
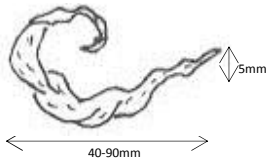
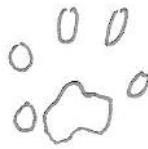
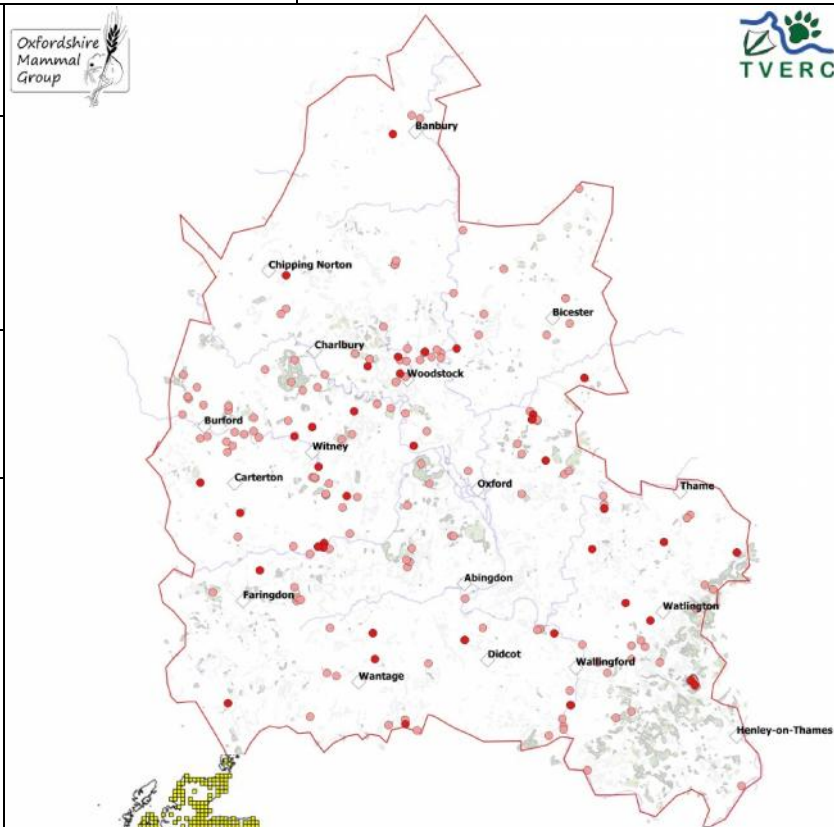


<b>Stoat</b>	<i>Mustela erminea</i>	 <p>Derek Crawley</p>	
<b>Description:</b> Warm-brown fur, white/cream underside with neat straight line separating the two. Coat may turn white/partially white in winter. Shortish tail with distinctive bushy black tip. Body length 24-31cm and tail length 9-14cm.			
<b>Field Signs</b>			
<b>Droppings:</b> Droppings deposited singularly and often contain hair or bits of bone. Blackish brown, with a musky smell but not too unpleasant.	<b>Footprints:</b> Small claw marks join toes, very delicate palm pad. 20x22mm.		
			
<b>Diet:</b> Medium-sized mammal specialist, particularly rabbits but rodents and birds as well.		<b>Habitat:</b> Farmland, woodland, grassland, marshland and mountain moorland.	
<b>Lifespan:</b> 1-2 years.		 <p>KNOWN RECORDS</p> <p><b>Oxfordshire:</b></p> <p>1995-2005 Present = pink</p> <p>2005-2015 Present = red</p> <p><b>Great Britain and Northern Ireland:</b></p> <p>1995-2015 Present = yellow</p>	
<b>Breeding:</b> Mating occurs in April-July. Litters of 5-15 kits of mixed paternity.			
<b>UK Conservation Status:</b> Native. Common and widespread.			
<b>Oxfordshire:</b> Common and widespread.			
<b>Legislation:</b> Not currently protected.			
<b>Don't confuse with:</b>			
<b>Weasels:</b> Smaller than stoats, wavy line between upper and lower fur colours, no black tail tip, does not turn white in winter.			