

West Oxfordshire URBAN HEDGEHOG HIGHWAYS



WHY DO WE WANT TO CREATE HEDGEHOG HIGHWAYS?

One of the main reasons that hedgehogs are declining in the UK is because fences and walls are becoming more and more secure, reducing the amount of land available to them to forage, hibernate and breed. Creating 'Hedgehog Highways' or a network of holes in fences large enough for hedgehogs to travel through will start to remove such barriers and increase the range of this declining species across urban landscapes.

To help boost our key urban hedgehog populations, we are offering **residents of Witney, Carterton and Chipping Norton** free hedgehog highway signs when you send us a picture of a newly created hedgehog highway hole – this can be created in any boundary of your front or back garden. These signs are laser cut from recycled plastic with pre-drilled hole, and can be pinned above your hedgehog hole as a reminder to keep the hole open for your prickly neighbours.

HOW YOU CAN CLAIM YOUR FREE HEDGEHOG HIGHWAY SIGN



Create a hole in your garden fence – this should ideally be around 13cm x 13cm to allow a hedgehog to pass through. Make a hole by;

- Cutting or drilling out hole in a wooden fence.
- Removing a brick from the bottom of the wall.
- Digging a channel under your wall, fence or gate.

The holes are best created next to some vegetation where hedgehogs will feel safest to scuttle through. If you can get a hole on either side of your garden, even better!

Take a picture of your hole and send it across to our team at Climate.Action@westoxon.gov.uk

Our team will take a look at your hedgehog hole, give you any tips on making your hole even better if needed, and will then be able to post out your free hedgehog highway sign.

**DID YOU KNOW
HEDGEHOGS ROAM AN
AVERAGE DISTANCE
OF 2KM ON A SINGLE
NIGHT. THAT'S AS FAR
AS WOODGREEN TO
WITNEY LAKE!**



ASK YOUR NEIGHBOURS!

If you would like to put a hole in where you share a garden boundary with a neighbour, please ask their permission first before making any holes. We have a template letter on our website if you would like to put something through their letterbox that explains the scheme and why it's important to connect up our gardens for hedgehogs. Why not try and get all of your neighbours involved to make a super-highway along your street!

