

The Boaring Truth

An Introduction to Wild Boar in the UK

○ The wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) is a true native species to Britain.

Historically they were a favourite festive meat for Royals, because of this, and as a result of hunting,

they became extinct across Britain during the 13th century. Throughout Europe, over many centuries, it has been almost unheard of for wild boar to become aggressive towards well-meaning humans.



This leaflet is designed to introduce you to wild boar, for more in-depth info please visit www.TheBoaringTruth.org

Eyesight

Wild boar have very poor eyesight and rely on their hearing, and excellent sense of smell, to alert them to a possible threat. Whilst they can see movement it isn't until they approach us that they realise what we are. If a wild boar approaches you it is almost certainly just trying to see what you are, and once they have, they usually give a 'snort' and run off.


Wild Boar and Dogs

Wild boar are no different to any of our other wildlife. They have a reputation for disliking dogs and may even attack if they feel threatened. Raised hackles on the neck, growling or grunting, and obvious agitation (mock charges) are signs that you should move away with your dog. If you have a dog

○ with you on a lead and you spot wild boar from a

distance, turn around and walk the other way. Keep dogs that like to rush into undergrowth on a lead. Historically the main predator of wild boar was the wolf, when wild boar sees a dog; to them, it is a wolf! If they feel threatened there is a small chance of an attack, but this is very rare. We highly recommend putting a bell on your dog's collar to warn wildlife of their presence.

Mothers and Young

Sows are understandably wary when they have young; the average number of piglets is 4-6 per sow per year. It is possible to see wild boar group together in "sounders" when 3+ sows and 18+ piglets can play together. Piglets with their mothers can be a lovely experience; please don't risk spoiling it by getting too close. Like any other species on the planet 'mum' has a duty to protect her young. 

IMPORTANT - Please DO NOT feed the wild boar

Not only will it increase the chance of them contracting, and spreading, disease such as African swine fever (ASF), feeding wild boar will habituate them and can cause them to lose their natural fear of humans. In turn this could cause conflict with people who do not want the wild boar approaching them. This activity will also make the wild boar easy targets for poachers. If you are comfortable and confident being around the wild boar, just stand and admire them, they are very capable of finding their own diet.

As with all wildlife, treat with respect and remember you are in their home when you are out walking. By following these guidelines, you will hopefully have a wonderful experience.



The Boaring Truth aim to help wild boar thrive, and peacefully cohabit with humans and other wildlife, in natural habitats across the UK. We are made up of volunteers, wildlife conservationists and local residents, all with a deep passion for these amazing animals. Our aim is to enhance the understanding of this animal around the UK and ensure that they are managed only when necessary and humanely at all times. We also want to help educate those who may interact with wild boar on how to behave around these special animals to make every interaction a positive memory.

Wild Boar Field Signs

Have wild boar been active in your locality?

(See corresponding pictures below)

Rubbing Posts (top left)

After wallowing, wild boar will rub themselves up against things. Look for muddy bases to trees or poles. Wild boar will also use these posts to keep their tusks sharp.

Footprints/Tracks (top right)

Wild boar footprints are approx. 10cm long and 5 cm wide. They have two back dew claws that are wider than the front, and the prints are more rounded than deer.

Wallows (bottom left)

Wild boar will wallow in mud to control their temperature and rid their hair of parasites. Look for smooth hollows in wet ground.

Rooting (bottom right)

Turfs of grass are turned over as the wild boar root for food. This has a very positive effective on soil and other surrounding wildlife, especially in winter as it helps the birds/small mammals feed when the ground is frozen.

Droppings (middle)

Droppings are sausage shaped and are black when fresh, they will break into small droppings and turn grey over time.



You can report wild boar sightings, or ask us questions, by contacting The Boaring Truth on:

- Email: info@TheBoaringTruth.org
- Website: www.TheBoaringTruth.org
- www.facebook.com/TheBoaringTruth
- www.twitter.com/TheBoaringTruth
- www.instagram.com/TheBoaringTruth

