

# Mercia Marinas Mammal group Newsletter



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Issue 7

## SURPRISE

This little character was photographed just outside the office in full daylight.

It will be a vole either Field or Bank. Both are active twenty fours a day. They are very similar in appearance; however, the ears of a field vole are less apparent, more hidden within the fur they are also a bit chunkier.



While it has the superficial appearance of a field vole it is very unusual to see it out in the open and in such close proximity to a busy area. It was not bothered by people and just carried on eating. This is much more like the behaviour of a bank vole. The mystery continues.

## HEDGEHOGS

The baby hoglet which was rescued and sent to a sanctuary has been improving at a great rate. In the last two weeks, she has gone from 147g to 200g. Really good news as she was in a very poor state not just terribly underweight but also covered in fleas and ticks. Much too young to be away from mum it has to be assumed that mum had died. They are extremely good parents and if the nest is disturbed will move the young somewhere safer, it's hats off to all those who spotted her and saved her. Well done all of you. We now have to wait until this little one is grown and healthy and she will be returned to us.



(library picture)

## FOX OR FOXES?

There have been a number of sightings of fox in the dog walking fields. When we managed to get a film of one on the wildlife camera it was in the woods behind the lodges. Is this just the same one or do we have a number of them? There has not been any signs of an earth anywhere on site so they presumably are coming outside either to feed or just pass through.

In the UK the red fox feeds mainly on small rodents such as field mice, rabbits and voles but will eat almost anything it finds, often eating carrion or fruits and berries when available. They are superb hunters, able to sprint, turn and jump with surprising ease for a dog.



## BATS

We are currently trying to set up a bat walk with Derbyshire Bat Conservation Group but as they only meet monthly we have to wait for a reply to our email. They have carried out similar work here in the past so hopefully we can go ahead with this. Will let everyone know when we have a response.



Daubenton's bats favour feeding over water.