

LBB Hedgehog Report 2022

Hedgehogs were recorded from 18 locations in the borough in 2022- a total of 29 including 5 dead adults and 1 dead hoglet. 2 of the dead adults were killed on the road, 1 near the junction of Palace View and Bishops Ave., Bromley and another outside Holy Trinity Church, Bromley Common. The 3 dead adult hedgehogs and 1 dead hoglet were found on an Allotment site before July. Subsequently a single live adult was recorded at the same site in August.

Nesting behaviour was observed at 2 sites but the only hoglet reported was the dead one found at the Allotment site. Hedgehogs circling each other and snorting (behaviour often followed by mating) was recorded at a site in Petts Wood. It was good to have a hedgehog record for Hayes Common (from where we had not previously received records) and a 2nd record from Biggin Hill this year.

Numbers of hedgehog records received had been steadily increasing: from 10 (2017), 21(2018), 33 (2019), 36 (2020) to 51 (2021) so the low numbers for 2022 (29) were disappointing. One recorder from Petts Wood who regularly sees hedgehogs in his garden noted that 2022 was the worst year for sightings since he first began recording in 2014. One factor in the lower numbers recorded in 2022 may have been the drought and high temperatures. Countrywide the RSPCA were called out to high numbers of dehydrated hedgehogs during the very hot weather reinforcing the importance of putting out water during dry and hot weather.

The lack of records from Beckenham, Langley Park, Elmers End, the Bethlem Hospital area, Sundridge, Downham, Penge and the Crays continues. We need to improve publicity for the hedgehog (and also toad survey) in these areas.

A hedgehog factsheet can be found on this website under 'Biodiversity, Useful Documents' together with mapped records from 2017-2021. The results for 2022 have not been mapped. Hedgehogs are a London Borough of Bromley Action Plan Species, so information regarding how to help them is also available at <https://www.bromley.gov.uk/planning-policy/bromley-biodiversity-species-action-plan-hedgehog>

All Bromley's records have been submitted to Greenspace for Greater London (GiGL) and added to Hedgehog Street's map which can be seen at <https://bighedgehogmap.org>.

We are very grateful for all the information sent. It helps in the understanding of how hedgehogs are distributed in Bromley borough, highlights some areas important for breeding animals and suggests where efforts to link greenspaces in future should be concentrated. We will continue to promote the hedgehog survey in 2023 including breeding records. To see the distribution of records in the London Borough of Bromley check Hedgehog Street website (see above).

Bromley Biodiversity Partnership Proposed Actions for 2023:

- Promote hedgehog survey especially in areas of the borough where hedgehogs have not been recorded but may be present.
- Promote hedgehog welfare as per Species Action Plan at <https://www.bromley.gov.uk/planning-policy/bromley-biodiversity-species-action-plan-hedgehog> and through encouraging the provision of water during warm, hot and dry weather.
- Send records to LBB Planning Department so that when developments are planned in areas where hedgehogs are present consideration can be given to the installation of hedgehog highways linking gardens and greenspaces as part of mitigation/Biodiversity Net Gain.
- Send all records to GiGL & Hedgehog Street.

We would be very grateful for your help and support in 2023 so please send us your hedgehog records and if you live in one of the hard to reach areas above, or know someone who does, please look out for hedgehogs as it would be great to fill in some of the blank spaces. Posters promoting the Hedgehog Survey are available on the biodiversity page of Bromley Friends Forum website at: <https://www.bromleyfriendsforum.org> under posters. Please share the information on social media if you can.

Thank you

Judith John for Bromley Biodiversity Partnership Species and Habitats Sub-group

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