
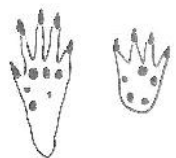
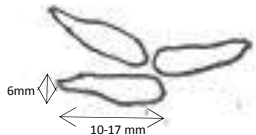
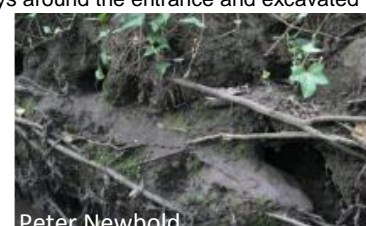


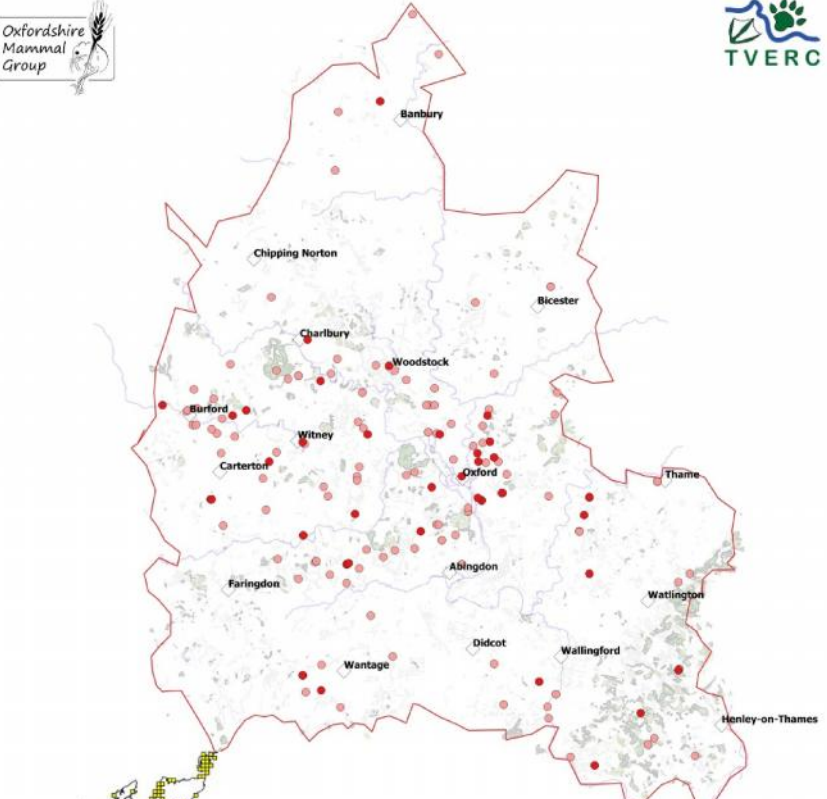



<b>Brown Rat</b>	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	 <p>Derek Crawley</p>
<b>Description:</b> Grey-brown fur with a very pointed muzzle. 150-270mm long body with similar length, almost naked tail.		
<b>Field Signs</b>		<b>Burrows:</b> Typically live in underground burrows with 4-8cm wide entrances. There is usually a well-travelled system of pathways around the entrance and excavated soil in entrance.
<b>Footprints:</b> Forward facing and straight toes, although can splay on soft ground. Hindfoot up to 45 mm.	<b>Droppings:</b> One blunt end, the other pointed. More irregular than water vole. Black-brown and smelling foul. Often feel putty like. Mostly scattered (not in latrines).	
		 <p>Peter Newbold</p>
<b>Diet:</b> Complete omnivore – will eat anything, especially grains, insects and food scraps.		<b>Habitat:</b> Anywhere with suitable food (gardens, farmland, coast, etc.).
<b>Lifespan:</b> Up to 1 year in the wild.		
<b>Breeding:</b> All year around. Will start to breed from 3 months old and will breed continuously if food is available. Litter size is approximately 6.		
<b>UK Conservation Status:</b> Native. Common and widespread.	<b>Oxfordshire:</b> Common and widespread.	
<b>Legislation:</b> Not currently protected.	<b>Don't confuse with:</b> <p>Water vole. Rats are much darker than water vole with longer more pointed muzzles – but both similar in size and can live near water. Rat burrows often connected with tracks to each other and no latrines or feeding lawns nearby. Rat burrows often have a fan of excavated soil in front of burrow.</p>	
		 <p><b>KNOWN RECORDS</b></p> <p><b>Oxfordshire:</b></p> <p>1995-2005 Present = pink</p> <p>2005-2015 Present = red</p> <p><b>Great Britain and Northern Ireland:</b></p> <p>1995-2015 Present = yellow</p> <p>NBN Gateway</p>