

# HEDGEHOG STREET



**CITY OF WILDLIFE**



**10 tips for encouraging  
hedgehogs in your neighbourhood**

# 1. Link your garden



During their active season, hedgehogs roam between 1-2km each night, so it's critical that they can access a wide range of gardens. 13 x 13cm (5 x 5") square holes in walls or fences will let hedgehogs through but is too small for most pets. You could also dig a channel underneath your fence to provide access.

If you've made a hole in your garden wall or fence please visit [www.hedgehogstreet.org](http://www.hedgehogstreet.org) and put it on our map.

Buy Hedgehog Highway signs made from recycled plastic at

[www.hedgehogstreet.org/shop](http://www.hedgehogstreet.org/shop) and [britishhedgehogs.org.uk/shop](http://britishhedgehogs.org.uk/shop)

## 2. Make your pond safe

Hedgehogs are adept swimmers, but if they can't climb out of steep-sided ponds or pools they will drown. Use a pile of stones, a piece of wood or some chicken wire to create a simple ramp.



Anina Day

## 3. Create a wild corner



Let the plants go mad in a corner of your garden, and don't cut them back in winter and hedgehogs might nest here. They'll also benefit from the abundant insects. Use branches to add structure.

## 4. Deal with netting and litter



BHPS



Hedgehogs are prone to getting tangled. Plastic drink can rings, elastic bands and netting are all common offenders. Replace netting with a rigid structure or use a thick cordage and keep taut. Sports and garden netting should be tied up or stored inside when not in use.



## 5. Put out food and water



Simon Oldfield



Christopher Morgan

Hedgehogs really benefit from extra food, using it as a supplement to their natural diet. Meaty cat or dog food are both suitable. Water can also be scarce at certain times of the year and is the only thing you should give them to drink.

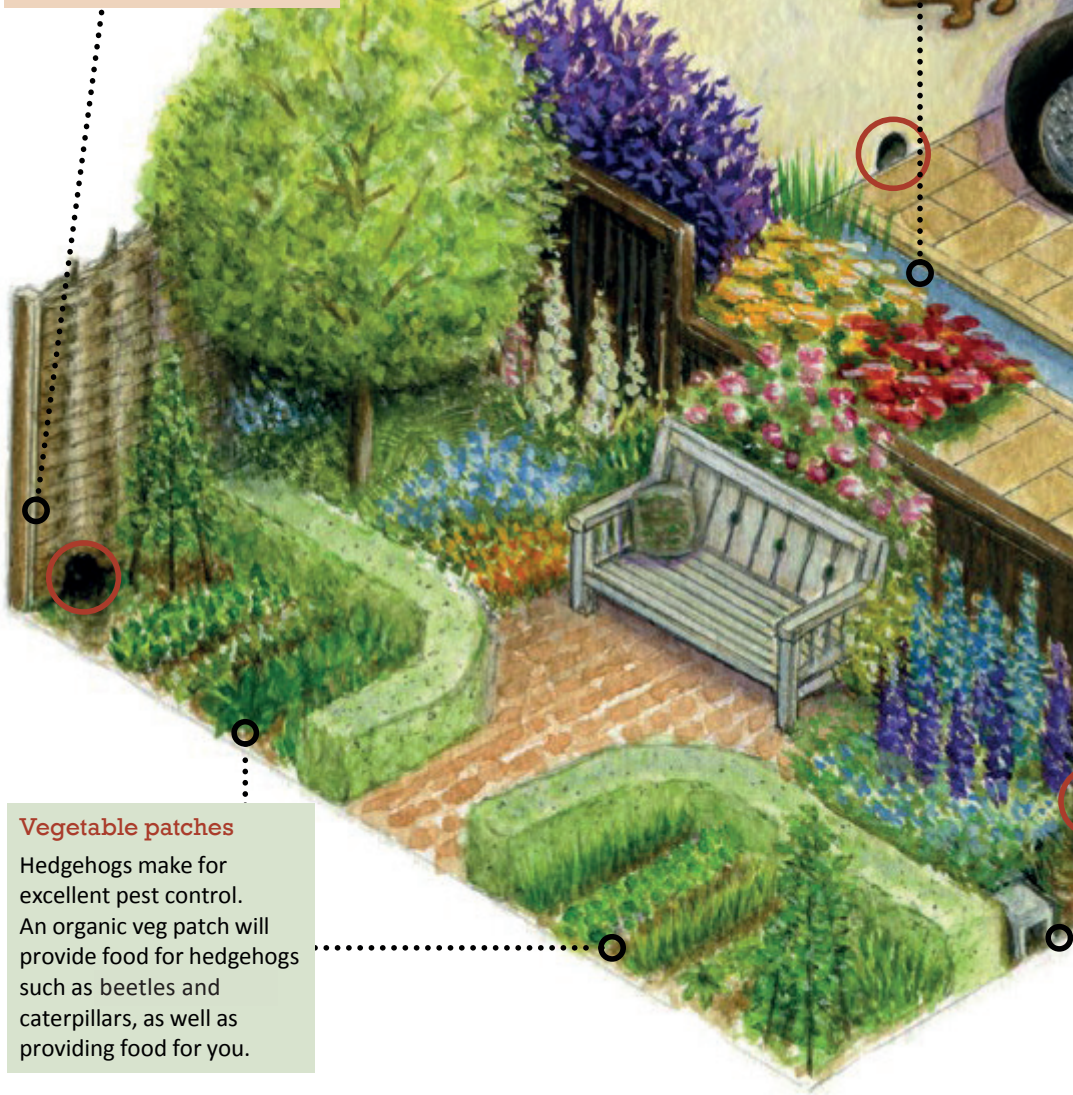
13cm (5 inches) square hedgehog holes are essential for creating hedgehog highways between gardens.

