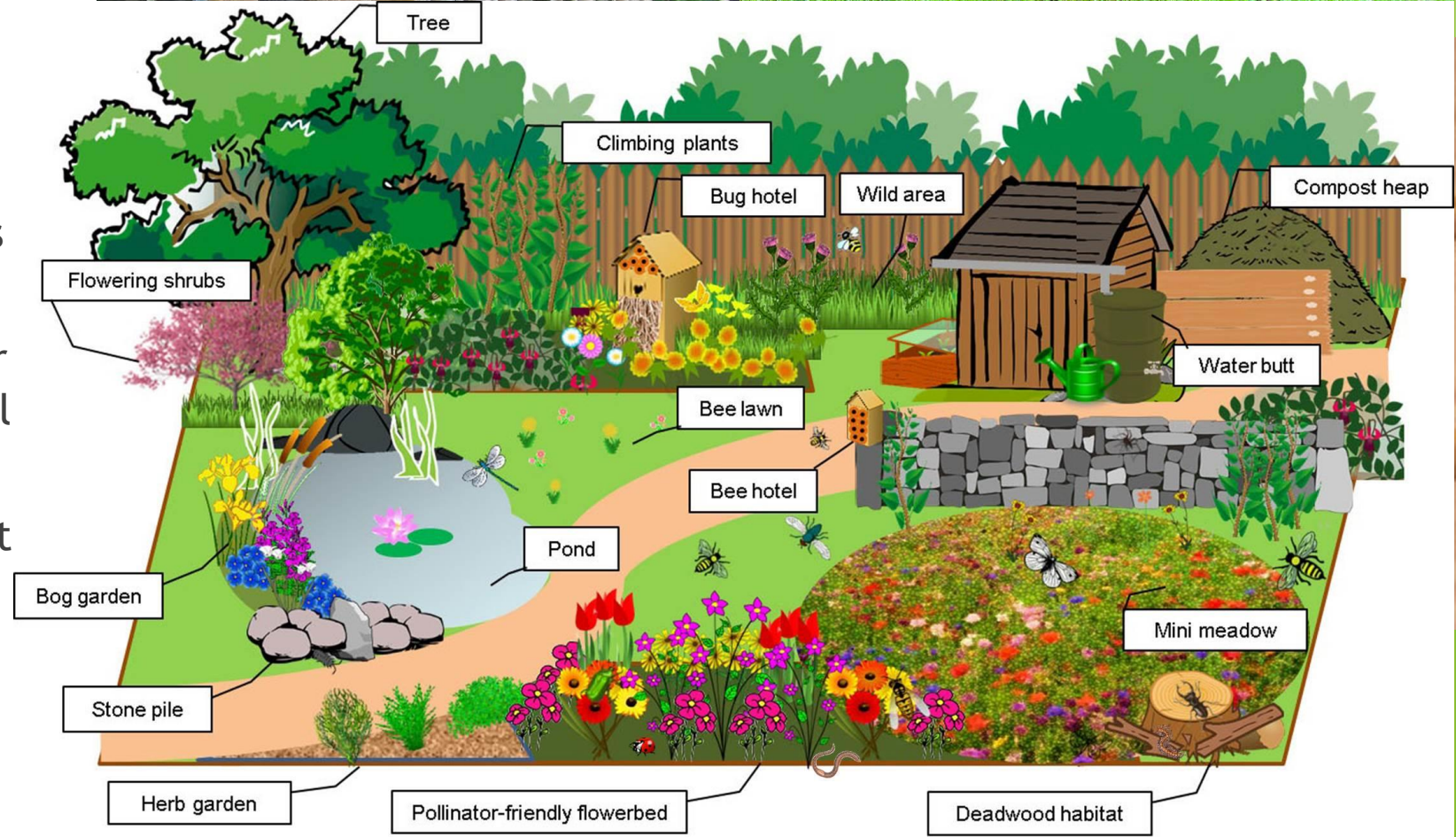
Do you remember how to encourage wildlife into your garden? Hedgehogs will like all of these:

