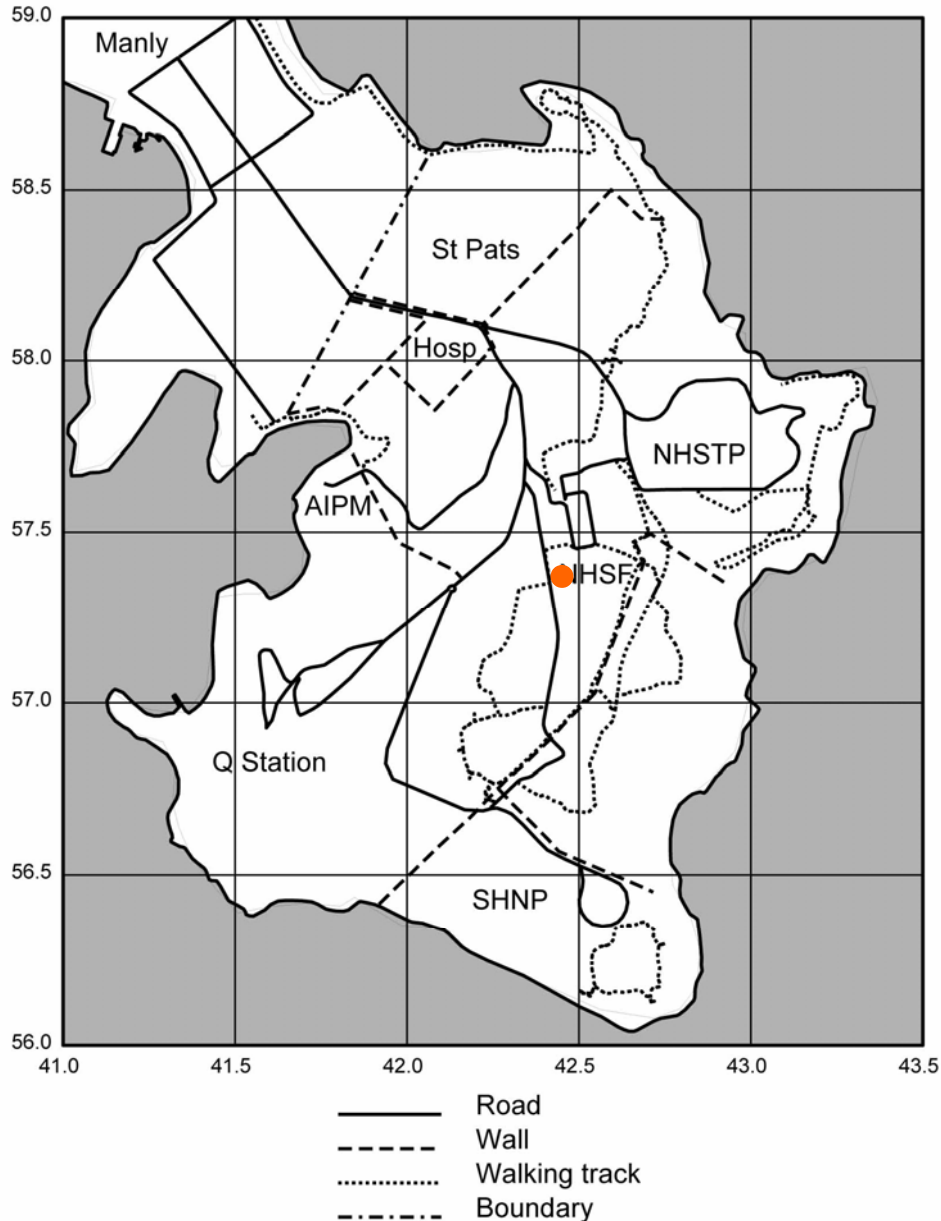


Where I saw my Echidna

Echidnas have been seen all over North Head. If you can recognise where you saw your Echidna, please mark the spot on the map



Did you see us today?



At the North Head Sanctuary Foundation, we are re-running a citizen-survey of our relatively common and tame echidnas. If you have seen an echidna today, please mark where you saw it on the map on the page opposite. Send your photo to us at twswoombat@inet.net.au. Smart-phone photographs are best– you can send your photo right now!

You can also give us your e-mail contact details if you like and we will keep you in the loop about our progress. The results of our previous photo-mapping of echidnas people have seen on North Head are displayed in Bandicoot Heaven (Building 20).



North Head
Sanctuary
Foundation



About our Echidnas

Echidnas are almost uniquely Australian animals. One species lives in Papua New Guinea. They are unusual little animals, related to the platypus. Both echidnas and platypuses are *monotremes* and are probably a half-way evolutionary stage between reptiles and marsupials

On North Head, we have some of each, which you can see every day:



Water Dragon
(Reptile)



Echidna
(Monotreme)



Long-nosed Bandicoot
(Marsupial)

- They have fur (the spines are modified fur).
- They lay eggs!
- They have a pouch for their young..
- They suckle their young.
- They are poor at regulating their body temperature.
- They eat ants and termites and prefer big fat ones.
- The Latin name is *Tachyglossus aculeatus* meaning “rapid tongue” .
- They are very timid.

We don't know how many Echidnas we have at North Head, where they live or how widely they range in search of food or a mate. Studies on Kangaroo Island and on the mainland have shown that they will travel several kilometres in a night to satisfy these needs. You can help us find out.

You can find some videos of our echidnas on our computers and on YouTube.

Photo tip.

The best ID photos are those that show the echidna side on, as below, so that we can see the colour pattern of its spines and the length of its beak.. Be patient with your echidna– if you move slowly and patiently, it may even come up to you and pose for its portrait.



MyEchidna

Date I saw my Echidna _____

Time I saw my Echidna _____

My observations on this echidna:

Tear off this page and leave it in Bandicoot Heaven, or post it to NHSF P.O.Box 896 Balgowlah 2093

I took a photo! _____

Send your photo to twswombat@optusnet.com.au

My name and email contact: _____

Some of our echidnas– can you spot yours?

