

ISSUE #2

LINCOLNSHIRE

SUMMER 26

MAMMAL GROUP NEWSLETTER

LINCOLNSHIRE'S FIRST GROUP DEDICATED TO
MAMMAL CONSERVATION



A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

It's been an exciting time for the group over the last three months, including holding our first AGM. It was fantastic to hear our committee members share updates on everything we've achieved as a group, and hear about the positive impact our work is having across Lincolnshire. It's a genuine privilege to chair such a proactive and dedicated group of people.

One statistic from the AGM particularly stood out to me: the average age of our members is just 30. I'm incredibly proud that we have people of all ages getting involved, sharing their ideas and helping to shape the future of the group. That diversity of perspectives is one of our greatest strengths and I'm excited to see what we can achieve together over the coming months.

-Georgie Fletcher, Chair

THE BIG SPRING LITTER PICK

Our first Big Spring Litter Pick was a lovely success.

Mammal Group members joined us for a gentle stroll around Boultham Park while helping to tidy the area along the way.

Thankfully the park was looking relatively clean already, which was great to see, but that didn't stop our volunteers from managing to fill a few bin bags. As always there were a few unusual discoveries among the litter with some particularly strange finds sparking plenty of conversation and amusement during the walk. It was wonderful opportunity to enjoy the fresh spring air, spot some local wildlife and spend time with fellow nature enthusiasts while doing something positive for the environment. A huge thank you goes to everyone that came along and helped make the event such an enjoyable and worthwhile outing.



www.lincolnmammals.org.uk



@lincs_mammal_group



Lincolnshire Mammal Group



THIS EDITION HAS BEEN WRITTEN BY BECKY, GEORGIE, LEXY AND ELLE



WHAT DID APRIL, MAY AND JUNE BRING IN 2026?



TRACKS AND SIGNS WITH DAVID WEGE

We were delighted to welcome author, nature educator and tracker David Wege to Lincolnshire this April for a fascinating day exploring the hidden signs of wildlife around the University of Lincoln Riseholme Campus.

The session opened our eyes to just how much nature exists all around us when you know what to look for. Although the focus was on mammals, David shared his incredible knowledge of all kinds of wildlife, finding tracks from snails and different species of bird too, helping us understand the stories animals leave behind in the landscape.

Throughout the day we discovered deer and badger tracks, identified hedgehog and deer scat and spotted feeding signs left behind by both mammals and birds. Everywhere we looked there was evidence of life proving that the Riseholme Campus is teeming with wildlife that often gets left unnoticed.

There were plenty of memorable facts and discoveries shared during the day too. One favourite was learning how abandoned badger setts are often reused by other animals. Another highlight was discovering that when deer rub their antlers against trees, they leave behind marks that glow under UV light, an incredible detail many of us had never heard before.

A huge thank you to David for delivering such an engaging session, to the University of Lincoln for kindly allowing us to use their campus for the day and to all the members who joined us and made it such an enjoyable event.



Top left: David Wege Middle left: Hedgehog scat Bottom Left: David showing the group feeding signs from feathers
Bottom right: David explaining tracking signs you can see from dead wood
PC: Alex Foxley-Wood



WHAT DID APRIL, MAY AND JUNE BRING IN 2026?



This event was only possible thanks to the support of The Mammal Society through their grant funding and we are incredibly grateful for their help in making the day such a success.

NATIONAL MAMMAL WEEK

Our National Mammal Week event was a fantastic celebration of wildlife, conservation and community with plenty of activities for visitors of all ages to enjoy throughout the day.

One of the highlights was our owl pellet dissections, where visitors had the chance to carefully examine pellets and discover the tiny bones hidden inside learning more about the diets of owls and the small mammals living in our local area.

We also had a range of information stalls showcasing different mammal surveying methods, giving people an insight into how we study and monitor wildlife. From footprint tunnels and camera traps to scat identification and tracking techniques there was plenty to explore and learn about.

A particular favourite with visitors was the 'Guess the Poo' activity, featuring incredibly detailed clay models handmade by one of our very talented members. The models sparked lots of laughter, curiosity and surprisingly competitive guessing as people tried to identify which mammal poo belonged to who.

Alongside the wildlife activities, we had a cake stall packed with homemade treats, a popular tombola, crafting activities and lots more happening throughout the day. It was wonderful to see so many people getting involved, asking questions, learning new things and sharing their enthusiasm for mammals and conservation.

A huge thank you goes to everyone who helped organise, run and support the event as well as the visitors who were able to come along and made the day such a success. National Mammal Week was a brilliant opportunity to celebrate amazing wildlife around us and inspire even more people to take an interest in the natural world.



Top left: Owl pellet dissection in progress Top right: Raising funds for the group Middle right: Mammal art Bottom right: Clay otter spraint made by one of our group members

PC: Alex Foxley-Wood



WHAT DID APRIL, MAY AND JUNE BRING IN 2026?

THE ERMINE LIVING WELL EVENT

We had a fantastic time attending the Ermine Living Well without costing the Earth event in June.

The free community event was organised by EarthLincs Climate Emergency Centre and aimed to help residents explore ways to reduce living costs while also caring about the environment.

We spoke to lots of people about mammals and answered plenty of questions throughout the day. Visitors enjoyed taking part in our owl pellet dissections, exploring different mammal surveying methods and browsing wildlife ID books. Our popular 'Guess the Poo' game attracted plenty of attention and we also had a selection of items available to help raise funds for the group.

The event was a great opportunity to engage with the local community, share knowledge about wildlife conservation and support our future event and conservation efforts. Thank you to EarthLincs for inviting us along and to everyone that visited us on the day.



GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE

Growing and being a custodian for nature is easy

Lexy Foxley-Wood

I've had an allotment for 4 years, but have had a passion for wildlife for my entire life. I genuinely believe that gardens can thrive in a nature positive way without compromising on beauty, or productivity. We manage our plot in an organic, pesticide and herbicide free way, utilising companion planting and mulching to protect plants.

On our plot, we've had a variety of mammals visit, including hedgehogs, bats, foxes, shrews, voles, mice, a weasel, and a stoat. Predatory mammals keep rodents in check, and hedgehogs keep the slug population down!

If you'd like to get started gardening in a wildlife friendly way, here are some tips to get you started:

- **Don't use slug pellets** - hedgehogs are particularly at risk with these being used, and secondary poisoning through the food chain poses a real threat to all wildlife.
- **Leave the leaves & build log piles** - these provide valuable habitat for small mammals, as well as insects as a food source.
- Create pollinator friendly areas, **install a bat box** and **keep an area of grass long**, year round.
- Make use of wool, straw or woodchip for mulch, **feed the soil** - consider no-dig too!
- Make sure to **provide fresh water** for wildlife - a small bowl will give all garden visitors a welcome respite, particularly in hot weather.

Most of all, find the joy in it. We're so lucky to have wildlife grace our gardens - how fortunate we are to have a vole run by a shoe, see a stoat pop up under the fence, or be watched by a curious vixen as we water the veg!

Top right: Lincolnshire Mammal Group Members interacting with visitors at the Ermine Living Well event
PC: EarthLincs.

Bottom left: a fox visits the Allotments, a bat box installed on the plot shed - PC: Lexy Foxley-Wood



ANNUAL GROUP MEETING



GEORGIE
Chairperson



BECKY
Secretary



RYAN
Treasurer



LUCY
Fundraising
Officer



TOM
Communications
Officer



LEXY
Engagement
Officer



ROB
Online Content
Supporter



ELLE
Events
Officer



SAM
Recording
Officer

A NOTE FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

Thank you to everyone that joined us for our first ever AGM. It was amazing to hear everything we had been up to during our first year!

We'll be sending out the recording of our meeting to our members so you'll be able to hear about what's been going on, but we'll do a quick run through of some of the talking points below.

- Special thanks to the GLNP for their donation to cover the cost of our fees and insurance for the year.
- We now have over 60 members, including 5 youth members.
- We are working on ways to expand across Greater Lincolnshire and host more events.

We have also started to implement a 'no AI' logo across our website and written materials. We hope it will let everyone know that what you're reading has been written by us, without the use of AI. In a world where it's becoming harder and harder to tell, we thought it was important to give that reassurance to you.



HEATWAVE HELPERS

As spring gives way to summer, it's hard to believe how quickly this year is moving - and how hot it's already been! With heatwave after heatwave already upon us, a small act like leaving out a shallow bowl for wildlife can make a real difference. Adding in rocks also lets insects climb in and out, and can be a real saviour in these bouts of hot weather.

You don't have to buy a fancy wildlife bowl either, any clean, shallow container will do. Just remember to replace with fresh water each day to keep the mosquitos away.



PC: Alex Foxley-Wood



LINCOLNSHIRE MAMMAL SPOTLIGHT



THE EUROPEAN BADGER

Each newsletter we'll be sharing some incredible facts about a wonderful mammal that you can spot in Lincolnshire.

The European Badger (*Meles meles*) is Britain's largest terrestrial carnivore. Despite being persecuted for centuries the badger is still common throughout Britain and Ireland.

Badgers live in groups of around four to eight, known as a 'clan'. These clans live in an underground network of tunnels called a 'sett'. However, badgers don't always work as a group and will often forage for their own food individually.

Badgers are great housekeepers. They regularly air out their bedding and will even replace their bedding a few times a year. This bedding is made up of materials such as moss, grass, leaves and hay.

HOW TO ID A BADGER POO

Badger poo is firm and sausage shaped and around 5 - 10 cm in length. Their droppings are often dark purple in colour due to the berry-heavy diet and can have a sweet or musky smell.

It is easy to identify as badgers actually build their own toilets. Badger poo will often be found in a shallow hole known as a 'latrine', which is dug by the badger outside of their setts.

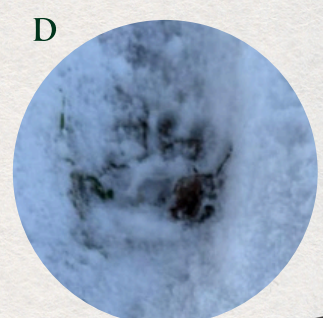
Source- Badger Trust



PC: Megan Shersby

WHO'S PRINT IS WHO'S?

Can you guess which print below belongs to the badger? Answers on the next page.



COMING UP SOON

2
AUG

THE BIG SUMMER LITTER PICK

10 am - 12 pm

Enjoy the summer weather while making a difference in your local community. Join us for a relaxed Lincoln litter pick, just message us on Instagram or pop over an email to let us know you're coming. Everything you'll need will be provided, and there will be a prize for the most filled bag or weirdest find!

Meeting point: Tentercroft Street Car Park, near the blue railway bridge.

 taking.expose.theme



EVERY DONATION HELPS US FUND THE
LINCOLNSHIRE MAMMAL GROUP'S FUTURE

Donate

Answer from who's print is who's?:

A = Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) B = Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)

C = Muntjac (*Muntiacus reevesi*) D = Badger (*Meles meles*)

