

1st Class
up to 100g



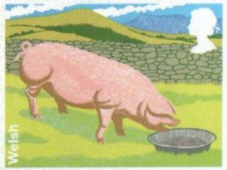
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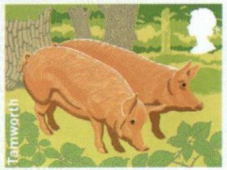
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The animals come in six by six This year Post and Go stamps are following the theme of British Farm Animals, exploring some of the many breeds of sheep, cattle and pigs to be found on farms in the UK. Already released is the first issue of Sheep (see page 166 in February *Bulletin* and the article 'Breeding is Everything', on page 220) and on 24 April the Pigs are unpenned!

Stamp by stamp Robert Gillmor's lino-cuts have captured the distinctive characteristics of the following breeds of pigs.

Berkshire pigs are said to be Britain's oldest pig breed, originally bred around the market towns of Faringdon and Wantage in the Vale of the White Horse (which prior to the 1974 county boundary changes was in Berkshire but is now in Oxfordshire). They are early-maturing pigs, with short black hair, often with white hair on their legs, faces and tips of the tails. You cannot miss the Berkshire ears – large and upright and often leaning forwards.

Gloucestershire Old Spots are big and meaty, with a white coat that has large, clearly defined black spots. A few years ago fashion called for only one or two spots, but today breeders have decided that if you are going to have a spotted pig, then it should have plenty of spots, which should be clearly defined and black – but not blue. Distinctive lop ears cover the faces of Gloucestershire Old Spots, coming all the way down to the snout.

Oxford Sandy and Black pigs have existed for 200 to 300 years and are one of the oldest British pig

Post & Go British Farm Animals 2, Pigs – Specifications

Date of issue	24 April
Number of stamps	Six
Stamp design	Kate Stephens
Stamp illustration	Robert Gillmor
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	56mm x 25mm
Printer	Walsall Security Printers
Print process	Gravure
Perforations	Kiss die-cut simulated
Phosphor	Bars
Gum	Self-adhesive

breeds. Sometimes referred to as 'Plum Pudding pigs' or 'Oxford Forest pigs', they are the traditional farmers' and cottagers' pig in central England, especially around Oxfordshire. The breed is suited to the outdoors, being good at foraging and not prone to sunburn, and has an excellent temperament and mothering abilities. The coat is a light sandy to rust colour, with random black blotches (rather than round spots) with a white blaze, socks and tassel (tufts of hair) on the tail.

Welsh pigs are white, with lop ears meeting at the tips just short of the pig's nose. This breed has a long level body with deep strong hams and legs set well apart. It is well known as a hardy pig and able to thrive under a wide variety of conditions, both indoors and outside. George Eglington, acknowledged as the founder of the modern Welsh breed in the 1950s, described the perfect Welsh pig as 'pear shaped' when viewed either from the side or from above.

Tamworth pigs are believed to be the oldest pure British breed, descended from wild boars and the ancient indigenous species known as the Old English Forest pig. They are very hardy and do well in northerly areas where winters are severely cold and windy. The breed has maintained its status because at the end of the 18th century, when many native British breeds were 'improved' by crossing them with Chinese and Neapolitan stock, the Tamworth breed was deemed unfashionable and hence left alone.

British Saddleback pigs originate from the amalgamation of two similar breeds, the Essex and Wessex Saddleback. The British Saddleback was recognised in 1967 when the Wessex Saddleback and the Essex breeds were amalgamated. This pig has a clearly defined belt of white extending over the shoulders and continuing over the forelegs. The rest of the body is black, sometimes with white feet and the tip of the tail.

How to catch a First-day pig Post and Go British Farm Animals Pig stamps are available from Post and Go machines in selected Post Office® branches (list available from Tallents House at the address on page 194) from the date of issue. The selected letter tariff and code numberings are printed on demand by the machine.

The six different stamps are also available as a Stamp Set, printed in a sheetlet form and inserted in an attractive card (designed by The Chase), with a profile of the artist Robert Gillmor as well as information about each breed, written by Jack Byard, an expert on British farm animal breeds. The Stamp Set is available from Tallents House and is overprinted with First Class values and a philatelic code in gravure.

Orders for serviced First Day Covers have to reach Royal Mail by the first day of issue, 24 April 2012. Customers may also send stamped envelopes on the day of issue to Royal Mail, Tallents House to obtain the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark (shown above right). Customers who hand in or post stamped Royal Mail First Day Cover envelopes at main Post Offices® on the day of issue will receive the pictorial SWINE, HULL postmark (as shown top right), a place name chosen for obvious reasons! Alternatively, customers may send stamped envelopes to any of the Special Handstamp Centres for the pictorial or plain SWINE, HULL postmark •►



Top: for the alternative First Day of Issue pictorial postmark, the village of Swine (five miles outside Hull) has been chosen for the obvious piggy connection. Above: the Tallents House Post & Go First Day of Issue postmark shows a map of the British Isles