



Badger

Badger

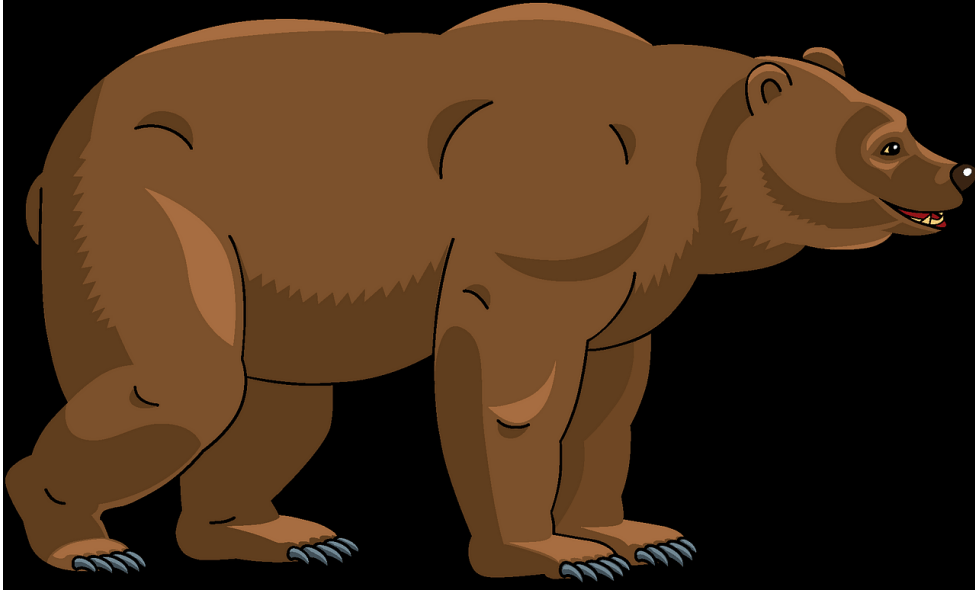
Badgers are nocturnal – they only come out at night-time. The Anglo-Saxon word for badger was *brocc*, and we know that they saw badgers in Shropshire because some of the names tell us about the badgers. The village of Lee Brockhurst was named after badgers: it means ‘a wooded hill where badgers are found’.



Bat

Bat

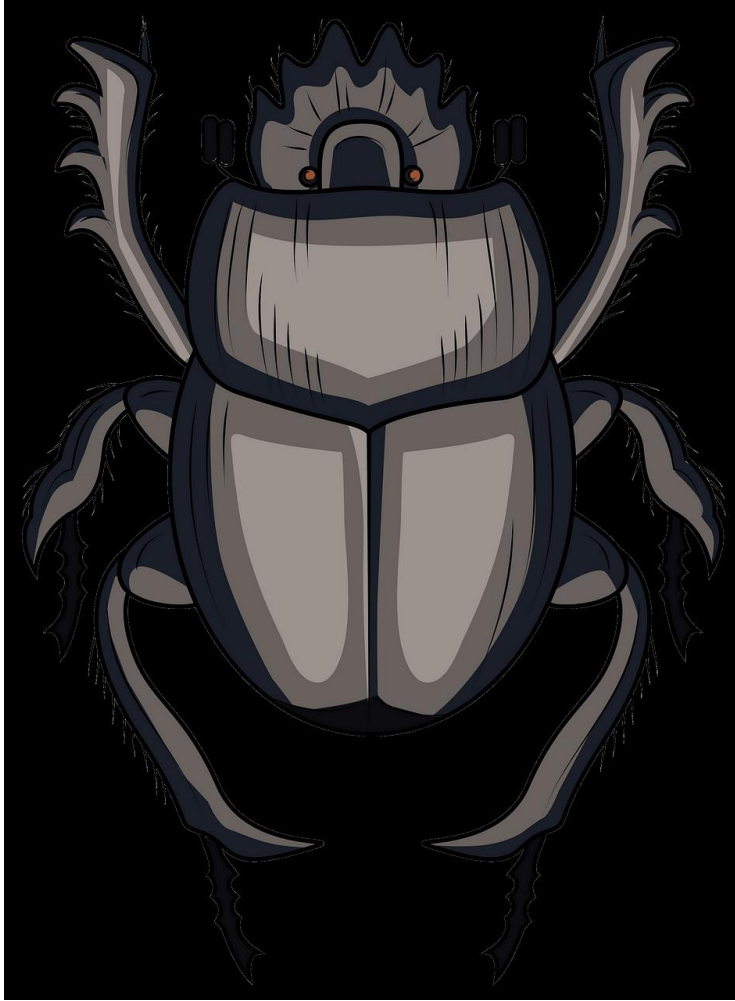
Bats hibernate in winter, and only come out in the dark in the warmer months of the year. At Hogstow, there is a place called *The Batholes*, referring to a place where lots of bats lived.



Bear

Bear

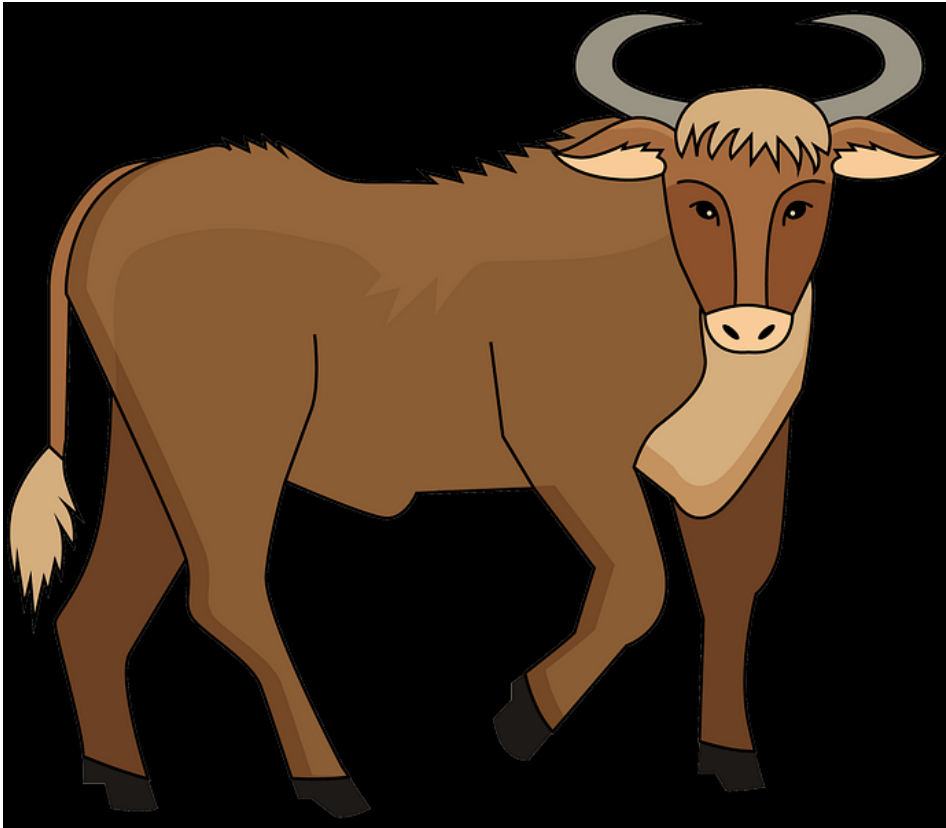
The names of some places tell us that, a long time ago, people saw bears in Shropshire. After William the Conqueror came to England, some people kept bears, which were used for entertainment. The field-name *Berewarsfeld* in Ashford Carbonel reveals that a bear was kept there.