Garden for bees & butterflies - lots of flowers and places to hide

Add a bird bath or a water bowl for hedgehogs to drink from (or a small pond if you can)

Make a hedgehog house (& compost heap)

Make homes for nature - put up an insect hotel, nestbox or batbox



Reception: Hedgehogs in Swaffham Prior & what can we do

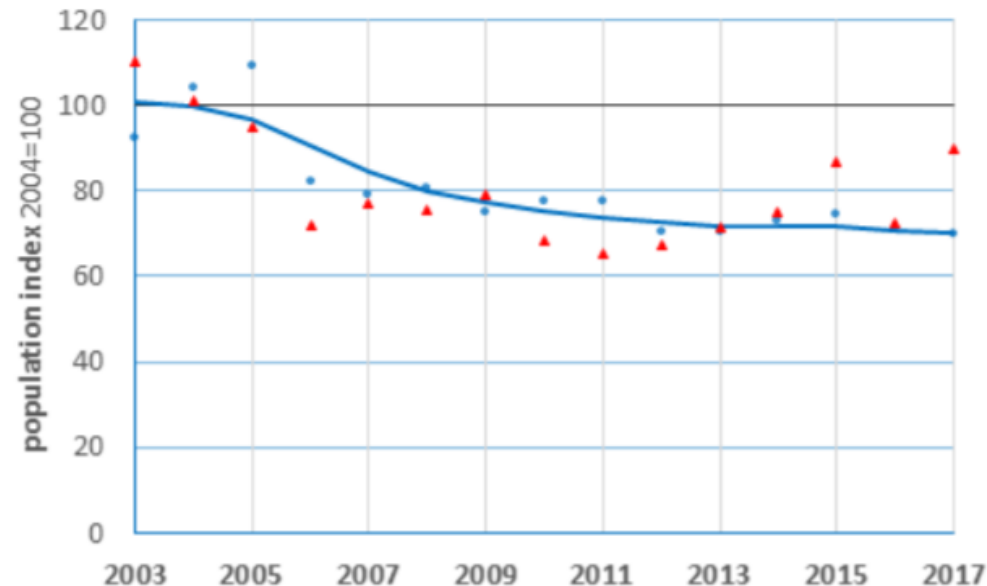
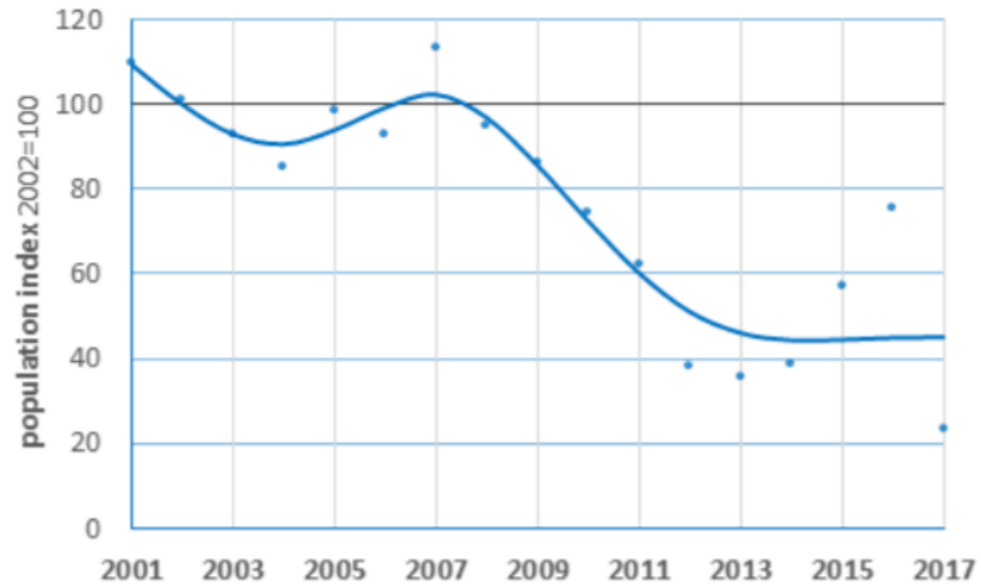
Hedgehogs are thought to be declining in the countryside (top graph);

But are doing better in gardens in villages and towns (bottom graph);

Which is good news for our Swaffham Prior hedgehogs!

