
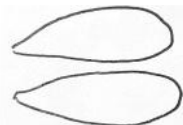
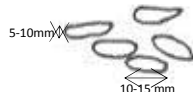
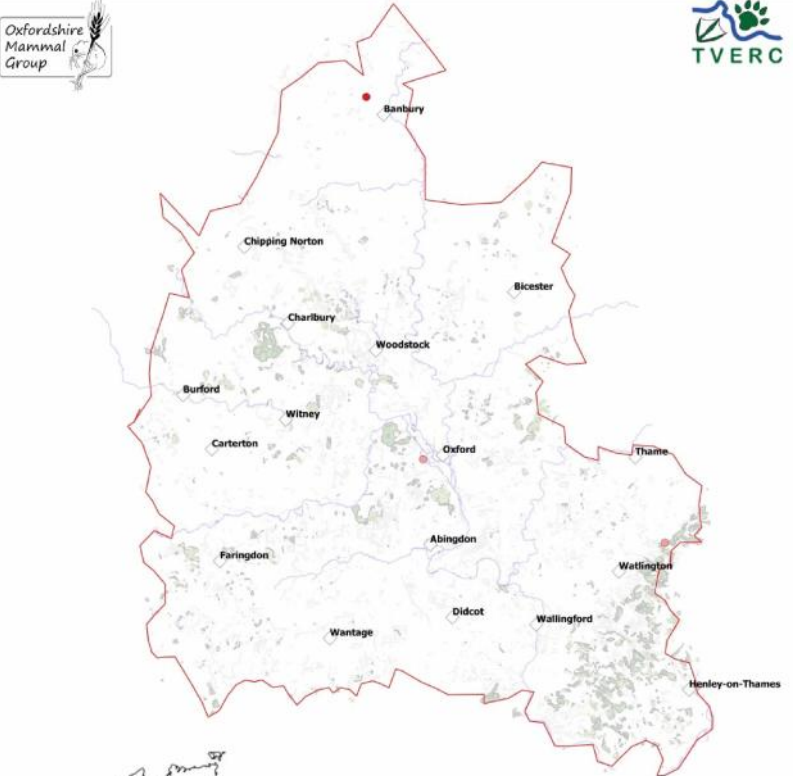
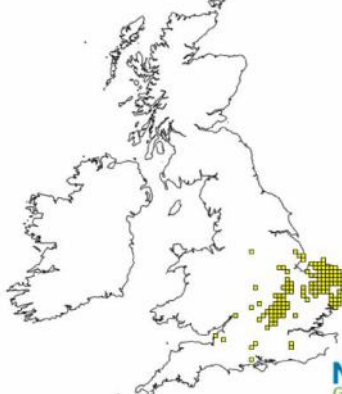


Chinese Water Deer		<i>Hydropotes inermis</i>		 Derek Crawley	
Description: A small deer, with neither sex having antlers. Red-brown coat in summer, grey-brown in winter. Distinctive pale ring around black eyes and nose. Both sexes have tusk-like teeth protruding below upper lip; longer (7cm) in males. Large furry ears. Haunch slightly higher than shoulder. Short, inconspicuous tail; rump same colour as body. Shy, secretive, nocturnal/crepuscular. Shoulder height: 55-60cm. Weight: 10-15kg.					
Field Signs					
Footprints: Inner side of slot straight compared to any other deer. 30-40 x 40-50 mm. 		Droppings: Black or dark brown, cylindrical, pointed at one end, rounded at other  5-10mm 10-15mm		Browsing: Deer leave a ragged end on browsed vegetation unlike hare and rabbit which leave a clean cut.	
Diet: Grazes on grasses; rarely browses on trees and shrubs.				Habitat: Wetlands, swamps, river valleys, occasionally arable fields.	
Lifespan: Up to 6 years.		  KNOWN RECORDS Oxfordshire: 1995-2005 Present = pink 2005-2015 Present = red Great Britain and Northern Ireland: 1995-2015 Present = yellow			
Breeding: Rut occurs in November and December. Females give birth in June and may have up to 6 fawns; twins and triplets usual.					
UK Conservation Status: Introduced. Common and widespread. Oxfordshire: Rare. Legislation: Invasive non-native (Wildlife and					
Don't confuse with: Muntjac: Smaller, stocky deer with distinctive black markings on forehead. Bucks have short antlers about 10cm long without branches. Roe deer: Taller, with distinctive black and white nose and white or buff rump; males have antlers with tines.					