
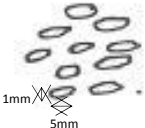



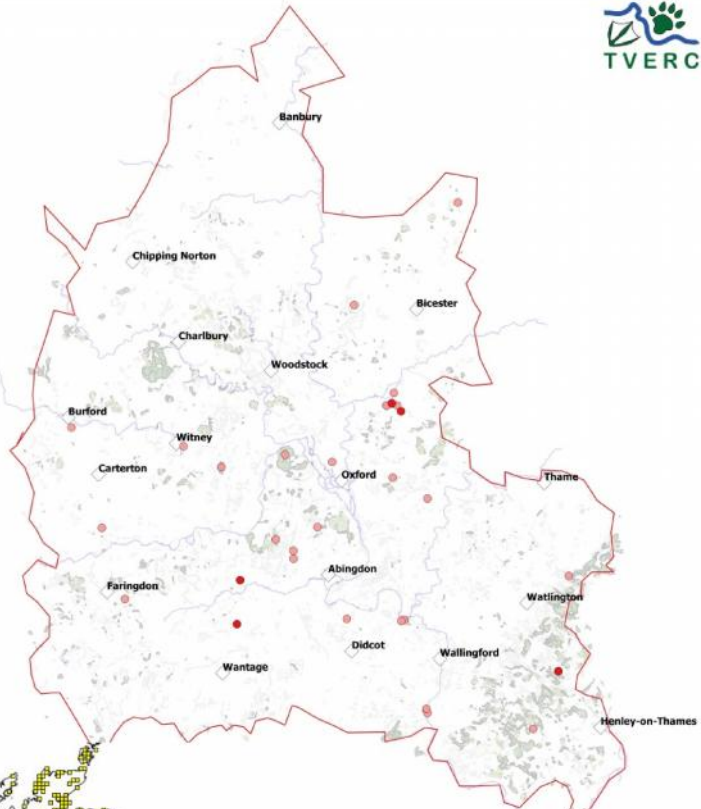



<b>Pygmy Shrew</b>		<i>Sorex minutus</i>			
<b>Description:</b> Bicoloured, with dark brown back and flank, and pale belly. Long, pointed, flexible snout, tiny eyes and ears and red-tipped teeth. Tail ¾ length of the head and body. Head and body length 40-60mm, tail length 32-46mm. Adults 2.4-6.1g. Active throughout the day and night all year around.				Derek Crawley	
<b>Field Signs</b>					
<b>Call:</b> Shrews most commonly detected by loud, high pitched piercing squeaks.		<b>Bones:</b> Skulls can be found in owl pellets and have long, narrow jaws c. 6.3mm long, with red-tipped teeth. Front tooth of lower jaw without cusp.		<b>Droppings:</b> Rarely found. Tiny, black and crumbly. Contain insect remains.	
				<b>Footprints:</b> Less than 10mm, rarely seen. Look for tail drag between prints.	
					
<b>Diet:</b> Insects, spiders and woodlice. Must consume 125% of its body weight each day.				<b>Habitat:</b> Grassland, deciduous woodland and hedgerows. More frequently found on moorland than Common shrew.	
<b>Lifespan:</b> 13-16 months.					
<b>Breeding:</b> 2 litters of 4-7 young born between April and October. Young become sexually mature in spring. Very high infant mortality rate.					
<b>UK Conservation Status:</b> Native. Common and widespread. <b>Oxfordshire:</b> Uncommon but widespread. <b>Legislation:</b> ♦ Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 6					
<b>Don't confuse with:</b> <b>Common shrew:</b> Larger than Pygmy shrew and tricoloured (rather than bicoloured) with dark brown on the back, light brown flank and pale belly. Tail proportionally shorter (<¾ of body length) than Pygmy shrew. Angle between head and snout of Common shrew is flatter.					

	
	
	
<b>KNOWN RECORDS</b>	
<b>Oxfordshire:</b>	
1995-2005 Present = pink	
2005-2015 Present = red	
<b>Great Britain and Northern Ireland:</b>	
1995-2015 Present = yellow	
