

Help us save hedgehogs at Durham University

Did you know that the hedgehog population in the UK is now fewer than one million? This compares with 30 million in 1950.

Read our leaflet to find out what you can do to support hedgehogs at Durham University.

Why has the UK hedgehog population declined?

- Loss of hedgerows and field margins.
- Loss of habitat in urban areas due to development.
- Creation of new infrastructure, such as roads and walls, which isolate hedgehog populations and increase road deaths.
- Over-tidiness in urban areas, such as closely maintained garden lawns, leading to a lack of food.
- Use of pesticides in farming reduces food sources and can poison hedgehogs.

What can you do to support hedgehogs at Durham University?

- Do not use pesticides or slug pellets to reduce hedgehog poisoning and to increase safe food sources, such as invertebrates.
- Drive slowly and be aware at night, especially in urban areas.
- Allow your garden or lawn to grow and leave piles of logs in corners to provide a habitat for invertebrates.
- Only feed hedgehogs with cat food from a shallow dish. Never leave milk for hedgehogs as it is poisonous.



- If you spot an underweight or distressed hedgehogs, contact your local hedgehog rescue centre. Remember, if you see a hedgehog during the day or in the winter months, it could mean it is distressed and should be reported.
- Create a gap under a garden shed or build a hedgehog nest box to provide a safe habitat.
- Carry out regular litter picks; hedgehogs can become trapped in discarded cans and containers.
- Create a hedgehog highway in your neighbourhood by cutting a 20cm by 20cm hole in the bottom of your garden fence.

Have you spotted a hedgehog at Durham University?

Log your hedgehog sightings on [Form](#) or scan the QR code.



Find out about the Durham University biodiversity strategy by visiting our [website](#).

Hear about our volunteer opportunities and events by following us on [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#).

Contact us
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