

Common Snails

A series of ID guides to help you discover more of Leicestershire's wonderful wildlife

Land snails evolved from their marine ancestors, helped by a shell that only offers protection from predators but also serves to reduce dehydration. Nevertheless, most snails are vulnerable to water loss and tend to be nocturnal when it is cooler and/or emerge in wet conditions. Some can cope with hotter weather by sealing themselves into the shell with mucus that dries like skin across the shell mouth. *When viewing online, simply click on the species name to find out more.*



Garden Snail – [*Cornu aspersum*](#)

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

Where: Everywhere!

Similar: None.



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

ID: Globular. Both striped and plain. Can be brown, orange, yellow and pink. Dark brown lip to the shell.

Where: Woodland, grassland, gardens.

Similar: White-lipped Snail (pale lip)



Strawberry Snail – [*Trochulus striolatus*](#)

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

Where: Woodlands, gardens.

Similar: None of this shell shape with prominent ridges.



Kentish Snail – [*Monacha cantiana*](#)

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

Where: Tall grassland.

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

Become a citizen scientist! If you can spot any of these species, why not submit your sighting at www.naturespot.org.uk and contribute to our scientific knowledge of local wildlife. Record data submitted by the public is vital to conservation. Simply register online then follow the guidance on the Submit Records page.

Other common Leicestershire snails to check out:

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



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

ID: Very similar to the Brown-lipped with many colour forms, but with a pale lip.

Where: Woodlands, scrub.

Similar: Brown-lipped Snail.



Girdled Snail – [*Hygromia cinctella*](#)

ID: Up to 10mm with a sharp keel around the shell – usually this is marked with a pale line.

Where: Gardens, parks, waste ground.

Similar: None with this shape of shell.



Hairy Snail – [*Trochulus hispidus*](#)

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

Where: Various but not usually gardens.

Similar: Juvenile Kentish Snails are hairy.



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

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

Where: Woodland, rocky places.

Similar: Plaited Snail (less ridged, more glossy)



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

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

Where: Under stones, walls, gardens.

Similar: None with the prominent white lip.



Garlic Snail – [*Oxychilus alliarius*](#)

ID: 6-8mm. Round, flat and shiny. Smells of garlic when handled. Blue-grey body.

Where: Under fallen wood in woodland.

Similar: [Cellar Snail](#) (larger, no garlic smell).

Find more Leicestershire
Wildlife ID Guides at:
www.naturespot.org.uk/IDguides



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