

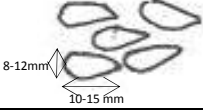
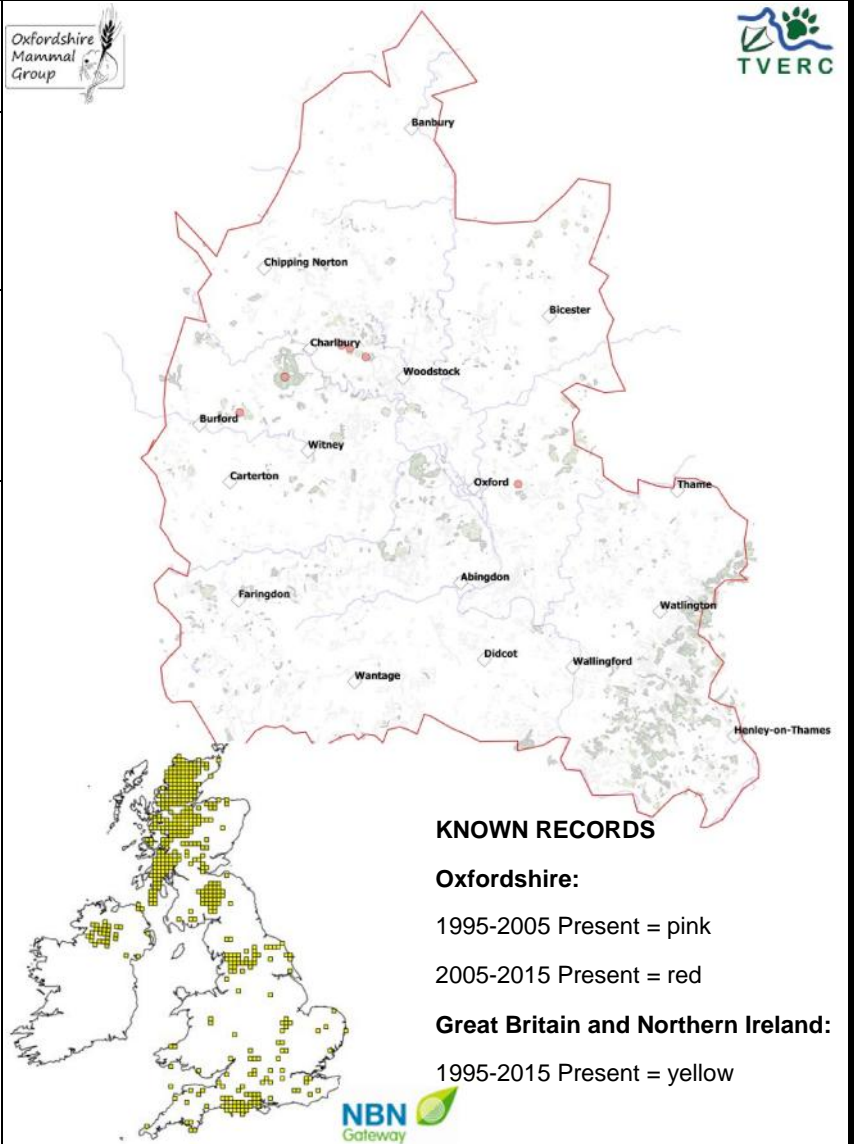


Sika Deer	<i>Cervus nippon</i>	 <p>Peter Newbold</p>		
Description: Closely related to red deer but native to east Asia. Similar build to red deer but shorter neck and less elongated head. Coat chestnut-brown in summer with white spots; tail and rump also white, tail sometimes with dark stripe. Forehead markings give the appearance of frowning. Coat dark greyish-brown in winter; markings indistinct. Shoulder height: 70-90cm. Weight: 35-65kg.		Field Signs		
Footprints: Very similar to fallow or young red deer. Broader than fallow and more concave than red. 50x80mm	Droppings: Glossy black to fallow pellet, one end flat, indented or rounded the other pointed.	Browsing: Deer leave a ragged end on browsed vegetation unlike hare and rabbit which leave a clean cut.	Bark stripping: Red, Sika, Muntjac and Fallow deer will peel and eat bark of trees, leaving broad teeth marks running up the stem with torn bark at the top. Cannot tell species apart.	Rump colour: Heart-shaped white rump with black upper border. White tail with thin vertical black streak.
		Diet: Browses on grass, herbs, bramble, shrubs and tree foliage.		
Lifespan: 15 years or longer has been known in captivity.		Habitat: Prefers mixed woodland with scrubby undergrowth. Will also be found in fields, heathland and uplands.		
Breeding: Rut occurs from September to early November when stags defend a territory and harem of hinds. Stags emit a loud, high-pitched noise that lowers into a roar. Calves born in late spring.		 <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>		
UK Conservation Status: Introduced. Common in Scotland and south England. Oxfordshire: Rare. Legislation: Invasive non-native (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 9i).		Don't confuse with:		
Red deer: Buff-coloured rump and no spots or stripes on flanks; larger at shoulder; bellowing roar. Fallow deer: Palmate antlers; no markings on forehead; long dark tail (white fringed).				