





### Exercise 3: Living Things in Our Hedgerow

Hedgerows are of crucial importance for our birds, mammals and insects. They are what we call 'wildlife corridors' - that is, many species use them to get from other habitat areas. They provide food, shelter and protection from predators for hundreds of species. Bear in mind that some hedgerows are hundreds of years old and provide lasting linear 'nature reserves'.

You may not be able to identify all of the birds you see but try and determine how many species you see. How many different calls or songs can you hear? You can also take notes of the birds' description and look this up later. Pay attention to where you see the birds. In what part of the hedgerow are most found?

Rabbits, foxes, mice and badgers are some mammals that live in and depend on hedgerows. Look for burrows, mammal runs (paths) where vegetation is worn away and there is bare earth. Both rabbits and foxes leave their droppings prominently on hedgerow edges. Walk the entire length of the hedgerow and see what you can find.

Bees, wasps, spiders, flies and beetles are found in hedgerows. Look on the underside of leaves to find bugs. Shake overhanging branches over an opened upturned umbrella. Have a look at the insects and other invertebrates that fall in. If you have a net, sweep it through the non-woody vegetation under the hedgerow.

Record your findings in the boxes below. Don't forget to add any significant findings to your map.

Birds we saw or heard (describe if you can't identify them)	
Mammal tracks or signs found	
Invertebrates we found	