Dear [fencing company],

I’m getting in touch to urge you to help one of our most popular but threatened British species; the hedgehog. As part of a new campaign by two British wildlife charities, you can pledge to help hedgehogs by incorporating Hedgehog Friendly Fencing1 products into your range. By doing this, and raising awareness of such products with consumers, you can help secure the future of this struggling species.

Background

Hedgehog numbers have sadly declined in recent decades as a result of various factors including habitat loss and fragmentation. In 2020 they were listed as ‘vulnerable to extinction’ on the UK red list for mammals. I’m one of over 124,000 volunteer Hedgehog Champions in the UK, recruited through the Hedgehog Street2 campaign, which is run by wildlife charities The British Hedgehog Preservation Society3 and People’s Trust for Endangered Species4. Hedgehog Street works to help hedgehogs in our urban and suburban landscapes, as gardens become an increasing stronghold for the species. One critical thing we can all do to help is ensure hedgehogs can access our gardens and greenspaces, via hedgehog highways.

Hedgehog Highways

Hedgehogs can travel 2km in a single night, so need plenty of space to roam. ‘Hedgehog highways’5 are small 13cm square gaps in the bottom of fences that allow hedgehogs to pass through. As a company that sells fencing, you’re in an important position to help with this. Hedgehog Highways form part of Hedgehog Street’s Top Tips6 for helping our dwindling hedgehog population, and thousands of people across the UK have created these access gaps through their fences.

The importance of hedgehog highways is also highlighted in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)7, which recommends that new build developments should have these access gaps. As a result, numerous housing developers have pledged to install highways on their sites, including two of the biggest housebuilders in the UK, Taylor Wimpey8 and The Vistry Group9.

We need your help

Hedgehog Street would like to invite fencing companies to become part of the campaign to save our hedgehogs. You can get involved by pledging to incorporate ready-made hedgehog highway gravel boards and fencing options into your range. If you take part, we’d ask you to highlight the importance of this on your website and in-store through information pages and boards. Hedgehog Street can provide guidance on all aspects of this and can be contacted via hedgehog@ptes.org should you wish to pledge to help hedgehogs. Your company name would also feature on a web page10 showcasing those who have agreed to help.

At a point in time where 1 in 4 British mammal species are at risk of extinction, we all must take responsibility and do what we can to help. Installing hedgehog highways and helping raise awareness along with developers and homeowners is a great place to start.

I look forward to hearing back from you on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Web links

1 [www.hedgehogstreet.org/hedgehog-friendly-fencing/](https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/hedgehog-friendly-fencing/)

2 [www.hedgehogstreet.org/](https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/)

3 [www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/](https://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/)

4 [www.ptes.org/](http://www.ptes.org/)

5 [www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/link-your-garden/](https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/link-your-garden/)

6 [www.hedgehogstreet.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Hedgehog-Street-Top-Tips-2022.pdf](https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Hedgehog-Street-Top-Tips-2022.pdf)

7 [www.gov.uk/government/news/brokenshire-orders-house-builders-to-protect-wildlife](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/brokenshire-orders-house-builders-to-protect-wildlife)

8 [www.taylorwimpey.co.uk/why-choose-us/partnering-with-hedgehog-street-and-buglife](https://www.taylorwimpey.co.uk/why-choose-us/partnering-with-hedgehog-street-and-buglife)

9 [www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/bhps-announces-partnership-with-bovis-homes-to-help-hedgehogs/](https://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/bhps-announces-partnership-with-bovis-homes-to-help-hedgehogs/)

10 [www.hedgehogstreet.org/fencing-companies](https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/fencing-companies)