Threats to hedgehogs: many are killed on roads.

But also accidents with strimmers, too tidy gardens, bonfires and slug pellets.



Hedgehogs in Swaffham Prior & what can we do

What's in your garden - what signs have you seen?

Look for hedgehog poo in your garden even if you can't stay up to watch for them at night.



This is hedgehog poo next to the hedgehog food bowl in my garden

They like to eat cat and dog food and occasionally mealworms

You could feed your hedgehogs!

They come out to eat in our garden as early as 9.30pm sometimes

Hedgehogs in Swaffham Prior & what can we do

Hedgehogs can't always get into gardens - unless there are gaps under fences/gates.

Making a hedgehog hole will encourage hedgehogs into your garden if it is fenced



This is the hedgehog hole and highway in my garden - they just push under the fence

Mapping the holes in Swaffham Prior will help protect hedgehogs and understand how they move through the village

Hedgehogs in Swaffham Prior & what can we do

This is the hedgehog map for Swaffham Prior - it is a bit empty - can we fill it up?

HOMEWORK:

Find out if you have hedgehogs in your garden;

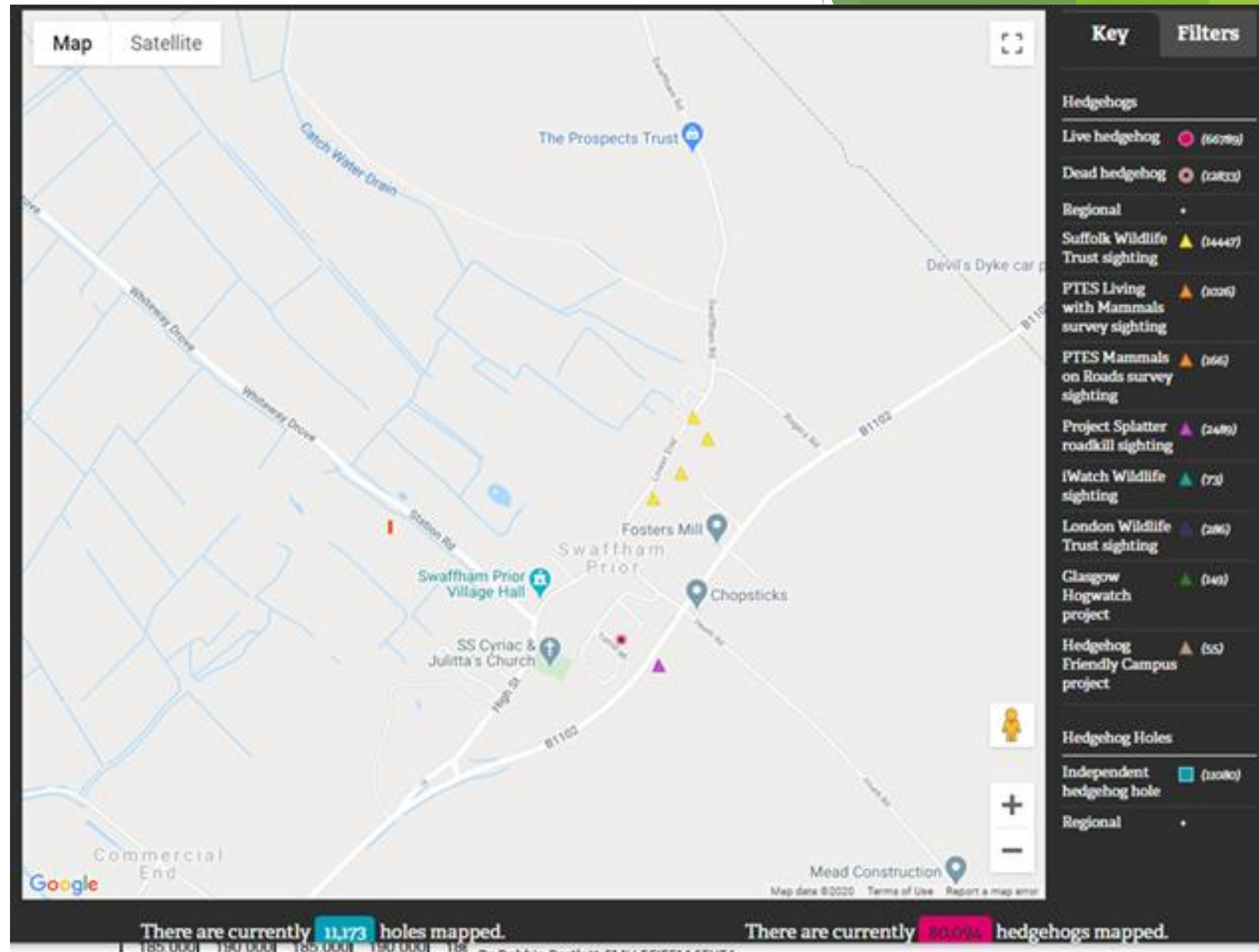
Map signs (poo!) and holes in your garden