Beetle

Beetle

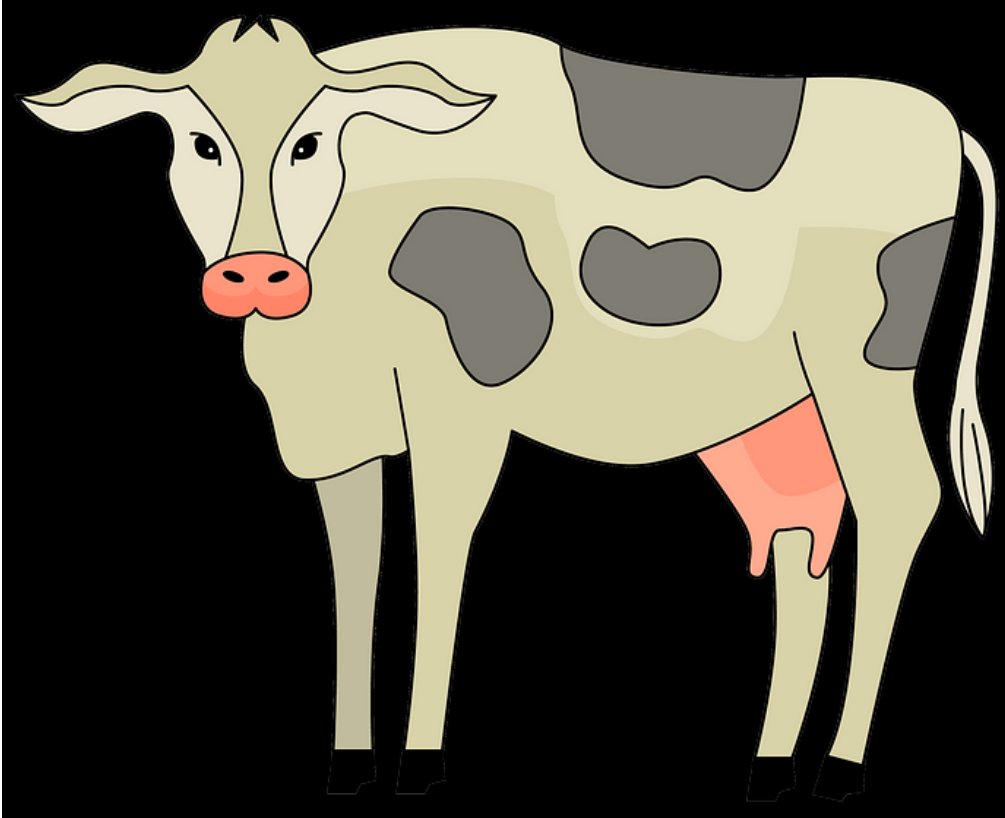
You will probably have seen lots of beetles. They also lived in Shropshire hundreds of years ago, and people living then noticed them too. The medieval word for beetle was *wigga*, and there are fields in Rorrington called *Big* and *Little Wigley* which mean ‘place infested with beetles’.



Bull

Bull

Living in Shropshire, you are likely to have seen a bull, especially if you live on a farm. Some fields are named after the bulls that grazed there, like *Bullgate* in Astley Abbotts, or *Bullockshill Wood* in Sheinton. Did you know that ‘bullock’ means a young bull?



Cow

Cow

Today, cows can be found everywhere in Shropshire. They have been with us for a very long time. Lots and lots of field-names mention cows, and Cow Pasture is a very common name for a place where cows grazed. Hardwick in Norbury is a very old place-name which means 'herd farm', and tells us about medieval places that specialised in cattle.



Crane

Crane

Cranes are now extinct in Britain, but they used to visit us every summer. This included Shropshire, and old field-names can help us to see where they flocked. Medieval people used the old word *cranuc* to indicate the presence of cranes, like those that stayed at *Crankwell Farm* in Timberth, and at *Cronkhill* in More.



Crow

Crow

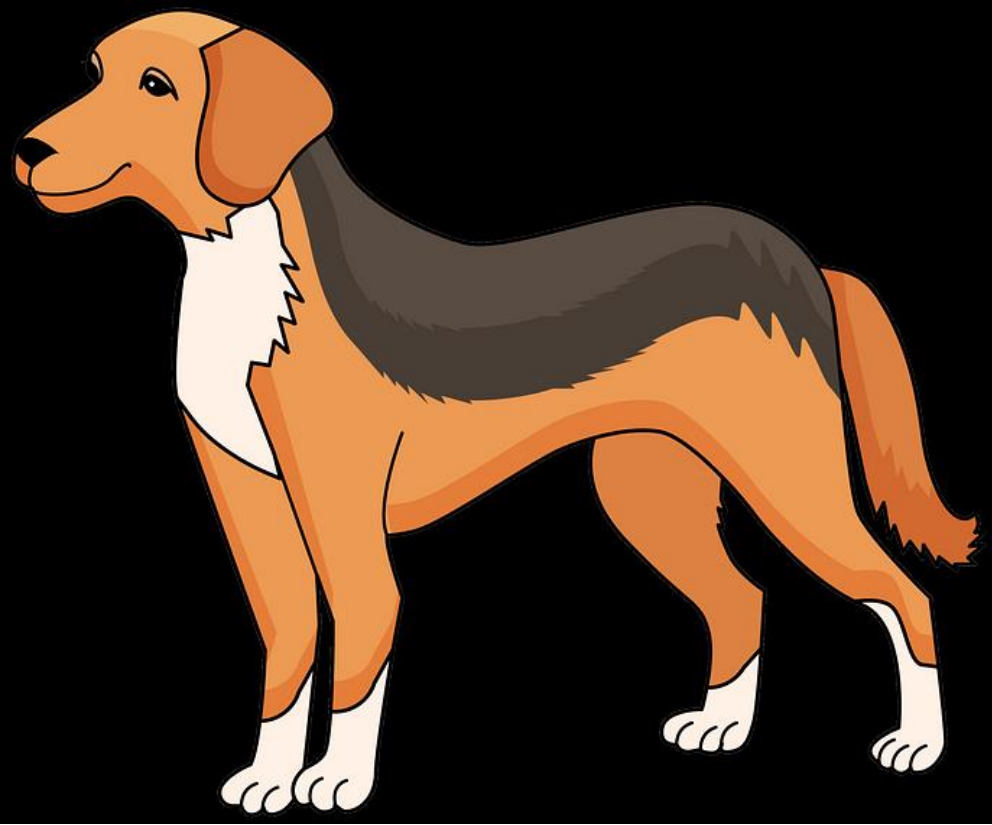
Crows are very common in Britain, and have been for hundreds of years. Lots of field-names mention crows – like *Craw Wells* in Walton and *Crowell Cow Pasture* in Wotherton. *Craw Wells* is a very old name that means ‘spring where crows can be found’.



