

Case study: Taking action for hedgehogs at home

Name of project or group/Introduction

Jonathan Smith and Trisha White first became interested in taking action for hedgehogs when they joined Nature Recovery Rotherham, a campaign to increase biodiversity in Rotherham. As some of the first members of the group, they were involved in organising and delivering Nature Recovery Rotherham's Hedgehog Festival at Dearne Valley College in April 2022, and have since been taking action for our prickly friends in their own garden by providing food, water and a five-star homemade shelter.



Photo credits: Jonathan Smith

Building the hedgehog house

What actions did you want to take and why?

"I am taking action for hedgehogs because I was inspired by Nature Recovery Rotherham and when I learned of their plight, it seemed building a hedgehog home was practical and achievable ... though I knew very little about hedgehogs. I now know a bit more ... hopefully more than those who ask questions, though I can always refer them to someone else and the British Hedgehog Preservation Society website!" says Jon.

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What resources or support did you need/use?

“Materials used for the hedgehog house were generally recycled wood which I found laying around in the garage, or plywood cut to size by a local dealer” says Jon. “The plans were from [The Wildlife Trusts](#) and [British Hedgehog Preservation Society](#).”



How did you empower or involve others?

“We took part in the Hedgehog Festival in April 2022, with a stall showing other people how to build a hedgehog house. We then donated a hedgehog house to Nature Recovery Rotherham to use at stalls and events, so hedgehogs are always part of our display and message. We also joined Nature Recovery Rotherham in declaring a nature emergency in March 2022 to encourage Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council to prioritise biodiversity in their decision making.”



Hedgehog Festival, April 2022

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How did it make you feel?

“Thank you for inspiring us about hedgehogs. We now have one visiting almost every night using the beautiful house which Jon made” says Trisha. “During the winter we will stop putting out food and will instead put some straw in the house for the hedgehog to use as a place to hibernate.”



Completed hedgehog house