Ask is your neighbours if they have hedgehogs too;

Send you hedgehog records in via Class Dojo

You can also add them to a national survey:

<https://bighedgehogmap.org/>



Hedgehogs in Swaffham Prior & what can we do

Thank you and happy hedgehog spotting!

Mike Barker

Cage Hill

SP

Use the checklist below to see how your garden shapes up for nature!

a) Do you have any of these food features?

- ☐ Bird feeding station
- ☐ Nectar rich flowers
- ☐ Fruit trees or berry bearing shrubs
- ☐ Perennials left un-cut until spring
- ☐ Vegetable patch / container
- ☐ Herb garden

b) Do you have any of these shelter features?

- ☐ Dead wood / Log pile / Stone pile
- ☐ Climbing plants on wall/trellis (eg. Ivy, Honeysuckle, Clematis)
- ☐ Mixed native hedge (eg. Oak, Hazel, Hawthorn, Blackthorn)
- ☐ Mature trees
- ☐ Some lawn left to grow long
- ☐ Mini wild flower meadow
- ☐ Bird, bat or hedgehog box
- ☐ Insect hotel

c) Do you have any of these water features?

- ☐ Wildlife pond – no fish!
- ☐ Bog / permanently wet area
- ☐ Bucket pond
- ☐ Garden close to stream or water source
- ☐ Drought-resistant plants
- ☐ Bird bath

d) Do you have any of these management features?

- ☐ No use of pesticide & slug pellets
- ☐ Avoid chemical weed killers
- ☐ Compost bin, heap or wormery
- ☐ Rain butt to save water
- ☐ Use peat free compost

You can also do another wildlife garden audit for homework if you have time? See if anything has changed since last year!

Web references for you:

- ▶ About Hedgehogs: <https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/about-hedgehogs/>
- ▶ <https://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/pdf/sobh-2018.pdf>
- ▶ <https://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/>
- ▶ Who's poo: <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife/how-identify/identify-poo>
- ▶ Then what can we do - drawing on the RSPB make a home for nature campaign: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/give-nature-a-home-in-your-garden/garden-activities/>
- ▶ The garden checklist : <https://www.surreywildlifetrust.org/sites/default/files/2018-04/Surrey%20Wildlife%20Garden%20Award%20Check%20List.pdf>
- ▶ <https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-families/family-wild-challenge/activities/tracks-and-signs/>
- ▶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Insect_hotel