Deer

Deer

Deer have lived in the British countryside for hundreds of years, including within Shropshire. A place called Buxton in Hogstow reveals that deer were seen there long ago: Buxton means 'an enclosure for a (male) deer'.



Dog

Dog

Dogs are very common – perhaps you have a pet dog, or maybe you live on a farm where there are working dogs? In the past, dogs have been useful for lots of things, such as hunting. Names like Dog Kennel in Bishop’s Castle and Dogkennel Meadow in Kinlet tell us something about dogs and their association with hunting.



Dove

Dove

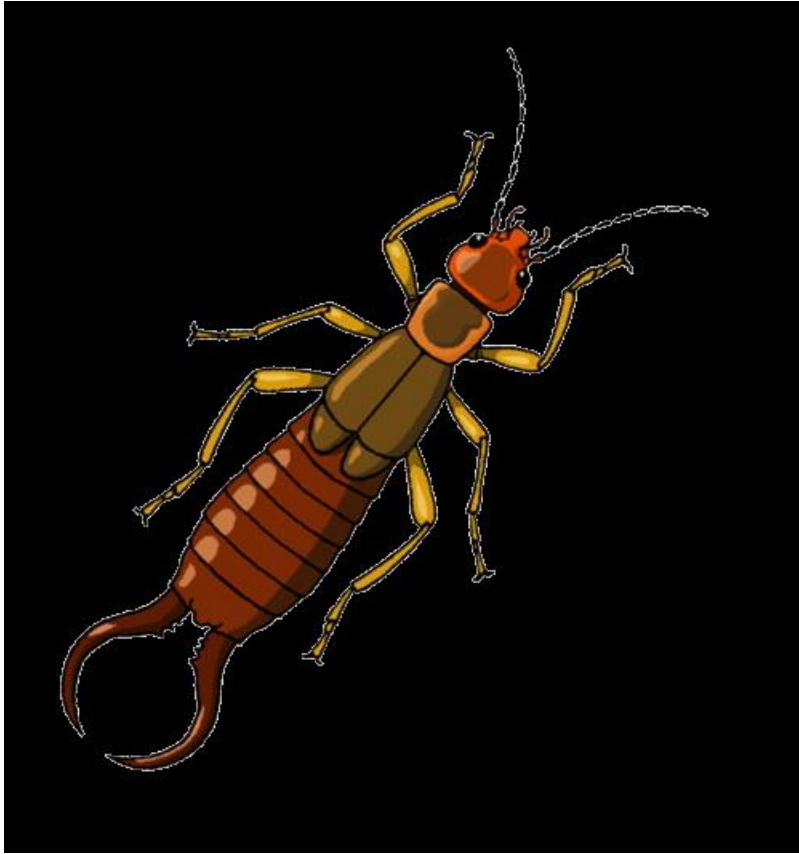
There was a time when doves often lived in special houses called 'dove-cotes'. Some field-names reveal the location of some of these special dove houses, like *Dovehouse Meadow* in Wheathill.



Eagle

Eagle

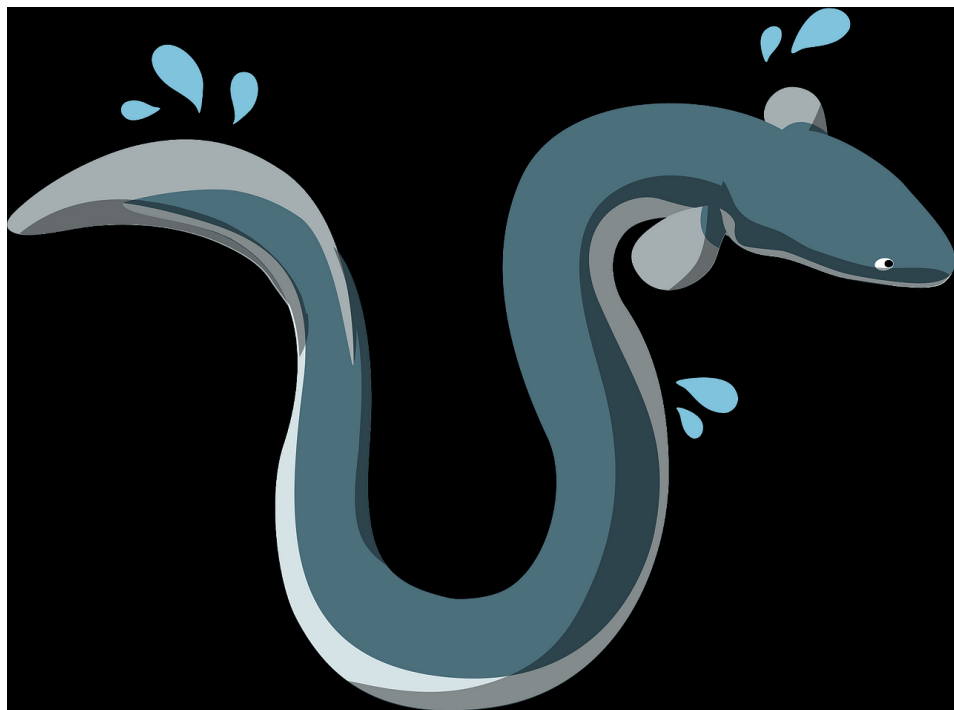
In the Middle Ages, eagles flew in the skies above Shropshire. In medieval times, the word for eagle was **earn**. Lots of place-names tell us where eagles could be found, including in Kinlet, *Earnwood*, and Diddlebury, *Earnestrey Hall*. The last name means ‘hall by the eagle’s tree’.



