

Wild Swaffham Prior: Science Week

Hedgehogs: Sighting & Signs

Reception, Year 1 & 2
Hedgehogs & Swifts

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

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

- hedgehog poo in your garden.



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!

Hedgehogs in Swaffham Prior & what can we do

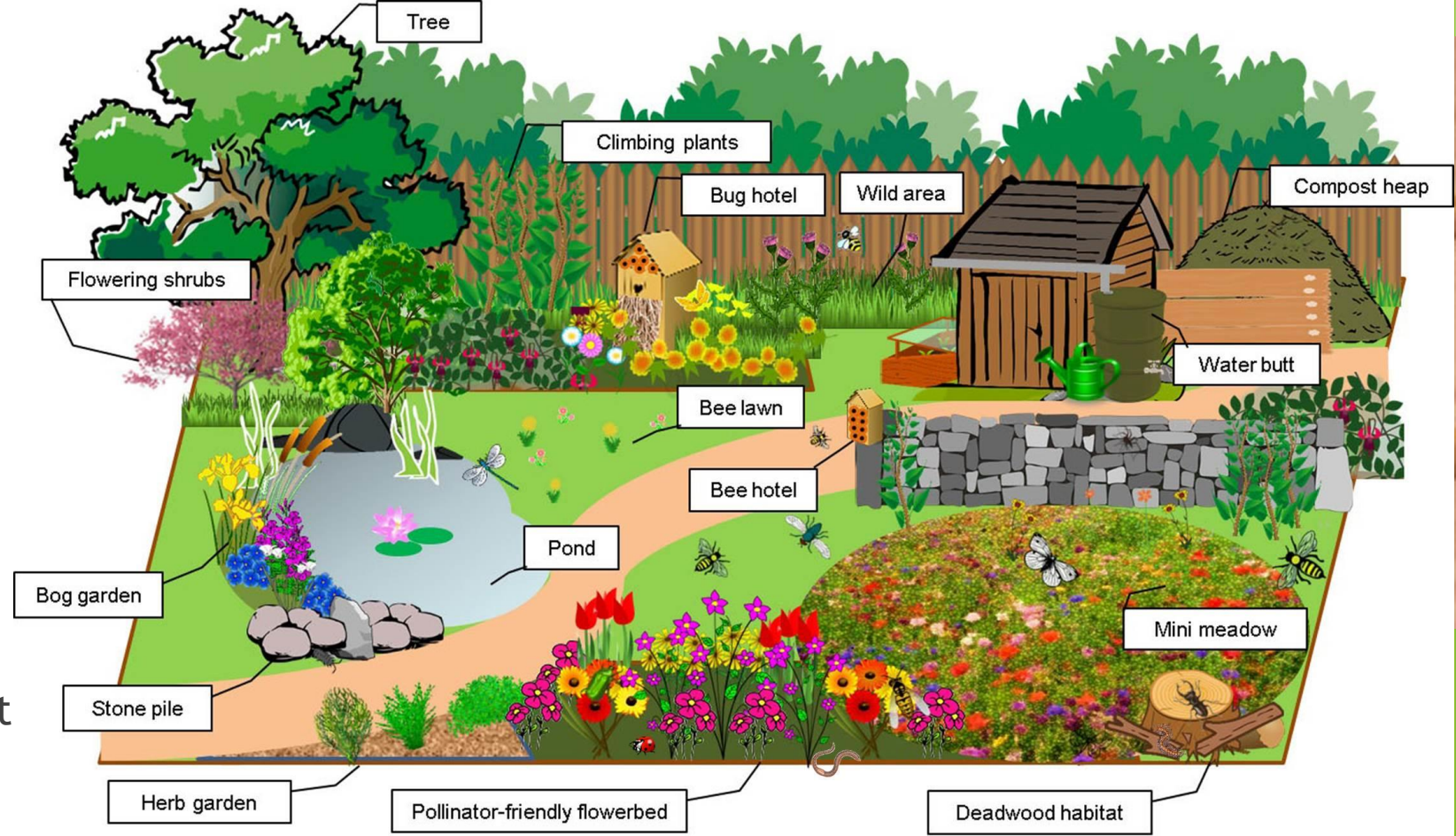
You could encourage wildlife into your garden. Hedgehogs will like all of these:

garden for bees & butterflies - lots of flowers

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

Add a bird bath (or a small pond if you can)

