

“They changed shape in a queer way when they moved; one minute they were long and thin and the next minute fat and bunchy”

Margery Williams, *The Velveteen Rabbit*



Left to right: Rabbits zigzag across the countryside as they dart away from a pursuing predator; grooming takes place regularly, often early in the morning, using the teeth, tongue and claws; a herbivore, the rabbit's primary food is grass but females will also collect it for their nest.

farmland, grassland and meadows, upland and moorland, large rural gardens, park and especially near the coast, on cliffs and sand dunes. They feed almost entirely on grasses, cereals and the new shoots of other plants; in winter, they will also gnaw at the bark of saplings.

Social animals, they live in organised colonies known as warrens. These consist of a network of interconnected burrows, where the rabbits sleep and breed. The home range is restricted, often less than 2.5 acres, sometimes much smaller. They are

highly sedentary animals, rarely venturing more than 165ft (50m) from the entrance to their burrow. This helps them escape from predators such as foxes, stoats, weasels and birds of prey, by making a quick dash for safety. A sharp squeal alerts other rabbits to the danger.

Burrows are made by digging with their front paws into sand or soft soil. The entrance is usually between 4-20in (10-50cm) across. These are generally situated on a slope so the rabbit can dig into the earth at an angle rather than straight >