
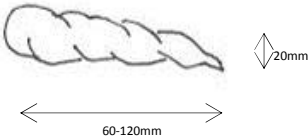

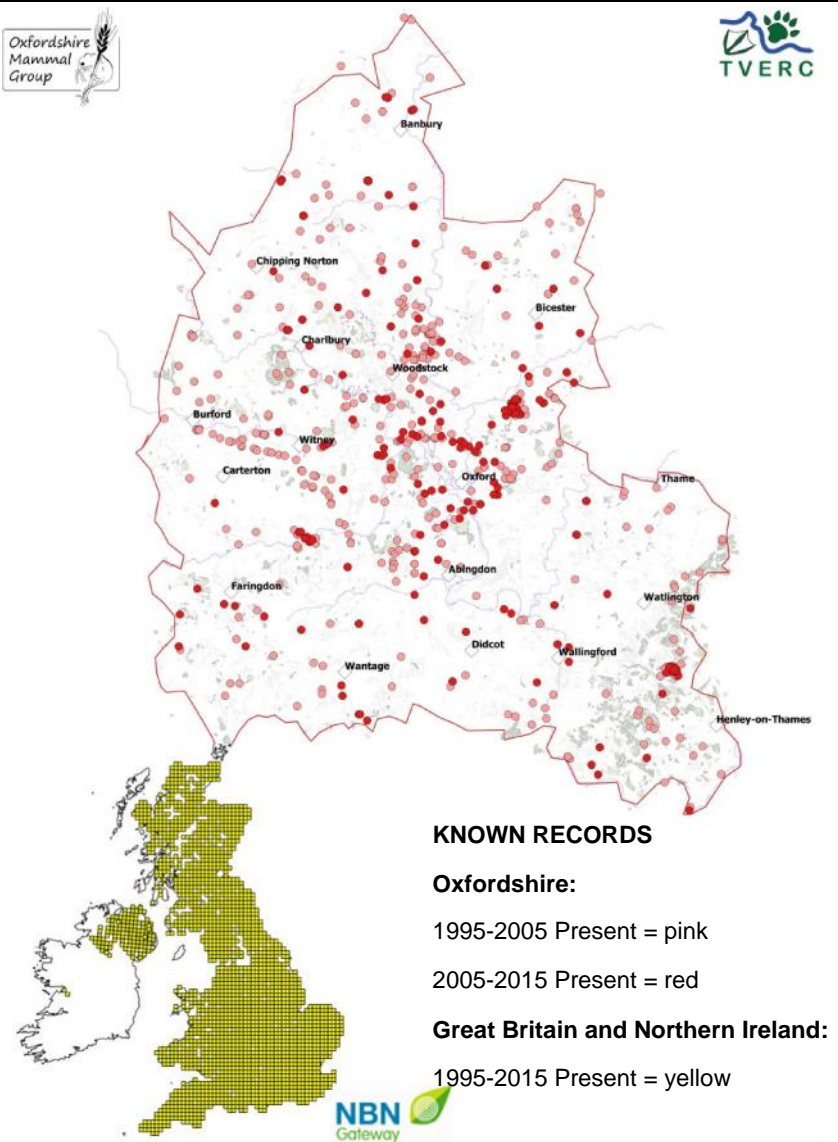


<b>Red Fox</b>	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	 <p>Peter Newbold</p>	
<b>Description:</b> Reddish-brown or greyish-brown fur on back and flanks, with bushy tail and white or light grey undersides. Largely nocturnal, but often seen in daylight. Adult body length 50-80cm, tail length 30-50cm. Weight 5-15kg.		<b>Field Signs</b>  <b>Feeding signs:</b> Often messy eaters, but actual signs will vary with the diet. A fox will remove a bird's wing in one piece by biting right across its base, not by plucking it like other predators. Feathers will also show bite marks where they have been chewed off.  <b>Den:</b> May burrow into soft banks to create dens with one or two entrances, maybe 25cm tall and 15cm wide, but equally happy to make use of available ready-made spaces under sheds, among rocks or in piles of debris.  <b>Droppings:</b> Vary with diet, but typically 6-12cm long and about 2cm wide, with a twisted tapering tail at one end. Texture is un-uniform. Characteristic pungent smell, and often left on raised, conspicuous site. 	
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<b>Diet:</b> Very adaptable omnivore, hunting small mammals and birds, but also eating earthworms, insects, fruit and berries, as well as scavenging carrion and human garbage.		<b>Habitat:</b> Open landscapes, fields and parkland, but also (increasingly) suburban and urban environments.	
<b>Lifespan:</b> 5-10 years in the wild.		 <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>	
<b>Breeding:</b> One litter of usually 4-6 cubs is produced in the spring. Cubs remain in the den for 3-4 weeks, with both parents (and often other "aunts") providing food. They reach full maturity in about 9 months.		<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>  <b>Domestic cat or dog:</b> Given their distinctive size, colouring and bushy tail, foxes are unlikely to be confused with any other wild animal in UK. However, some domestic cats and dogs do have the right combination of colour and bushy tail to cause confusion.	