Earwig

Earwig

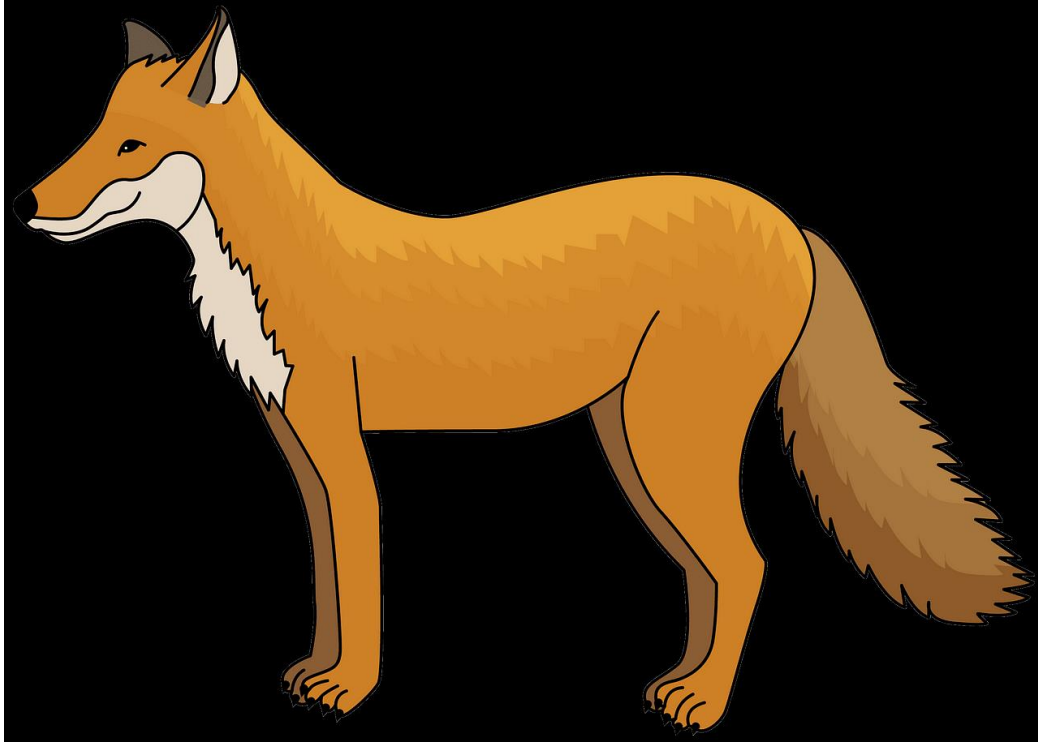
The earwig is a very common insect, and you have probably seen lots of them. There were probably lots and lots of insects in Wigmore when the Anglo-Saxons arrived there, because they named their village after wiggling insects: it means ‘wiggling insect marsh’! There were also wiggling things in Wigley in Westbury.



Eel

Eel

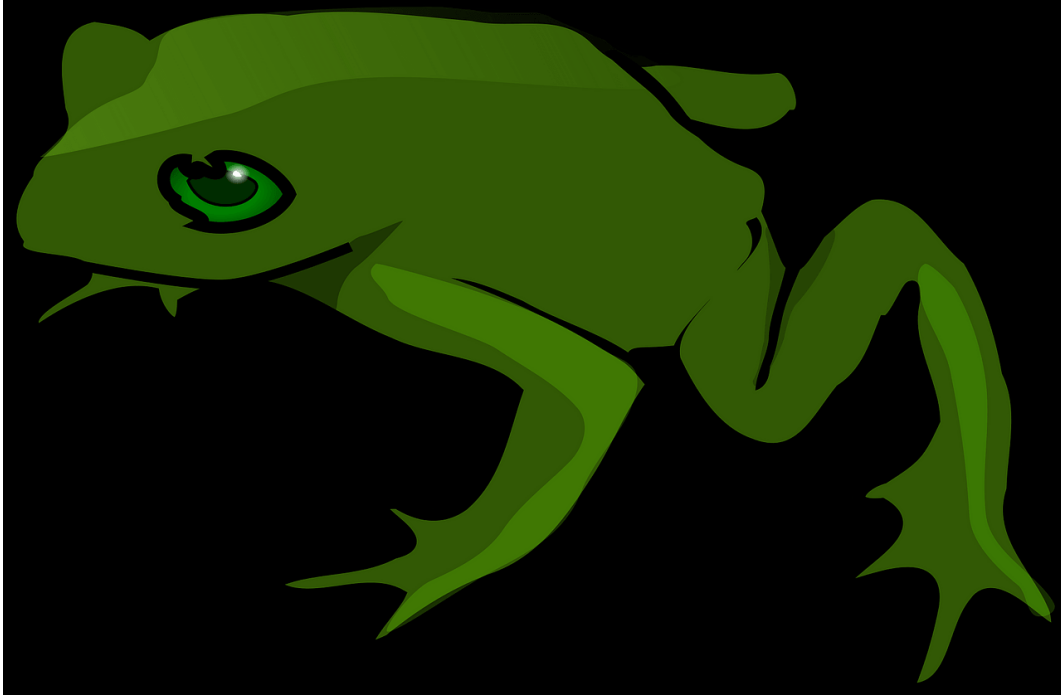
**Have you ever seen an eel?
The names of some places tell
us that, a long time ago, there
were eels in Shropshire
streams. These include the
field-name *Elsage* 'eel stream'
in Wootton, and *Elwell Leasow*
'eel spring' in Diddlebury.**



Fox

Fox

You may have seen a fox – lots of them live in Shropshire. A fox's home is called a 'den' or sometimes an 'earth'. In the past, people noted where foxes lived, and often named the landscape next to the den *fox-hole*. There is a place in Clunbury called *Foxholes*. This is a very old way of saying 'fox's den', and it let everyone know where the fox family lived.



