

Hedgehog

Crinkly, often studded with shiny fragments from their insect diet. Blue-black colour. Sweet smelling with a hint of linseed oil. Size varies, 1.5-5 cm long and 0.8-1 cm thick.



Rabbit & Hare

Droppings are left in clusters of little, round, hard balls. They are usually yellowy-brown or green in colour, and full of grass. Hare droppings (on the right) tend to be slightly bigger and flatter than rabbit droppings (left hand side).



Fox

Full of fur, bone fragments and often fruit pips. Usually twisted with a tapering 'tail' at one end. Brown, black or grey. A characteristic pungent smell. Size varies but about 8-12 cm long and 2 cm wide.



Squirrel

Usually near trees. Can be dark grey or black and are often sweet smelling, although this depends on their diet – is especially true if they've eaten pinecones. Small, round pellets 0.5-0.8 cm long and 0.5 cm thick.



Otter

Otters leave spraints (droppings) on rocks or logs close to water, often in small quantities. Contain mainly fish shells, bones, crustacean shells, feathers or fur. Greenish, black/grey. Sweet smelling – jasmine tea or laurel flowers. Highly variable in size.



Mink

Often contain bones and fur and are long and twisted in shape with tapered ends. Greenish, black or brown and a very unpleasant, foul smell like burnt rubber and rotten meat. Approximately 5-8 cm long and 1 cm in diameter.



Badger

Found in small pits or latrines 10-15 cm deep. Can contain seeds and berries. Usually purple, black or brown. Smell foul – a strong musky, oily smell. About 10 cm long and 2 cm thick. They are not strongly coiled



Bats

Bats leave droppings where they roost, so they can often be found stuck to walls or on the ground under holes or trees. They have a rough appearance and are filled with chewed-up bits of insect.



Rats & Mice

Putty-like, usually with one blunt and one pointed end. Most commonly seen in farmland and urban areas. Blackish brown and smell foul/rancid. Variable size, can be up to 1.7 cm long and 0.6 cm wide. . Mice produce very similar droppings to rats, but they are much smaller.



Water Vole

Particularly distinctive, often described as having a tic-tac shape – no other British mammal poo has this shape. Usually found in latrines and small heaps close to water. Colour varies but usually dark green when broken up. Odourless. 0.8-1.2 cm wide and 0.4-0.5 cm thick.



Deer

Tend to be similar across all deer species and can easily be confused with sheep droppings. They do not have any obvious coloration or smell.



Sheep

Like deer, but may be in clumps. The size of a grape, often with a dimple.



Birds

Instead of producing urine, birds excrete nitrogenous waste as uric acid, which is a semi-solid, paste-like substance. This uric acid, along with faeces, is expelled from the cloaca, a single opening for waste and reproduction.

Canada Goose

Tube shaped and varies in size, but is generally about 2 to 3 inches long and about half an inch in diameter, depending on the bird's diet and health. It's usually greenish or brownish in colour, often with a white or yellowish uric acid deposit on top.



Mallard

The most common colours of Mallard poo are some shade of brown, grey, or green, but depending on their diet, you may find their poop is a different colour (for example a bluish-green after eating blueberries).



Poo Look-Alikes

Swallowtail caterpillar

This caterpillar gets away with resting on leaves, right underneath a predator's nose, thanks to a clever costume. Black and white stripes combined with a knobby body make the caterpillar look remarkably like bird droppings. This unappetising outfit is a clever ploy to hide in plain sight, a trick used by multiple swallowtail butterflies.



Owl pellet

Barn owl pellets are generally larger, more rounded, and darker, often containing the remains of small mammals like voles, shrews, and mice. Kestrel pellets, on the other hand, are thinner, longer, and tapered at the ends, containing insect remains and sometimes feathers, in addition to small mammals.

