



Mammals in a Sustainable Environment



Hedgehog Tunnel Survey

A method to examine hedgehog and small mammal footprints – adapted from the Mammal Society

Equipment needed

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Old election poster or correx poster board | 3 x cable ties |
| Black non-toxic poster paint | scissors |
| Butter knife for painting | Hot dog/ dog food |
| J-cloths or old cloth | Sharp knife |
| White paper | |
| sellotape | |

Precautions: Sharp objects, paint

1. Fold the election poster (60 cm X 80 cm) into three even sized panels (Fig 1 a b and c)
2. Make three slits in sides (a) and (c) using the sharp knife. These slits should match up so that the tunnel can be tied with cable ties at the end
3. Place two sheets of A4 paper at either end of section (b). Sellotape these down securely. The paper may also be cut or folded to better fit in the tunnel
4. Fold two j-cloths into two rectangular lengths and sellotape into position, as seen with black rectangles in the diagram and add generous coating of black paint. This needs to stay damp for a number of days
5. Place dog food or hot dog in the middle of the tunnel
6. Tie the tunnel together using cable ties so that it resembles (Fig 2) i.e. a triangular tunnel. Place in a sheltered area of the school grounds, preferably lengthways along a hedgerow or under bushes for one week to monitor for hedgehogs and small mammals
7. When checking the tunnel, remove the cable ties using a scissors and carefully remove the paper
8. Allow to dry out if wet, and carefully examine the various footprints
9. The image can be scanned and emailed to domeara@wit.ie for help with identification



Ireland's EU Structural Funds Programmes 2007 - 2013
Co-funded by the Irish Government and the European Union



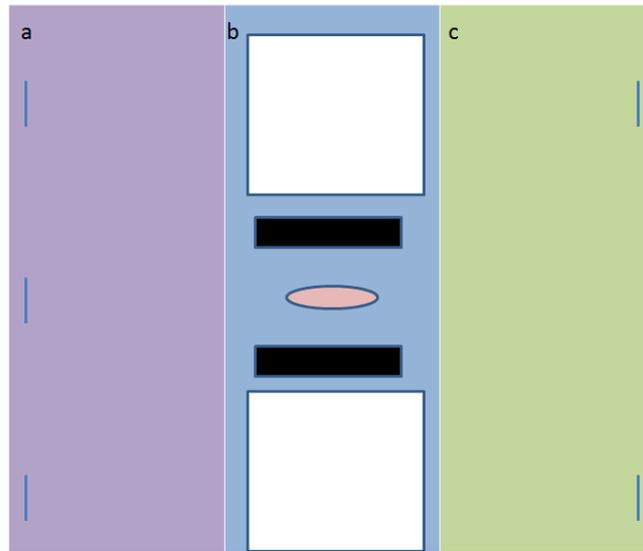


Fig. 1 Descriptive diagram of a homemade hedgehog tunnel used to collect footprints of hedgehogs and small mammals. Side (a) and (b) are folded and connected through the slits via cable ties to make a triangular shaped tunnel like below.



Fig. 2 Assembly of a tunnel and an example finished tunnel.