Hedgehogs will eat the insects attracted by the fallen fruit

A wide shallow rill with a hedgehog escape ramp provides a safe and vital source of fresh water for hedgehogs and other wildlife.

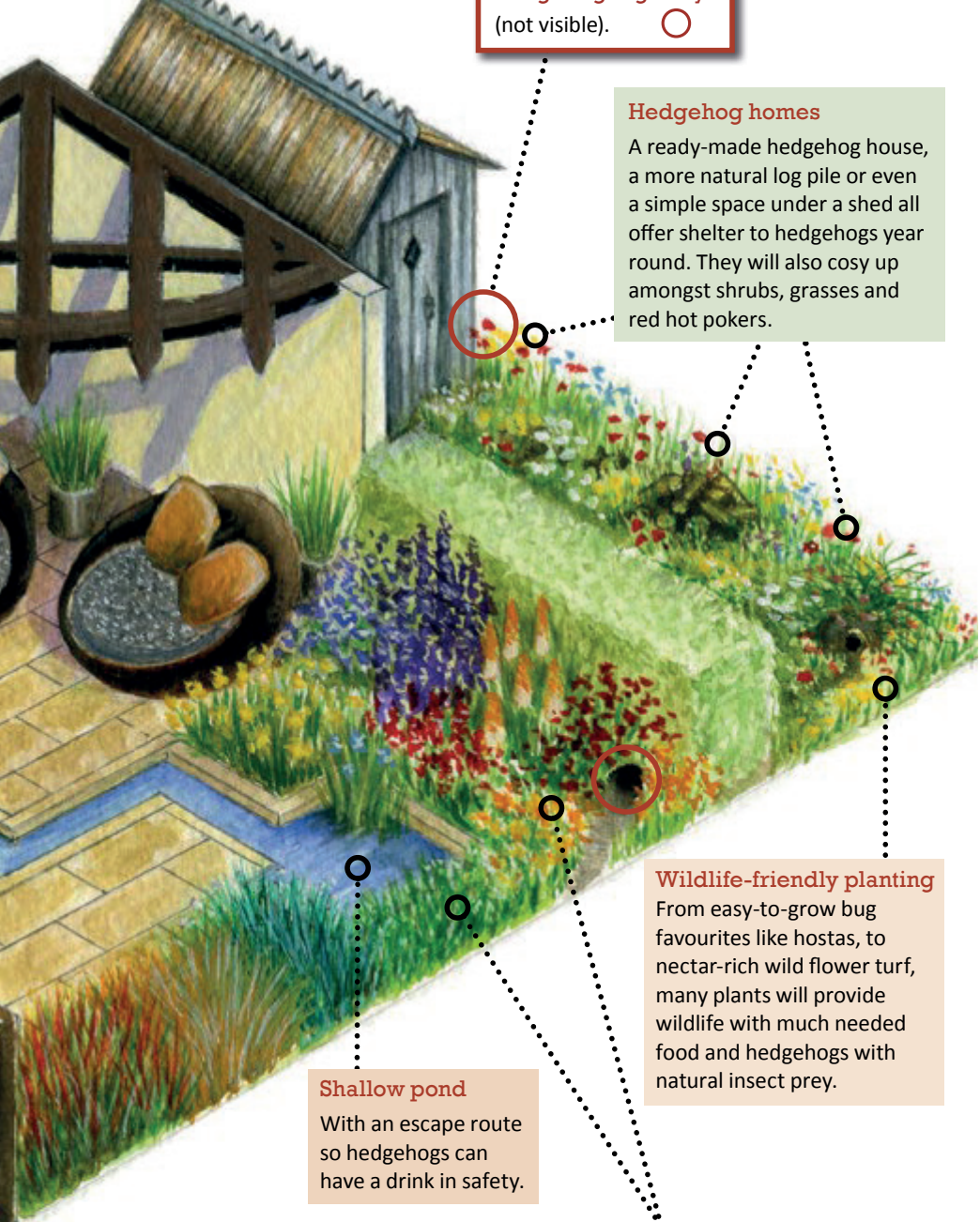
### Hedgehog tunnel

Add a tunnel leading to the hole, keeping to the minimum size of 13x13cm (5x5 inches), to deter larger animals (not visible).



### Vegetable patches

Hedgehogs make for excellent pest control. An organic veg patch will provide food for hedgehogs such as beetles and caterpillars, as well as providing food for you.



(not visible). ○

**Hedgehog homes**  
A ready-made hedgehog house, a more natural log pile or even a simple space under a shed all offer shelter to hedgehogs year round. They will also cosy up amongst shrubs, grasses and red hot pokers.

**Wildlife-friendly planting**  
From easy-to-grow bug favourites like hostas, to nectar-rich wild flower turf, many plants will provide wildlife with much needed food and hedgehogs with natural insect prey.

**Shallow pond**  
With an escape route so hedgehogs can have a drink in safety.

**Feeding station**  
Create your own simple feeding station in a plastic storage box with a 13cm (5 inches) square doorway. Give your visitors an extra treat of meat-based pet food and a shallow dish of water.

**Hedgehog bedding**  
Leaf piles and long grasses are perfect for hedgehogs to collect and use as bedding in their breeding and hibernation nests.

# 6. Stop using chemicals



Oliver Wilks

Lawn treatments reduce worm populations. Pesticides, insecticides and slug pellets are toxic and reduce hedgehogs' creepy crawly prey. They are all unnecessary in a healthy well-managed garden.



