
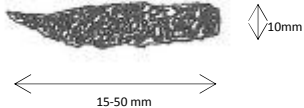
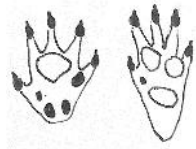
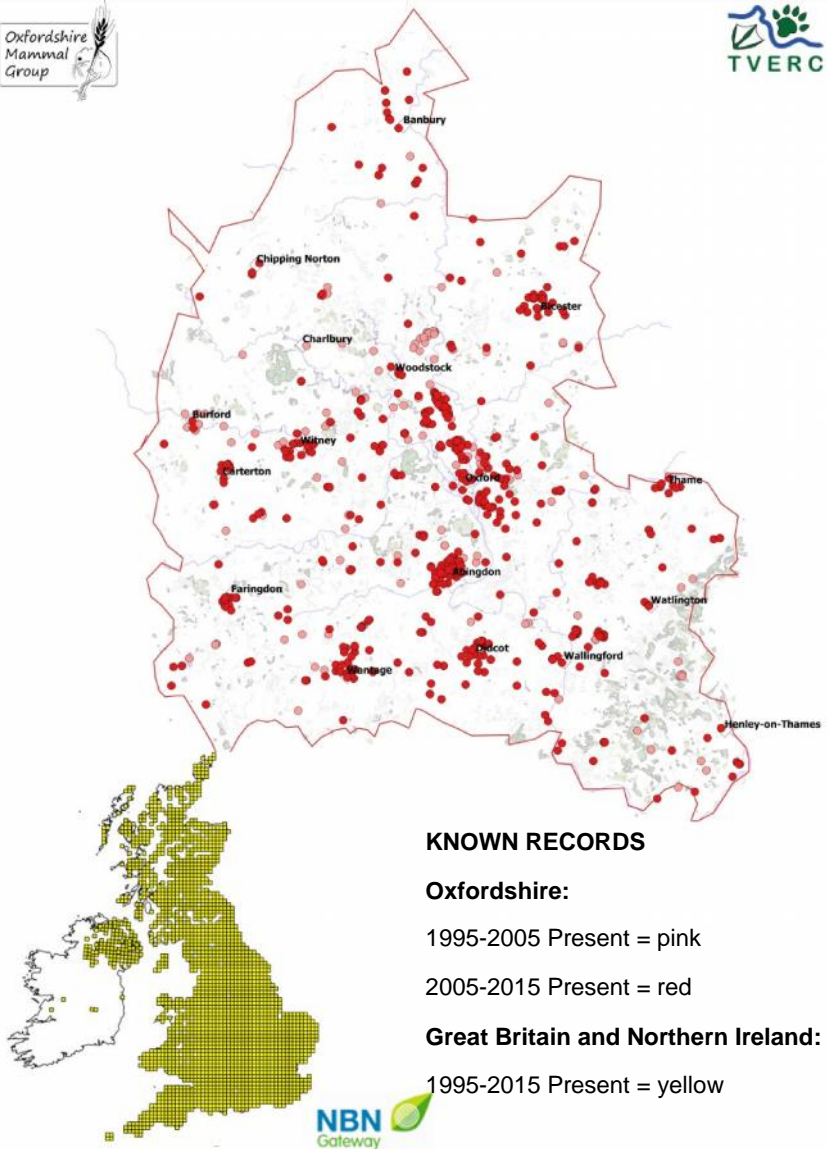


Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>		
Description: Small, nocturnal mammal covered in spines over back and sides. Spines are banded; usually pale tips, followed by a darker brown. Adults usually weigh between 500g-1.5kg.		Field Signs Nest: Three sorts of nest: day nest - these can be little more than a bundle of leaves under a bramble bush; hibernacula - a far more substantial nest made of many layers of leaves or other vegetation combed into shape by the action of the animal's spines; and nursing nests - larger in volume and used by females for the first few weeks of young's life. Droppings: 1-2cm long, usually dark (blue-black) and slightly shiny (large portion of diet being macro invertebrates). Usually blunt at one end, pointed at the other. Sweet smell (hint of linseed oil). 	
Diet: Macro-invertebrates, principally - but will eat small mammals, birds and reptiles. Main item in diet analysis was worms.		Footprints: Long claw marks continuous with footpads, thump print rarely seen. 28x25mm. 	
Habitat: Woodland edge is natural home, but will use hedges and domestic garden landscape.		Lifespan: Up to 7 years. Breeding: Gestation around 5 weeks, when they will give birth to around 5 young. UK Conservation Status: Population in the UK has declined since the turn of the century by around a third in urban areas and rurally by over 50%. Oxfordshire: Widespread but declining. Legislation: ♦ Section 41 NERC Act 2006 Don't confuse with: Some people keep pet hedgehogs, these are (or should be) of different species, known as African pygmy hedgehogs, which are smaller than our species with a more mixed pelage. <div>  <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> </div>	