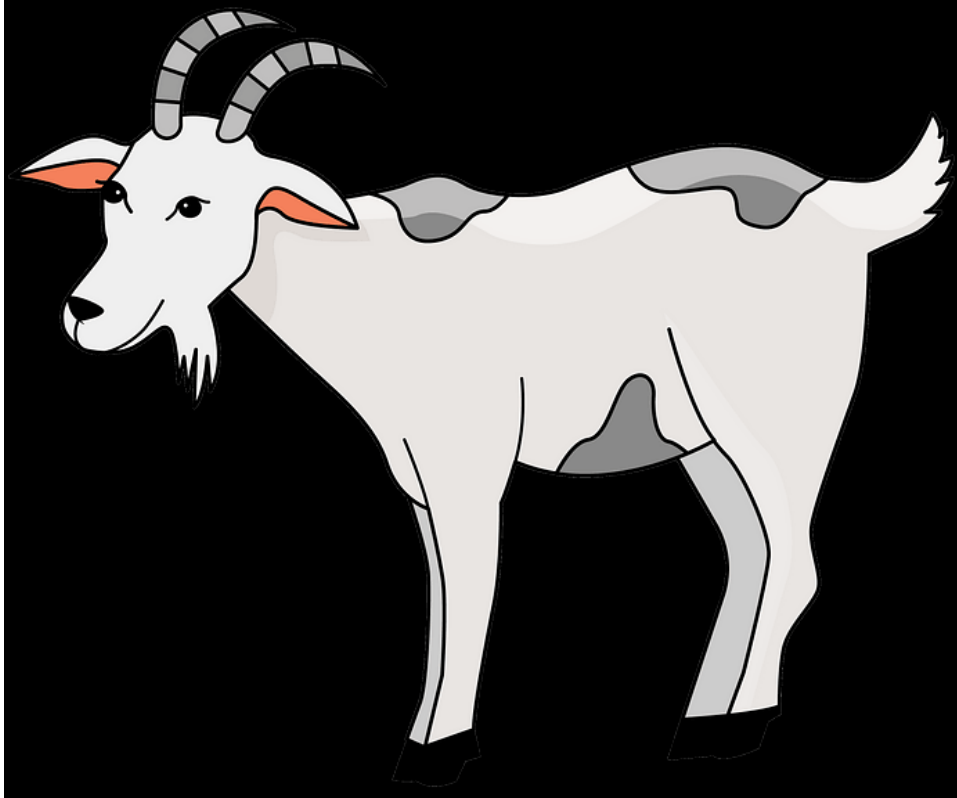
Frog

Frog

There are lots of frogs in Shropshire. But have you ever heard a singing frog?

Medieval people living in Astley Abbots did, because they named a stream –

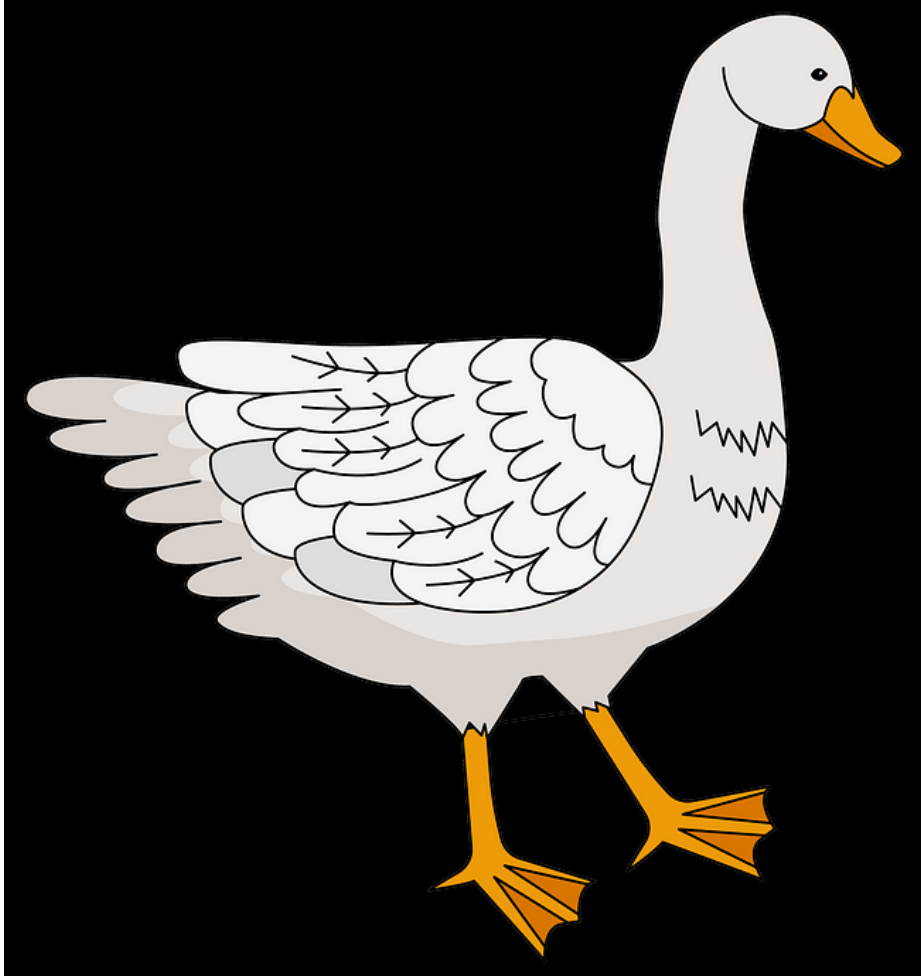
***Cantern Brook* - after the noisy frogs that lived there.**



Goat

Goat

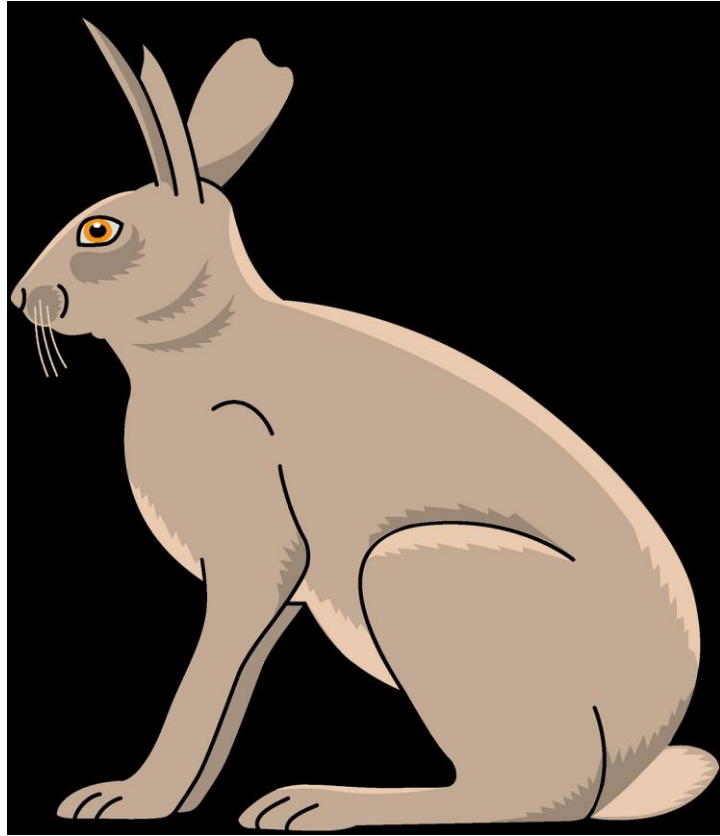
Lots of you will have seen goats. They have been living in Shropshire for hundreds of years. We know this because of the names that medieval people gave to places. At the time when William the Conqueror came to England, he recorded people living in the village of Bucknell, which means 'goat hill'.



Goose

Goose

Geese are quite common throughout Britain, and they prefer a habitat close to water, such as a lake or river. They have lived in Britain for hundreds of years, and some very early field-names in Shropshire feature geese, like *Geseleys* in Marton, which means 'goose meadow', or *Ganderbeach* in Grimmer, meaning 'goose stream valley'.



