



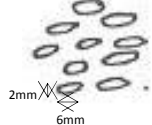
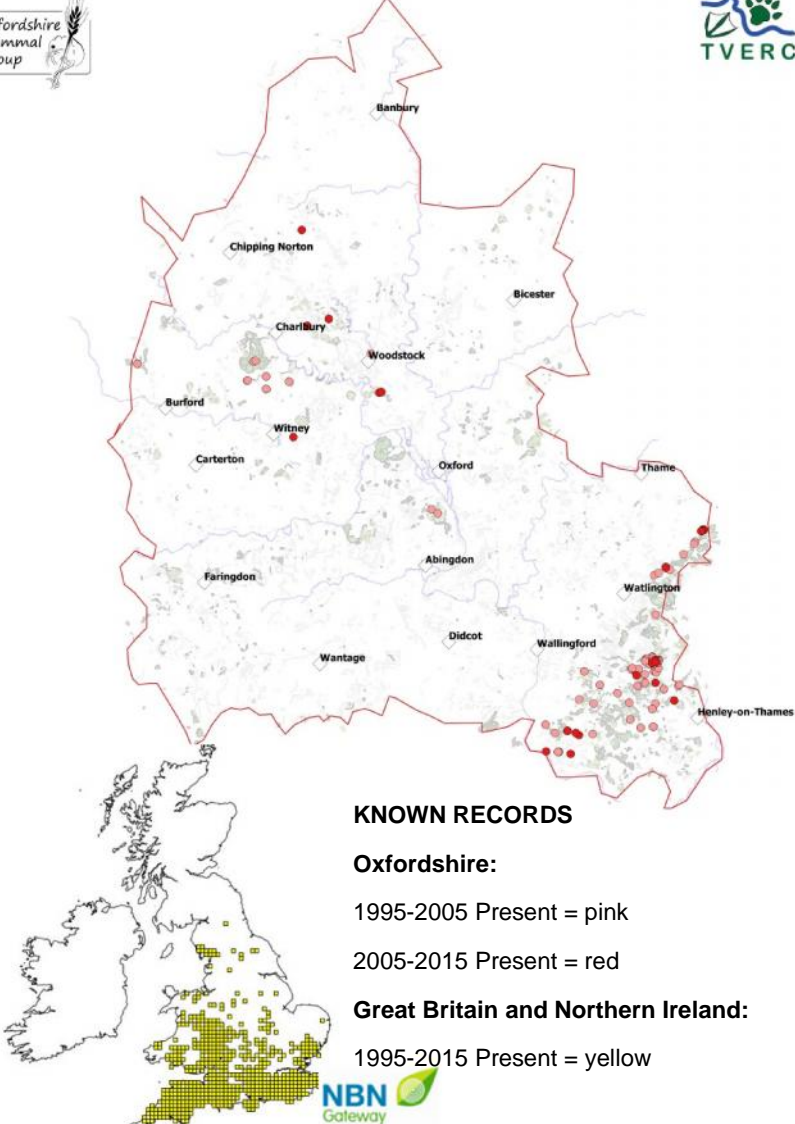


Hazel Dormouse	<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>			
Description: Orange fur; our only small mammal with a very distinctive thick, furry (semi-prehensile) tail. Large black eyes and large ears. Head and body length 6-9cm, tail length 5-7cm. Adults 17-40g.				
Field Signs				
Hazel nuts: Dormice leave tooth marks on the outside of the hole while gnaw marks follow the circumference of the hole, very neat and smooth to the touch.	Nest: Green leaves are often laid on top of the nest. Nest material is characteristically woven together. Commonly-used materials are stripped honeysuckle bark, grass and leaves. Depending on what is available, nests may include moss, pine needles, gorse, bluebell stems, or lichens.		Footprints: Forefoot approximately 10mm, hindfoot up to 20mm.	Droppings: Rounded in section; usually brown-black but vary with diet. Hard when dry (doesn't crumble). More crinkly than other rodents. Does not smell.
				
Diet: Flowers, pollen, fruits, insects and nuts. Does not usually cache food.				Habitat: Predominantly deciduous woodland and overgrown hedges, but also any woodland (including scrub or conifer) over 10ha, although
Lifespan: Up to five years.				
Breeding: Up to two litters each year, of about four young. Breeding season is weather-dependent but normally April to August.				
UK Conservation Status: Rare. Dormice occur mainly in southern counties, especially in Devon, Somerset, Sussex and Kent. Oxfordshire: Rare, mainly found in south east of county. Legislation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Habitat regulations 2010 Schedule 2 ◆ Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5 				 <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> <p>NBN Gateway</p>
Don't confuse with:				
Harvest mouse: Much smaller than dormouse. Golden-brown on top with pale grey-white underside.				
Wood mouse: Fur more sandy-brown with contrast between upper and lower fur colours. Tail not thickly furry.				
Yellow-necked mouse: Fur more sandy-brown with contrast between upper and lower fur colours. Tail not thickly furry.				
House mouse: Grey-brown fur all over, usually no contrast between top and underside.				