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About MoleWatch

Although the familiar sight of molehills betrays their presence, very few people have actually ever seen a mole. They are so well adapted to life underground, excavating tunnels and feeding on any worms or insects that accidentally stumble into them, that they rarely need to come to the surface.

The mole is thought to be one of the most common mammals here in the UK, however there is very little basic information about them and their numbers. With continuing changes to our countryside it is important to monitor species that can be affected by farming methods and the fragmentation of their habitat, before something happens and it is too late to help. Currently there is no detailed distribution map for moles in the UK, so we have decided to carry out MoleWatch, to find out more about these secretive creatures.

Of course the very fact that moles are so rarely seen means that MoleWatch will, strictly speaking, be 'molehill watch'. Molehills are among the easiest wildlife signs to recognise and we're going to take advantage of that. At present seeing a molehill in an area is the only reliable means we have of recording the presence of moles. We don't know how many molehills a single mole makes and a mole can live in an area without creating any molehills so an absence of molehills does not necessarily mean that there are no moles in the area.

In undisturbed populations of moles, once feeding tunnels have been created, there can be very little or no new digging activity and some areas - even though they have large numbers of moles - may bear no molehills for most of the year. It may well be that our perception that there are plenty of moles is unfounded and based on fewer moles creating more molehills. So mapping molehills will tell us whether at least one mole has been recently present in a particular place. For the purposes of creating a distribution map, this is all we need to know.

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If a mole does not fir
hours, it will die. Its
consists of insects an

Special tree recording form

Date of survey

Your details

Name

Address

Email address Phone number

Tell us about your special tree...

Use an Ordnance Survey map to find the 6 figure grid reference

Nearest village/town? Place?

Tick the setting of your special tree

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Woodland | <input type="checkbox"/> Churchyard | <input type="checkbox"/> Countryside |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parkland | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban area | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common Land | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden | |

Describe how to get to your special tree and/or draw a map on the back of this sheet

Who is the site owner?

Name	Phone number
Address	

What species is your special tree? (please tick)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ash | <input type="checkbox"/> Hornbeam | <input type="checkbox"/> Sycamore |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beech | <input type="checkbox"/> Lime | <input type="checkbox"/> Willow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cedar | <input type="checkbox"/> Oak | <input type="checkbox"/> Yew |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holly | <input type="checkbox"/> Pine | <input type="checkbox"/> Other please specify |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horse chestnut | <input type="checkbox"/> Sweet Chestnut | |

Does your special tree have a name?

Measure the girth (waist) of your special tree with a tape measure. How big is it? cm

How tall is your tree? (instructions on how to do this at www.chilternsaonb.org/special) m

Why is this tree special to you?

Do you know of any stories or folklore attached to your special tree?

Please return this form to:

Liz Manley, STW Project, The Lodge, 90, Station Road, Chinnor, Oxon. OX39 4HA

Take a picture of your special tree and email to lmanley@chilternsaonb.org and it may appear on the website

Special tree recording form

Date of survey

Your details

Name

Address

Email address Phone number

Tell us about your special wood...

Name of your special wood

Do you know why it is called this?

Is it known by any other names?

Grid reference Nearest village

Who is the site owner?

Name	Phone
Address	

What are the main tree species in your special wood (please tick)

Ash	<input type="checkbox"/>	Horse chestnut	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poplar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other please specify	<input type="checkbox"/>
Beech	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hornbeam	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sweet Chestnut	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Birch	<input type="checkbox"/>	Larch	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sycamore	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hawthorn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oak	<input type="checkbox"/>	Willow	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Holly	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pine	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yew	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Why is this wood special to you?

Do you know of any stories or folklore attached to your special wood?

Tick any particular features of interest in your special wood

Pollards	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coppice stools	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bluebells	<input type="checkbox"/>
Earth banks	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pond or stream	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other please specify	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hollow ways	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plantation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you know any history of your special wood?

Registered volunteers will try to find out more about the history and local culture of your special wood.
Do you know where might they start their research?

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