Hare

Hare

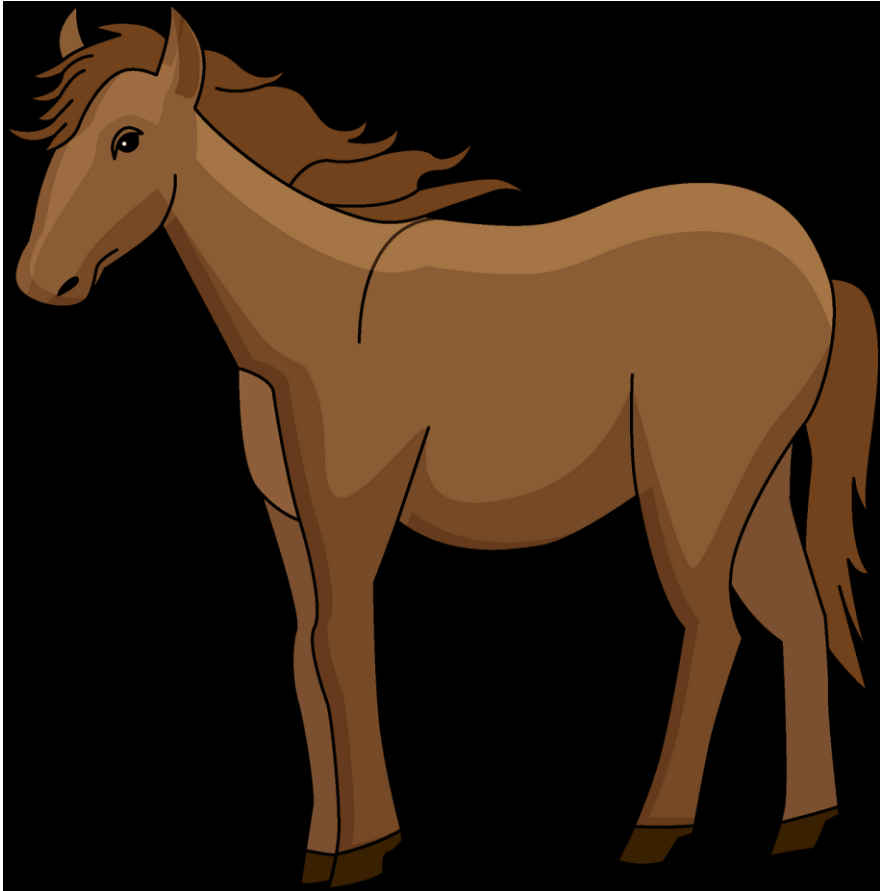
Although there have been hares in Britain for hundreds of years, the hare is quite a shy animal, and they are not seen very often. Both *Hare Cover* in Kinlet and *Hair Meadow* (which is quite a funny-sounding name) in Mucklewick indicate places where hares were seen hundreds of years ago.



Hawk

Hawk

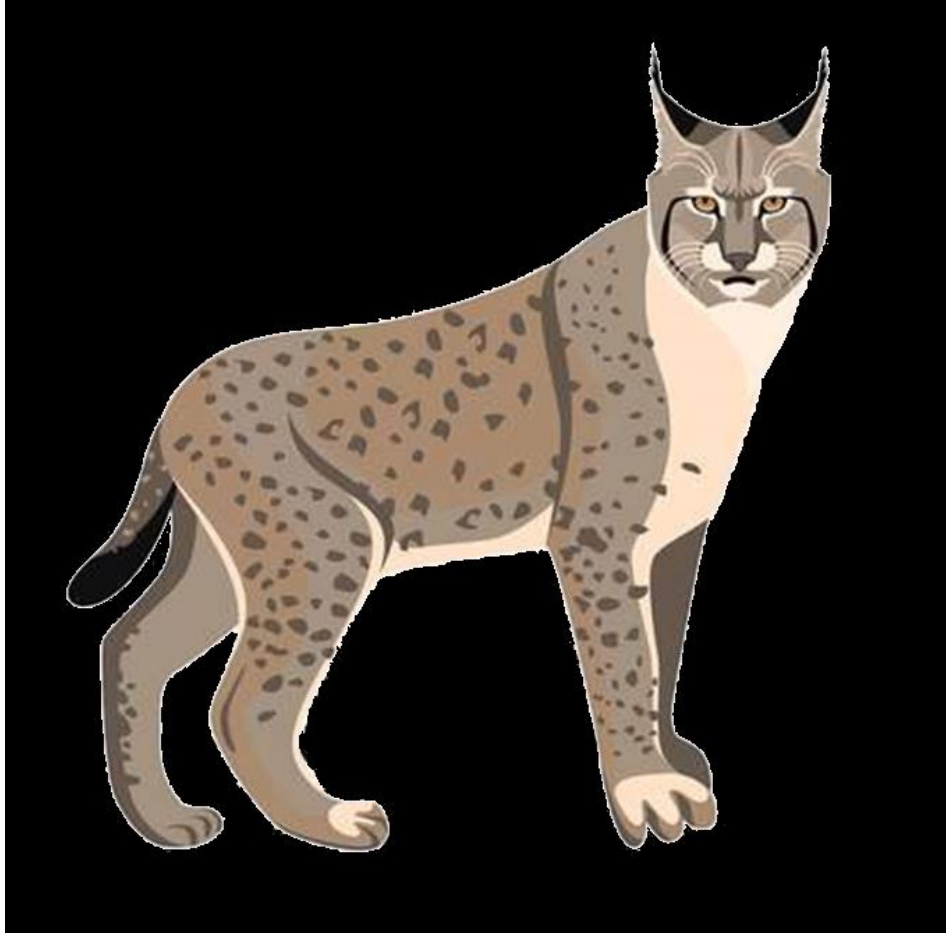
Hawks can be found today in many parts of Britain, including Shropshire. These include goshawks and sparrowhawks. We also know that they were here hundreds of years ago, because they can be found in place-names like *Hawkhurst* in Woolston.



Horse

Horse

There are lots of horses in Shropshire, and field-names tell us that was always the case. In Worthen, a place called *Horsemor* reminds us that there horses could be seen there.



Lynx

Lynx

The lynx is a big cat that once lived in Britain, but is now extinct here. It has a coat that makes it look a little bit like a cheetah. We know that there were once lynx in Shropshire, because the place-name Lostford (which is in Hodnet) contains a very old word for lynx: *lox*. Lynx are secretive animals, and they live in remote places with lots of trees.



