

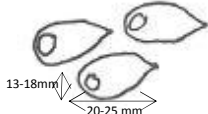
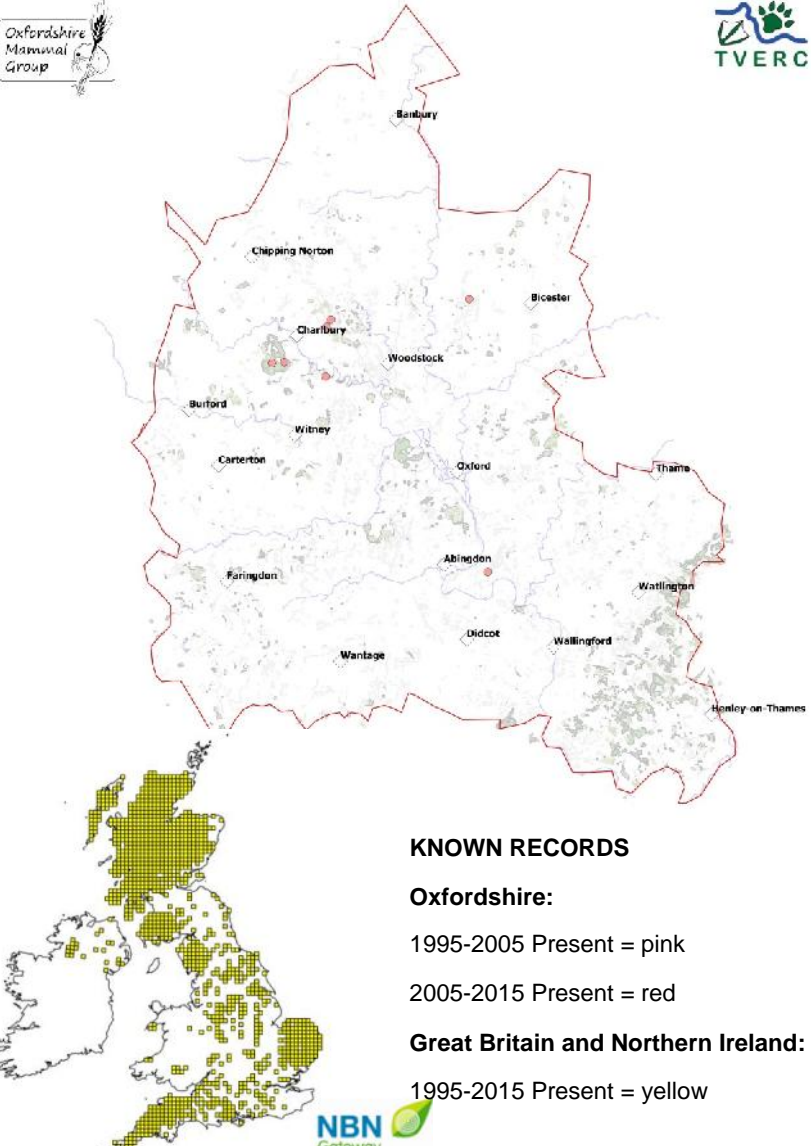


Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	 <p>Peter Newbold</p>		
Description: The largest of the UK deer species. Reddish-brown in the summer but coat greyish-brown in winter. Rump buff with a ginger-buff tail. Males have large branched antlers which can have up to 16 points. Antlers are shed in February and regrow in the spring, increasing in size each year. Although white spots are present when born, these quickly fade and adults have no spots. In woodland they are usually solitary or just a mother and calf, but in open hillside habitats single sex herds are formed. Males: shoulder height 105-137cm;		Field Signs		
Footprints: Large parallel broad slots up to 70x90 mm, curving evenly to the tip.	Droppings: Black acorn shaped, often pointed at one end and rounded or hollow at other.	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.		
Diet: Grasses, sedges, rushes and heather form main diet, but will also eat woody shrubs and young trees when food is scarce.		Rump colour: Buff with a ginger-buff tail.		
Lifespan: 15-18 years.		Habitat: Moorlands and open hillsides, woodland and forest.		
Breeding: The rut (mating season) is from mid-September to late October/November. Males will fight for dominance over a group of 10-15 hinds. Single calf born in May-June.		 <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: Common and widespread. Oxfordshire: Rare (no records since 2005) Legislation: Not currently protected.		Don't confuse with: <p>Fallow deer: Have spots, which adult red deer do not. Antlers are large and flattened (palmated). Rump is white with a black border and the tail is black.</p> <p>Sika deer: Has white spots in summer. Heart shaped white rump with black upper border. White tail with a central black stripe.</p> <p>Roe deer: Much-smaller deer with small branched antlers. Creamy-white rump.</p>		