


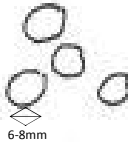
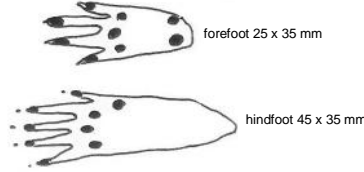
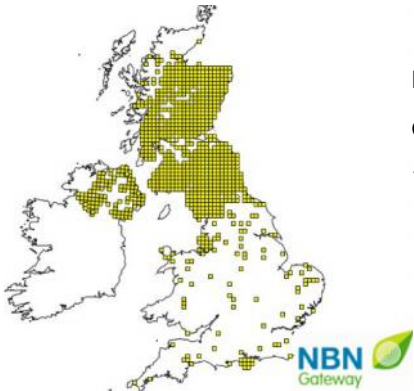



Red Squirrel		<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>		 Peter Newbold
Description: Red, russet fur above with white fur on underside. Can get fur that is black-red and grey-red. Weight 200-270g, body length 180-240mm, tail length 140-195mm. Tail bushy and held over head when sitting (used as shade).				
Field Signs				
Drey: Their dreys are characteristic, made of leaves/conifer needles, football sized and shaped and placed between tree trunk and branch.  Peter Newbold	Feeding signs: Distinctively-stripped conifer cones, split hazel nuts. 	Droppings: Small dark grey balls, often smelling sweetly of pine. Found near trees.  6-8mm	Footprints: Central 3 toes of hindfoot are long and same length. 	
Diet: Nuts, conifer cones, fungi, insects, fruit, berries, and insects.			Habitat: Deciduous and coniferous woodland.	
Lifespan: 2-3 years.		<p>Not recorded in Oxfordshire since 1949.</p>  KNOWN RECORDS Great Britain and Northern Ireland: 1995-2015 Present = yellow 		
Breeding: 2-3 offspring in litter, 1-2 litters a year, 2nd litter with reduced chance of survival. Babies born naked and blind, weaned within 45 days.				
UK Conservation Status: Near threatened and declining. Predominantly in Scotland. Oxfordshire: Absent—last recorded in 1947 (which was probably an escapee). Legislation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5◆ Section 41 NERC Act 2006				
Don't confuse with: Red squirrel: Grey squirrels do not have ear tufts, whereas red squirrels have them during winter. Grey squirrels are significantly larger.				