Mouse

Mouse

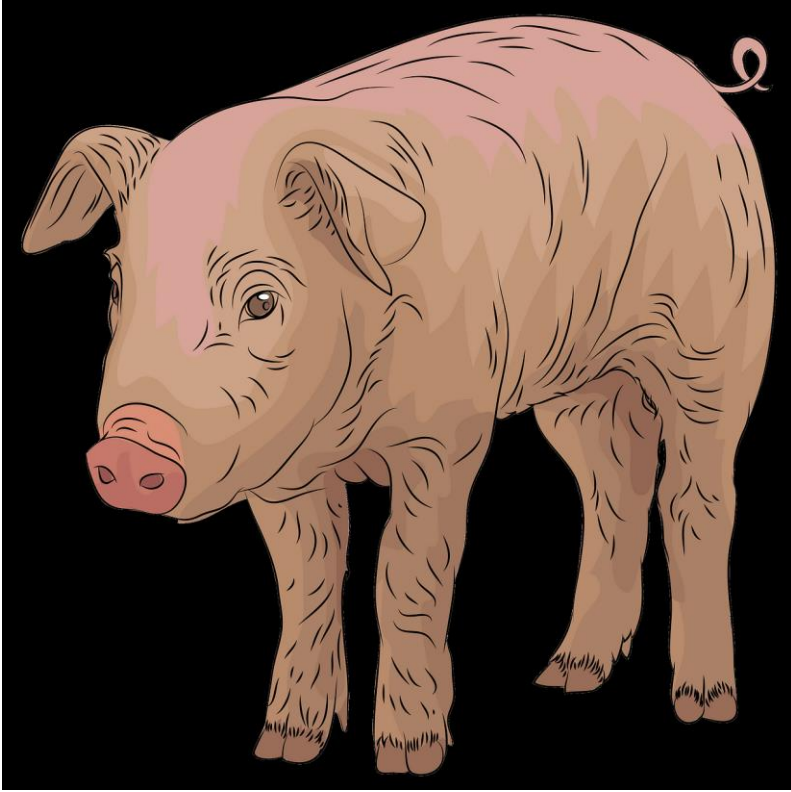
Mice are very common, but they are extremely shy and so they can be very difficult to spot. There is a place that was once called Mouseley in Eaton, which the Anglo-Saxons associated with mice – it means ‘woodland clearing where mice are found’.



Owl

Owl

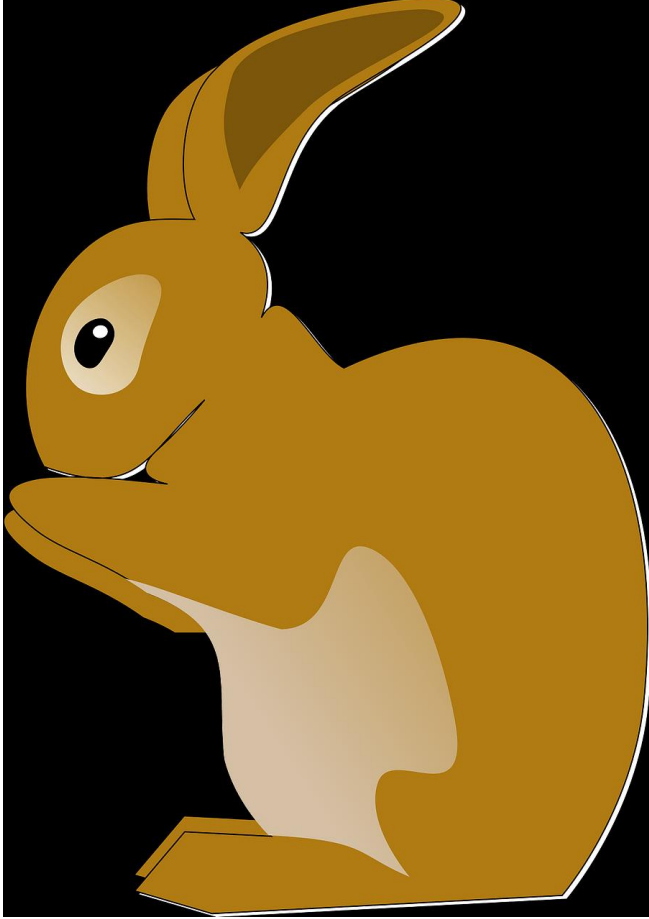
If you have ever seen an owl, it was probably at night-time, because owls are nocturnal. Old documents tell us that Anglo-Saxon people also saw owls, and they sometimes named places after them, like *Holmer* in Stirchley, which means ‘owl marsh’.



Pig

Pig

Pigs still live on Shropshire farms, but they have been part of the landscape for hundreds of years. The field-name *Pigges Hope Field* tells us that there were pigs in Weston in the medieval period.



Rabbit

Rabbit

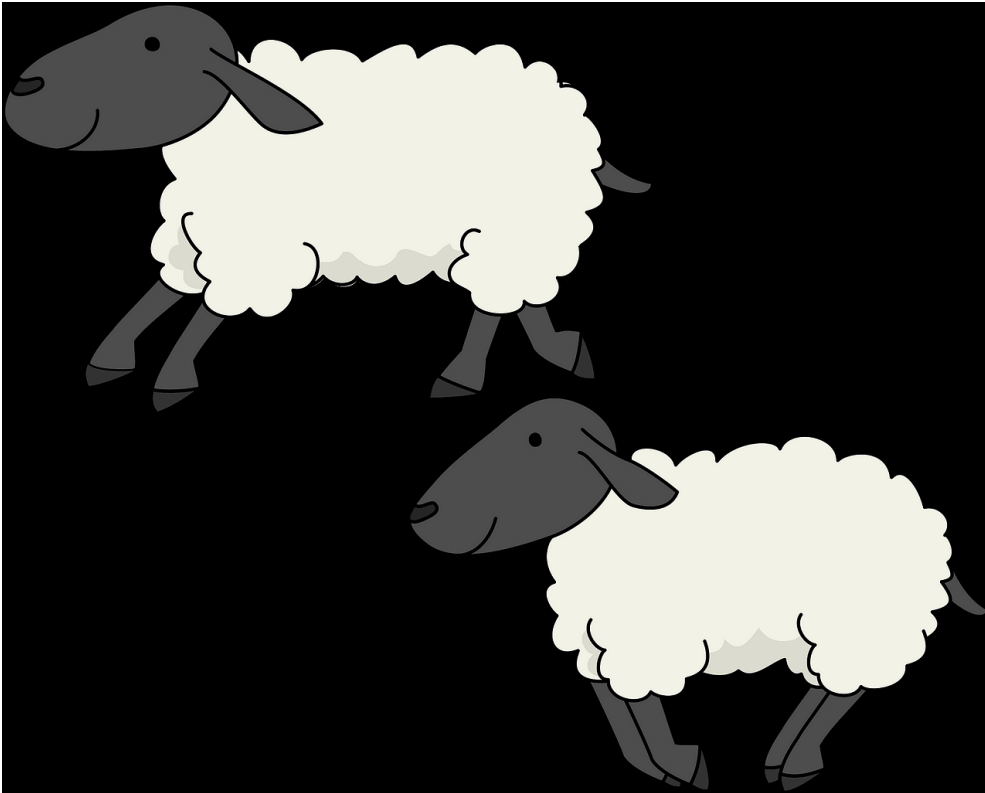
There are now lots of rabbits in Shropshire, but during the medieval period rabbits lived in warrens. A very old English word *coningre* meant ‘rabbit warren’, and there are lots of field-names that tell us where rabbit warrens once were, like the one in Lydbury called *Cunnery Ground*.



