

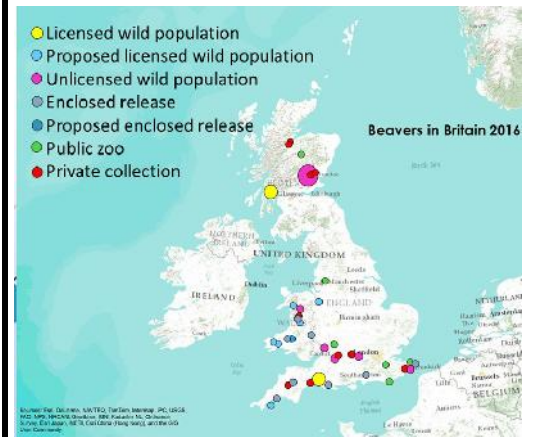



Eurasian Beaver	<i>Castor fiber</i>	 <p>Peter Newbold</p>		
Description: The broad torso and widely spaced short legs, with the broad scaly tale, and large incisors make the beaver (if seen properly) unmistakable. They can grow up to 25-30 kg/ 70-100 cm long with the female the same size as the male.				
Field Signs		Droppings: Rarely found as usually deposited in water. Consist of fibrous, undigested woody material.	Footprints: 3 or 4 toed forefoot (5x7cm) (very rarely see all five toes). Distinctly webbed hind feet (15x11cm) tracks are often obliterated by dragging tail.  <p>Normal track:</p>	Felled trees: Beavers will leave gnawed and completely felled trees near waterways. These are unmistakable.
Dams: Dams are constructed in rivers along with lodges in the ponds created by their dams. These consist of logs, and sticks, compacted with mud and stones.				
Diet: Herbivores– eating aquatic plants, grasses and shrubs during the summer months and resort to more woody plants in winter.		Habitat: Each family group occupy a few kilometre stretch of river, stream or wetland.		
Lifespan: up to 15 years				
Breeding: Mating takes place between January and February, and 2-4 kits are born within the lodge from April to June. Kits emerge from the lodge after 2-3 weeks, remaining with their parents until 2 years old.				
UK Conservation Status: Extinct (originally native) but being re-introduced under licence.		<p>Not currently recorded in Oxfordshire.</p>		
Oxfordshire: Currently not recorded				
Legislation: Not currently protected.				
Don't confuse with: Field signs could be potentially confused with otter. Unlikely to visually confuse with any mammal.				
		 <p>KNOWN RECORDS</p> <p>Great Britain and Northern Ireland:</p> <p>1995-2015 Present = yellow</p> 