## Oxfordshire Mammal Group

## Reeve's Muntjac

Muntiacus reevesi

**Description:** The smallest British deer, native to China. Males have short, straight antlers, a dark V-shaped ridge on the forehead and fanglike upper teeth; females lack antlers and fangs and have a dark triangular patch on the forehead. Muntjac have a rounded back and glossy reddish-brown summer coat. When disturbed, they will flee with their tails in the air, showing the bright-white underside. Can bark loudly.

Shoulder height: 38-45cm. Weight: 13-20kg.



## Field Signs

**Footprints:** Usually asymmetrical; outer toe typically longer than inner toe. Small: 20x30mm.



**Droppings:** Black, rounded or cylindrical. Sometimes pointed at one or both ends. Scattered more than any other deer.

5-11mm) 10-13 mm

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: Dark. When alarmed, tail held vertically to show white underside.

Diet: Varied; browses on grass, herbs, bramble, tree shoots and ivy.

**Habitat:** Varied; at home in close proximity to humans, wherever there is dense undergrowth, scrub and woodland for shelter.

Lifespan: 15 years or longer has been known.

**Breeding**: No fixed breeding season; females capable of giving birth every 7 months, allowing the species to spread rapidly from introduction site in Bedfordshire around 1900.

**UK Conservation Status:** Introduced. Common and widespread.

Oxfordshire: Common and widespread.
Legislation: Invasive non-native (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 9i).

## Don't confuse with:

Chinese water deer: Protruding upper canine teeth (tusks) but no antlers; uncommon and shy.

Roe deer: Taller, with distinctive black and white nose and white or buff rump; males have longer antlers with tines.

