

APPENDIX

DETECTING AND DISCOURAGING FOXES

(a) **General.** Residents can do a lot themselves to prevent foxes being attracted to their gardens, for example:-

- (i) Protecting domestic pets and poultry by housing them securely in fox-proof accommodation.
- (ii) Refraining from feeding pets in the garden and ensuring that foxes cannot access food put out for other wildlife.
- (iii) Refraining from putting meat and household waste containing meat on compost heaps.
- (iv) Ensuring that domestic refuse in plastic bags is not stored outside unless the bags are kept in a secure container, and ensuring that plastic bags are only put out for removal on the day of collection.
- (v) Refraining from feeding foxes, even unintentionally. This encourages them into the area and increases the food available and therefore the number of foxes the area will support.

(b) **Disturbance.** Much can be done to discourage foxes from using dens simply by creating noise and disturbance in the vicinity, particularly on sites that are otherwise relatively undisturbed.

(c) **Removal of dens.** If foxes are living in dens under sheds or outbuildings, the surrounding area should be cleared of undergrowth and other material so that it is exposed and draughty. To prevent the return of foxes, ensure the area does not become overgrown again and, to be certain, the gaps around the building should be protected by weld mesh dug down into the ground.

(d) **Fencing.** It is possible to deter foxes using fences, but a secure barrier at least two metres high is required, Ideally the fence should have a 30 cm overhang at the top and be buried to a depth of at least 45 cm in the ground. Flexible trelliswork attached to the top of the fence will discourage foxes from climbing over the fence.

(e) **Repellents.** There are a number of commercial animal repellents available on the market, but only those approved for use against foxes under the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986/Biocidal Products Directive may be used and the manufacturer's instructions must be followed. The use of wood preservative, disinfectant or human urine as a repellent is illegal.

However, the use of repellents in practice has not always proved effective, and householders may find the strong pungent odour of some of the products almost as offensive as the presence of foxes. These products act as a deterrent and are not harmful to other species.