



Featured Creature



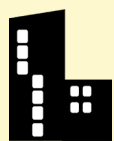
West European hedgehog

Erinaceus europaeus



Animal Type

Vertebrate



Habitat

Mainly urban plus others (e.g. forests, grasslands)



Diet

Invertebrates (e.g. worms, beetles), berries & seeds



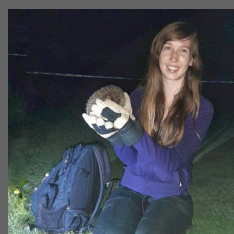
Range

UK, Europe, & Russia

Fun Fact!


Hedgehogs used to be called “urchins” or “hedgepigs” in the Middle Ages. These inspired the common name of the similarly spiky sea creatures called sea urchins (class Echinoidea)!

Researcher Spotlight



Lauren Moore

PhD Student
Nottingham Trent University

 @L_J_Moore

What do I study?

I am investigating the multi-faceted impacts of roads on the viability of hedgehog populations in the UK, focusing on the individual and population levels.

Why did I get into research?

I like to help ‘the little guys’ in conservation, the species that may be forgotten about, and ensuring ecologically-sensitive transport infrastructure is fundamental in successfully co-existing with nature.

Why should we protect hedgehogs?

In the UK, hedgehogs aren’t spotted as much as before - and not just because they’re nocturnal! Loss of habitat, urban development, and chemical pollution are leaving these spiky mammals at risk of local extinction. But hedgehog numbers are an indicator for the health of an environment. Protecting hedgehogs also helps save lots of other important animals like birds and bats.