

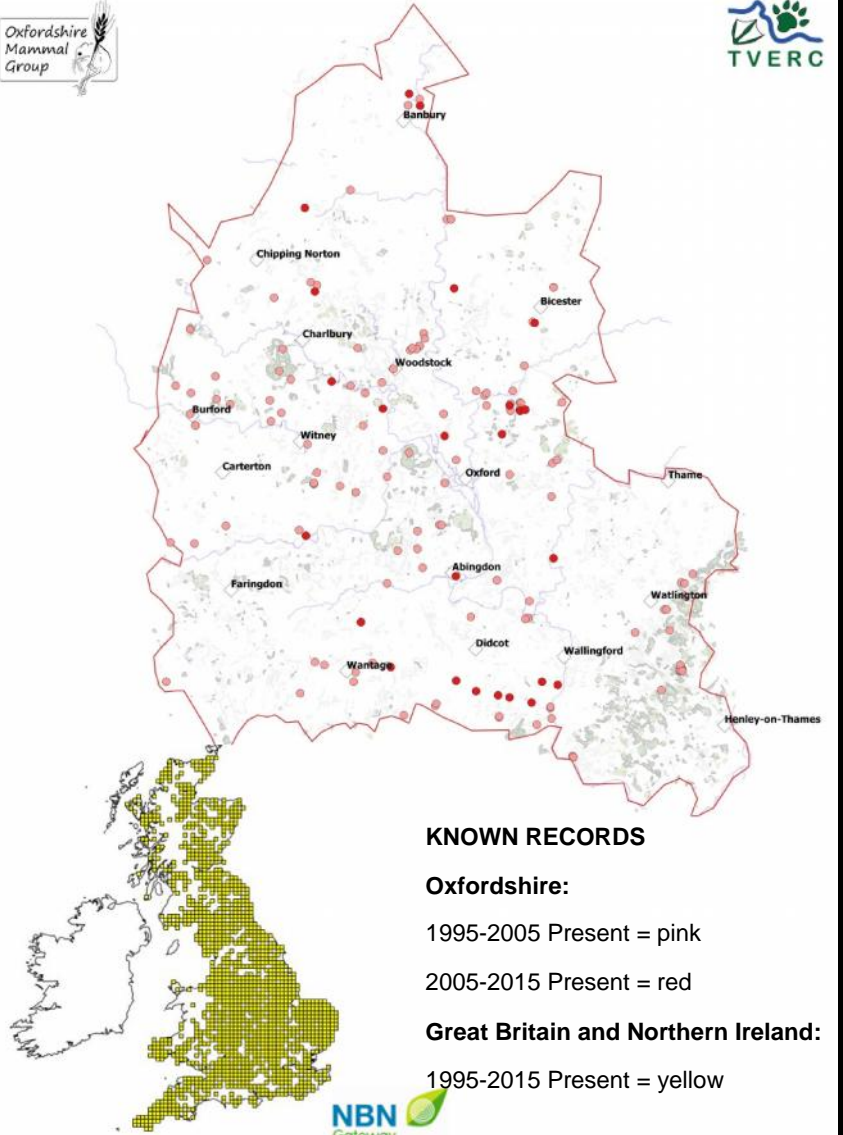


Least Weasel	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>	 <p>Derek Crawley</p>	
Description: Fur bright warm-brown, cream underside, wavy line between the two colours. Does not change colour in winter. Long slender body, short tail of uniform colour. Body length 17-22cm and tail length 3-6cm.		Field Signs	
Droppings: Droppings deposited singularly and often contain hair or bits of bone. Brown in colour, with a musky smell.		Footprints: Small claw marks join toes, very delicate palm pad. 10x13mm.	
Diet: Small mammals in particular, but also birds, eggs and young rabbits.		Habitat: Woodland, farmland, riparian and grassland.	
Lifespan: Up to 2 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: Mates in April-July with 34-37 day gestation. Average litter consists of 6 kits and these reach sexual maturity in 3-4 months.		UK Conservation Status: Native. Common and widespread. Oxfordshire: Common and widespread. Legislation: Not currently protecte	
Don't confuse with: Stoats: Slightly larger, with a straight line between lower and upper fur colours (weasels have an irregular line). Stoats have black tail tips and may turn white, in part or totally, in winter (black tail tip remains).			