## 7. Check before strimming



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Hedgehogs will not run away from the sound of a mower or strimmer – check before you cut and avoid causing horrific injuries or death. Robotic lawnmowers also pose a risk to hedgehogs so make sure to check areas thoroughly and don't run them at night.

Single hedgehogs are easily moved, but use gloves! Moving a hedgehog family is more complicated and ideally they should be left undisturbed – call BHPS for advice on 01584 890801.

## 8. Be careful with bonfires

Piles of debris are irresistible to a hedgehog looking for somewhere to hibernate or nest – build it on the day of burning or move the pile on the day of burning to avoid a tragic end.



image edited using AI

# 9. Make a home for hedgehogs



Henry Johnson



Robert Ling

A log pile is one of the best features for encouraging all kinds of wildlife – and so easy to make. It will encourage insects and provide nesting opportunities all year around. Alternatively, you can make your own DIY hedgehog house – you can download instructions from [this website](#).

# 10. Become a Hedgehog Champion



Register on **Hedgehog Street** and join our army of over 100,000 volunteers. We'll provide you with all of the resources you could need to make your neighbourhood chock-a-block with hedgehogs.

# HEDGEHOG STREET



**CITY OF WILDLIFE**

We can only carry out vital work for hedgehogs with your support.

To find out more about how you can get involved visit  
[www.hedgehogstreet.org/get-involved](http://www.hedgehogstreet.org/get-involved)



Hedgehogs in the countryside are continuing to decline, but appear to be stabilising and showing signs of recovery in urban areas. Hedgehog-friendly gardens are beginning to have a positive impact and there's never been a more important time to help Britain's hedgehogs.

Source: The State of Britain's Hedgehogs 2022 report

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