Raven

Raven

The raven is a very big, black bird, and it is most commonly found in the north and west of Britain. It likes hills and mountains, and so Shropshire provides the perfect habitat. People living in Shropshire hundreds of years ago noticed the ravens, and the fields they named after them still survive, like *Raven Batch* in Wistanstow.



Sheep

Sheep

There are lots of sheep in Shropshire today, but do you know how long sheep have been in Shropshire? Old field-names, like *Shepecotes* in Bucknell tell us that medieval farmers raised sheep here.



Snail

Snail

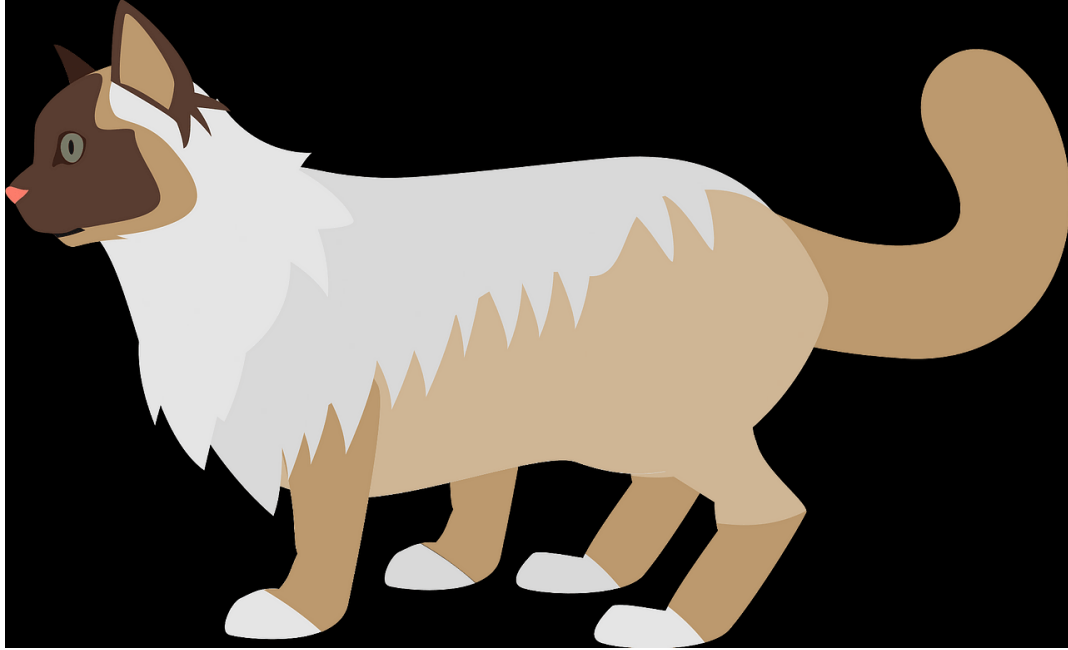
You have probably seen lots and lots of snails! The small village of Snailbeach near Minsterley was named after these tiny creatures. Perhaps hundreds of years ago, there were a lot of snails there!



Toad

Toad

Have you ever seen a toad? They are quite secretive, but they have been in Shropshire for hundreds of years. In Edgton, a small stream was named because of the toads living there: *Podsich*. ‘Pode’ was the medieval word which meant ‘toad’.



Wildcat

Wildcat

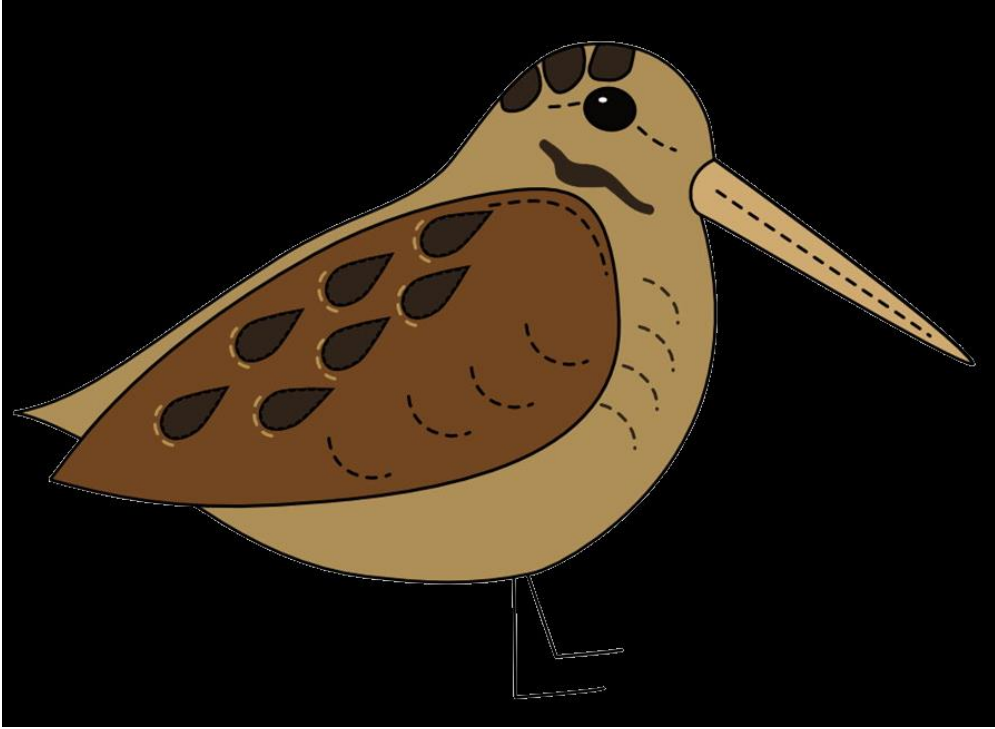
This is an animal that you will already know about – you may have your own cat at home. Hundreds of years ago, wild cats lived in Shropshire, and they were much more fierce than the cats we keep as pets. The place-name *Cattenall* in Clunton tells us about a possible Shropshire wildcat living in the medieval period.



Wolf

Wolf

Wolves are now extinct in Britain, but they once roamed the country. We know that included Shropshire because several place-names indicate locations that were associated with them. These include Wooffley in Ashton Carbonel.



Woodcock

Woodcock

The woodcock is a shy bird that likes lots of ground cover to hide in. They still live in Britain, but you usually need to be very still and quiet to see one. Lots of field-names all over Shropshire, like *Cockshutt Leasow* in Worthen, tell us that this was once a very common bird.