



Identify 100 Species - Snails

10 species you are likely to find in Leicestershire and Rutland

How easy is it to identify?

Easy



Care needed



Target species

Garden Snail – [Cornu aspersum](#) ●

ID: To 40mm. Globular. Dark brown with yellow zig-zag stripes.

Similar species: None.

Where to look: Everywhere! In winter and in prolonged dry weather it hides away in cracks and crevices, usually with others.

About: This species is farmed and eaten by humans in some countries. They have an excellent homing ability and can return to their preferred territory even when transported some distance away.

Recording: Photo required.



Brown-lipped Snail – [Cepaea nemoralis](#) ●

ID: Globular. Dark brown lip to the shell. Can be striped or plain with varied colours: brown, orange, yellow and pink.

Similar species: [White-lipped Snail](#) (pale lip to the shell opening)

Where to look: Woodland, grassland, gardens.

About: The many colour and striped varieties are thought to offer an evolutionary advantage, either by confusing birds which search for a specific prey 'picture' or by blending into different vegetation types.

Recording: Photo required showing shell shape and lip.



Strawberry Snail – [Trochulus striolatus](#) ●

ID: Around 10mm. Round but flattened with rough growth ridges. Often with a pale line around the shell margin.

Similar species: None of this shell shape with prominent ridges.

Where to look: Woodland, gardens.

About: Named because of its fondness for strawberry leaves and fruits but it eats a wide range of vegetation.

Recording: Photo required showing shell shape and ridged texture. Also note the size in the comments box.



Other common Leicestershire snails to check out:

[Discus Snail](#), [Smooth Glass Snail](#), [Amber Snail](#)

Kentish Snail – [Monacha cantiana](#) ●

ID: To 16mm. Brown to red with creamy mottling. May have a pale stripe around the shell. Juveniles are hairy.

Similar species: Unmottled snails can be confused with plain-coloured [White-lipped Snails](#). Juveniles are unpatterned and resemble [Hairy Snails](#).

Where to look: Tall grassland. It often climbs up grass stems, even in warm and dry conditions.

About: Believed to have been introduced to the UK by the Romans.

Recording: Photo required.



To find out more about the [100 Species Challenge](#), how to submit records of your sightings and lots more about the wildlife of Leicestershire and Rutland, visit www.naturespot.org.uk.

White-lipped Snail – [Cepaea hortensis](#) ●

ID: Slightly smaller than, but very similar to, the Brown-lipped with many colour forms, but with a pale lip.

Similar species: [Brown-lipped Snail](#) (has dark lip)

Where to look: Woodlands, scrub – particularly damper areas.

About: Likes to eat Ragwort, Hogweed and nettles. As with most snail, this species is a hermaphrodite where each individual is both male and female so can lay eggs.

Recording: Photo required showing shell shape and lip.



Girdled Snail – [Hygromia cinctella](#) ●

ID: Up to 10mm with a sharp keel around the shell, often marked with a pale line.

Similar species: None have this shape of shell.

Where to look: Gardens, parks, waste ground.

About: Introduced to the UK from the Mediterranean in 1950. First found in Leicestershire in 2012.

Recording: Photo required showing shell shape.



Hairy Snail – [Trochulus hispidus](#) ●

ID: 6mm. Dark brown and usually covered in hairs – but these do wear off with age (check the umbilicus)

Similar species: [Silky Snail](#) (rounder with a tiny umbilicus), juvenile [Kentish Snails](#) can also be hairy.

Where to look: Various but not usually gardens.

About: The hairs help the snail to adhere to vegetation when feeding. They do wear off but usually a few can always be found in the umbilicus.

Recording: Photo required showing the shell shape and the hairs.



Two-toothed Door Snail – [Clausilia bidentata](#) ●

ID: 10-12mm with a tall shell covered in longitudinal grooves.

Similar species: [Plaited Door Snail](#) (slightly larger, less ridges, more glossy)

Where to look: Woodland, rocky places. Often climbs tree trunks 1-2 m so look in bark crevices.

About: Door Snails have a plate of calcium carbonate that can swing across the shell opening when the animal withdraws.

Recording: Photo required.



Common Chrysalis Snail - [Lauria cylindracea](#) ●

ID: 3-4mm. Small and dumpy with a circular white lip. Usually many together.

Similar species: None with the prominent white lip.

Where to look: Under stones, walls, gardens.

About: The flattened lip enables this tiny snail to clamp onto a surface to prevent dehydration.

Recording: Photo required showing the lip.



Garlic Snail – [Oxychilus alliarius](#) ●

ID: 6-8mm. Round, flat and shiny. Garlic smell when handled. Blue-grey body.

Similar species: [Cellar Snail](#) (larger and no garlic smell), [Glossy Glass-snail](#) (dark band at front of shell), [Smooth Glass Snail](#) (waxy, not glossy).

Where to look: Under fallen wood in woodland.

About: This snail produces garlic, which is distasteful to many predators, as a defence mechanism (as do some other animals and plants).

Recording: Photo required. State the size (shell diameter) and the smell.

