

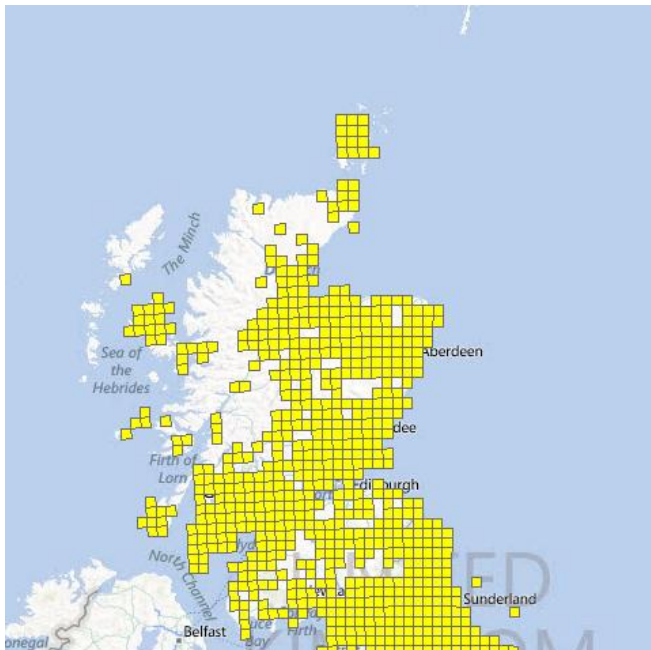
## Brown Hare

### DESCRIPTION

Brown hares are a golden-brown colour, with a pale belly and a white tail. The Brown hare is larger than the rabbit, with longer legs and longer ears with black tips. Brown hares graze on vegetation and nibble bark from young trees and bushes. Hares shelter in a 'form', which is simply a shallow depression in the ground or grasses, but when disturbed, can be seen bounding across fields using their powerful hind legs to propel them forwards, often in a zigzag pattern. They are commonest in grassland and at woodland edges. In early spring, Brown hares are at their most visible as the breeding season encourages fighting or 'boxing'. Brown hares are widespread, found throughout England and Wales, but are absent from northern Scotland and the Scottish Islands.

Classified as a Priority Species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

### DISTRIBUTION MAP



Brown Hare distribution in Scotland. Each 10km square shows presence of Brown Hare. © NBN 2013

### THREATS

The once common Brown hare has seen a dramatic decline in numbers due to changing agricultural practices affecting its favoured grassland habitats. Shooting and coursing have also had an impact on it.



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### ACTION REQUIRED

1. Support increased flexibility within rural development programmes to maintain open pasture through careful management of sheep grazing.
2. The Scottish Wildlife Trust is working towards a Living Landscape: a network of habitats and wildlife corridors across town and country, which are good for both wildlife and people. You can support this greener future by joining the Scottish Wildlife Trust.

### FURTHER READING

<http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/species/brown-hare>

### MSP SPECIES CHAMPION



**Alison Johnstone MSP**

Member for: Lothian  
Party: Scottish Green  
Party

Tel 0131 312 7765  
enquiries@swt.org.uk  
www.swt.org.uk