BIAZA
BRITISH & IRISH ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS & AQUARIUMS

Organising an Event

What is needed for a harvest mouse event?

- Identify an area of suitable habitat on site or nearby and publicly accessible to survey.
- Research your area for context e.g. whether mice are common, rare, or have no records.
- Plan your survey date for suitable weather conditions and optimal nest surveying time (October - March)
- Train your surveyors - use photos or obtain a nest specimen. We have a flow chart to help distinguish from other types of nests, plus an infographic to help.
- Head to the site, and take your walking stick, welly boots, and tape measure.
- Record your finds (using Mammal Society's Mammal Mapper app, or iNaturalist) and take a GPS measurement.

Mammal Mapper iNaturalist

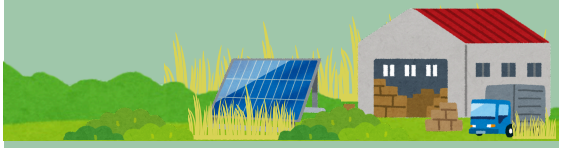
- Thank your fantastic surveyors!

Time of year:

Surveying takes place from the **start of October to the End of March.** (when harvest mice nests are abandoned)

Habitats to search:

A wide range of places with tall grasses such as in scrubby areas, like bramble patches.



These include field margins, road verges, and reed beds. Even urban areas like parks and sites around industrial estates might have nests!

You will need:

Good footwear, and a stick!

To separate grass without disturbing habitats

Be aware

If the grass looks green and fresh, or if the nest is 'sealed' up without a hole in the middle, it could still have mice inside and **must not be touched.**

What's nest?

Be sure to look at the Mammal Society's website for more resources and information about the National Harvest Mouse Survey. **Happy searching!**

Illustrations: courtesy of the Wildwood Trust