




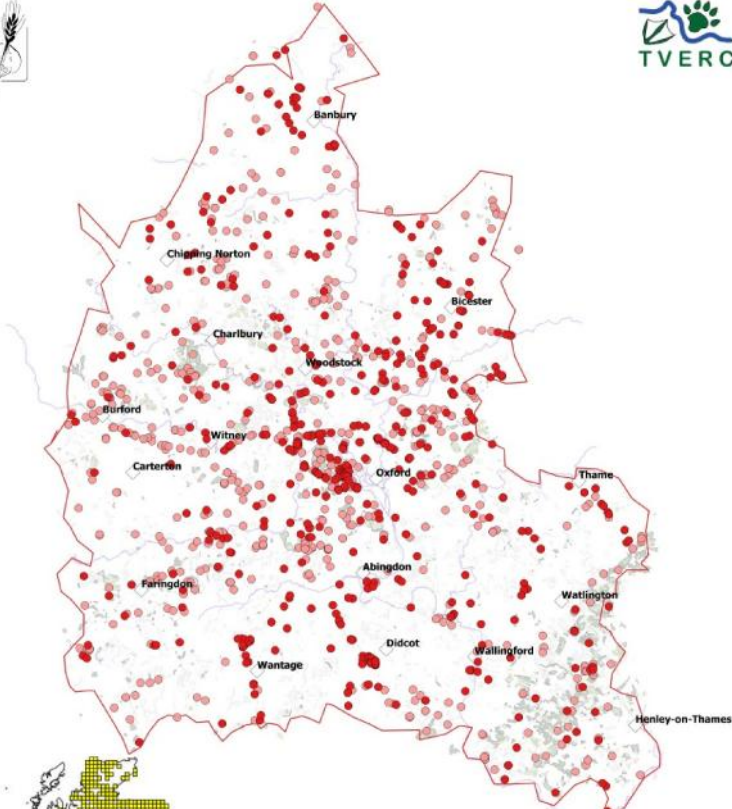
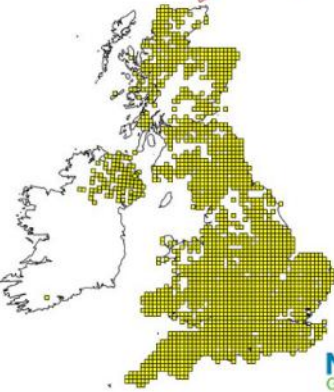



European Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	 <p>Derek Crawley</p>	
Field Signs		Droppings: Variable consistency depending on diet. Can be formless, mud-like dung. Often deposited in characteristic conical latrine p... 	
Paths: Badgers will often follow the same routes for generations creating well-trodden pathways through the vegetation. Leave characteristic snuffle holes when they dig for roots or worms.	Sett: Often very extensive underground network of tunnels and chambers, with multiple entrances. Entrance holes typically 20-25cm across, broader than they are tall, with extensive spoil heaps in front, often containing dried grass bedding.	Footprints: There should be 5 toepads almost in a line, in front of a very broad footpad, but sometimes only 4 toepads visible. Long claw marks often extend beyond Kidney shaped palm. 	
Diet: Opportunistic omnivores – earthworms, insects and carrion, with fruit when in season.		Habitat: Well-drained woodland is preferred for setts, with access to open land for foraging.	
Lifespan: Up to 15 years.		<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="width: 30%;">  </div> <div style="width: 60%; text-align: right;">  </div> </div>  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="width: 30%;">  </div> <div style="width: 60%;"> <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> </div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>	
Breeding: Litters of 1-5 cubs are usually born in February or March, emerging from the sett about 8 weeks later, by which time they have developed their characteristic adult colouring.			
UK Conservation Status: Native. Common and widespread. Oxfordshire: Common and widespread. Legislation: ♦ Protection of Badger Act 1992			
Don't confuse with: Wild boar: The badger's black and white striped face is unmistakable, but with its head down, the general size, shape and snuffling behaviour might be confused with a wild boar. However, the boar's brown hair forming into a stiff ridge along its back contrasts with the badger's cascade of grey hair.			