
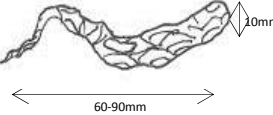
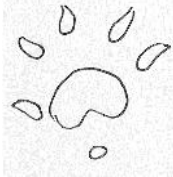
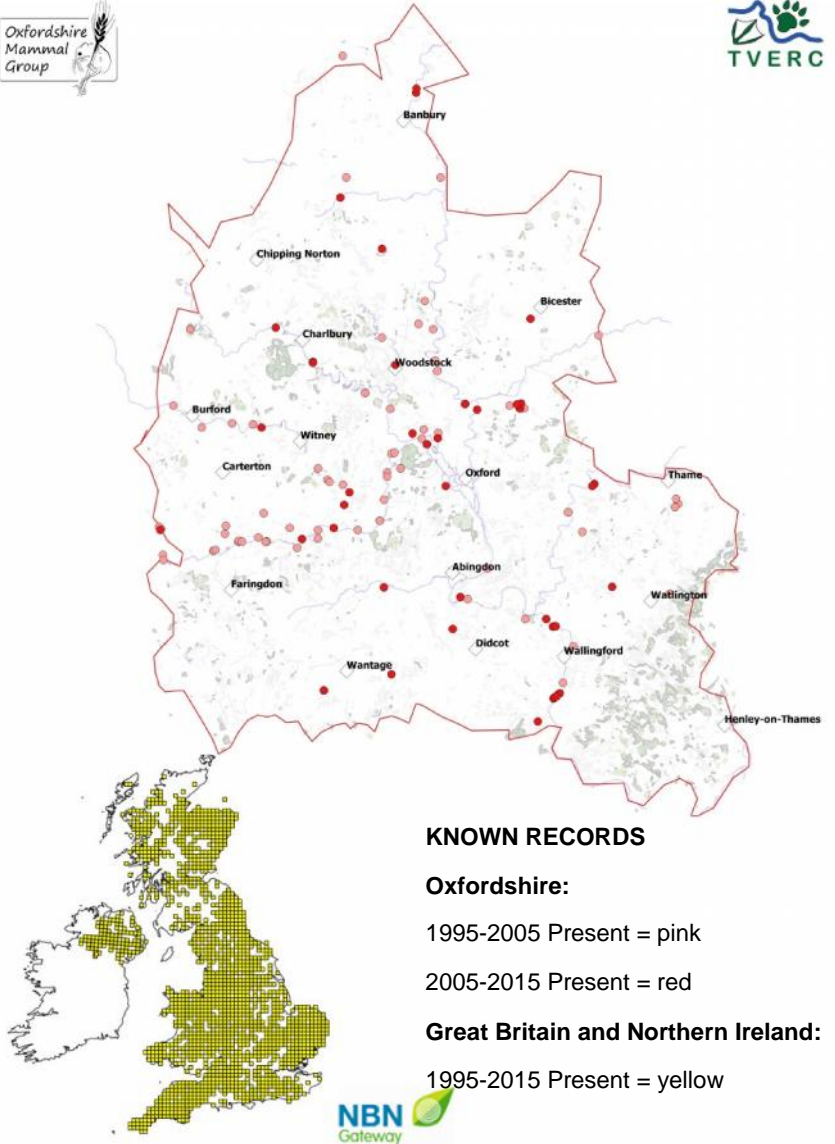


American Mink	<i>Neovison vison</i>		
Field Signs		Droppings: Foul-smelling, mucilaginous, likely to contain a mixture of fur, shell, bones and scales. 	
Feeding remains: With such varied diets, it is hard to distinguish their feeding remains from those of other predators, but often they leave their droppings nearby.	Burrow: Makes dens in the hollows of bankside trees, usually with a strong, musty odour.	Footprints: Most likely to be found in muddy riverbanks, their 5-toed prints are much smaller than those of otters, but similar in shape. 20-40x25-40mm More often star shaped with tear shaped toes. 	
Diet: Opportunistic and aggressive predator, hunting mammals, fish, birds and invertebrates.		Habitat: Equally at home on land or in water, mink will generally be found in or around rivers, in areas with good cover for hunting.	
Lifespan: Up to 12 years.		 <p>KNOWN RECORDS</p> <p>Oxfordshire:</p> <p>1995-2005 Present = pink</p> <p>2005-2015 Present = red</p> <p>Great Britain and Northern Ireland:</p> <p>1995-2015 Present = yellow</p>	
Breeding: Litters average 4 kits, born April-June, becoming fully independent by autumn.			
UK Conservation Status: Non-native. Common and widespread. Oxfordshire: Common and widespread. Legislation: Invasive non-native (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 9i)			
Don't confuse with: <p>Otter: Although both share similar semi-aquatic lifestyles, the otter is substantially larger, with lighter coloured fur and a strong, muscular tail.</p> <p>Polecat: Polecat and mink are very similar in size and shape. However, the polecat has creamy underfur showing through its black coat, and a distinctive bandit mask on its face.</p>			