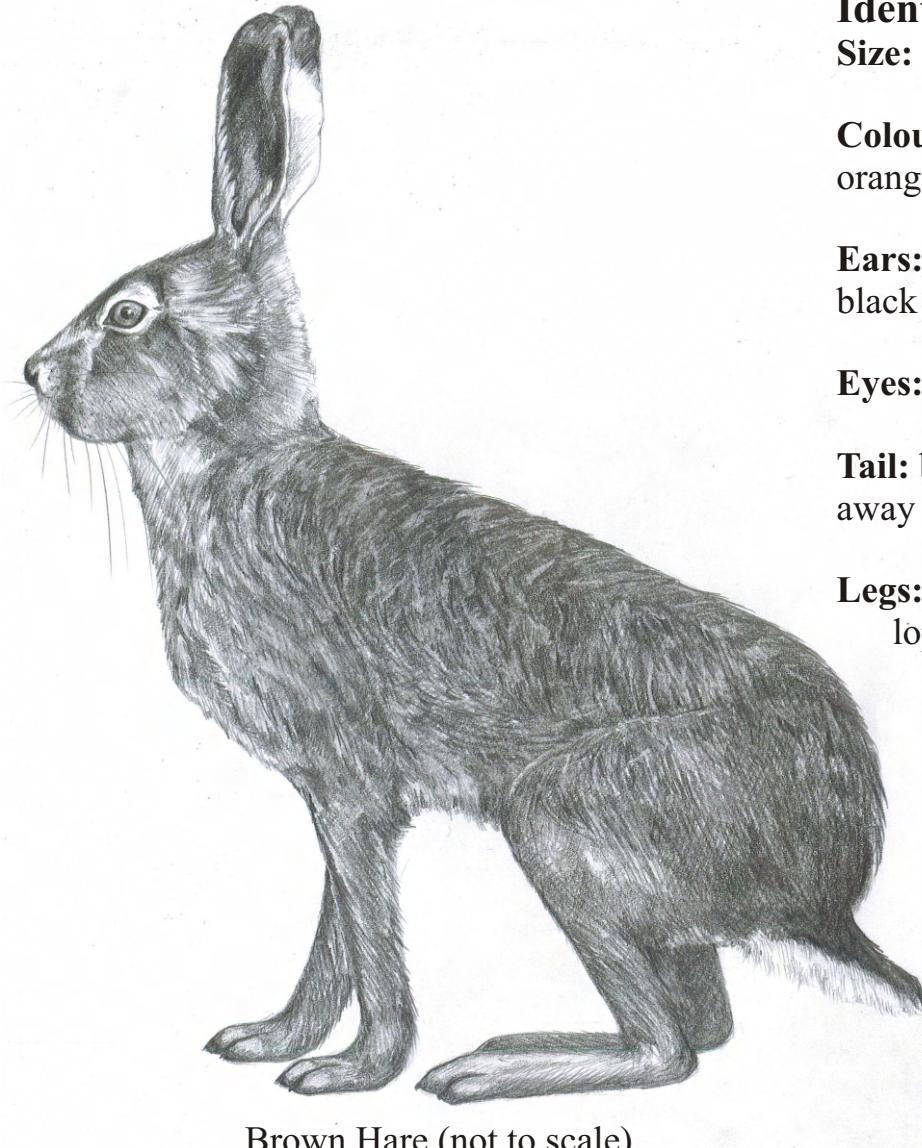


‘Celebrating Cornwall’s Mammals - from dormice to dolphins!’

An Identification Guide to Rabbits and Brown Hares

The Brown Hare *Lepus europaeus*



Brown Hare (not to scale)

Identification:

Size: head-body 520-700mm, tail 70-130mm.

Colour: dense fur, darker brown on top, orange/brown flanks.

Ears: almost twice the length of the head, black tips.

Eyes: yellow/golden.

Tail: black on top, white below. Carried away from body when running.

Legs: powerful, long and slender. Has a loping gate.



Brown Hare droppings (to scale)

Tracks and signs:

Droppings: 15-20mm diameter, colour: light brown in winter, darker, almost black in summer.

Forms: the Brown Hare does not dig burrows, instead it takes cover in depressions in the ground amongst long grass, known as a form.

Other: Mainly nocturnal, moderately active by day. Hares prefer exposed low ground such as open grassland. Hares have acute senses which aid them to avoid predators; they can run at up to 45mph.

Illustrations by Jenny King



Environmental Records
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