Make a hedgehog house (& compost heap)



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:

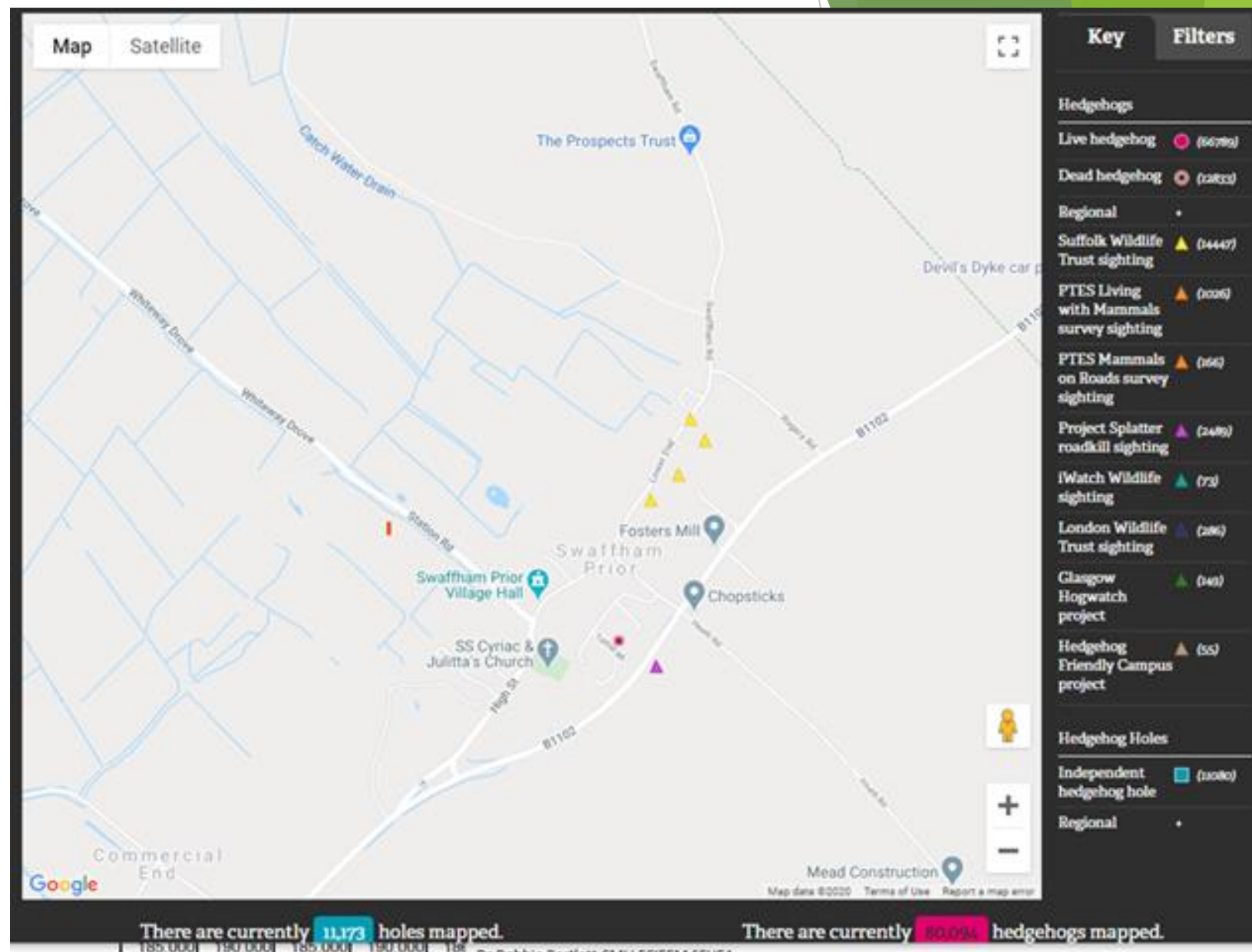
Find out if you have hedgehogs in your garden;

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 a wildlife garden audit for homework if you have time?

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/>
- ▶ <https://bighedgehogmap.org/>

- ▶ 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