

Walking Your Hare Transect

The route will either be on a public right of way or if in the uplands, also on open access land. The transect is 1km in length and should take between 1 and 2 hours to walk dependant on terrain and the number of hares seen! We have left it up to you as to which exact route you should take.

Please walk the transect twice between the beginning of December and the end of February at either dawn or dusk. These times are best due to hares being more active and therefore easier to spot. (During the day, hares are very often lying in their forms low to the ground.) Please try to walk your second transect with at least a month interval, however if this is not possible then at least a week between the two surveys.

Do not carry out the survey during extreme weather conditions which affect visibility (eg. driving rain, very strong wind) - this is likely to drive the hares into cover as well as compromising your own safety.

Equipment Required

Transect Map	Recording Sheet
Pen/ pencil!	High powered lamp
GPS (if available)	Binoculars (in case of an unsure sighting eg. rabbit)

Please use the black and white copy of the map for your field work, then transfer your information on to the colour map once the field work has been completed. Please make it clear what data is for which visit. It is important to write your contact details, transect number and the date on the back of the map. **Please mark on the map your 1km transect.**

Locating the Hares

Proceed along the transect at a slow walking pace. Scan a semi- circle of about 100 metres in front and to your sides using the high powered lamp. Whilst scanning to the sides be careful not to miss any hares directly in front of you.

When a hare is spotted, using the recording sheet please make a note of:

- 6 figure grid reference of your location on the transect
- Distance in metres from you to the hare
- Angle from transect to the hare

Once recorded, keep an eye on the hare to ensure that you know where it goes so that you do not record the same hare twice.

Please also record other observations; other species of wildlife, weather conditions, livestock present etc. **If walking the transect on grassland, please make a note of any hedgerows on the map.**