

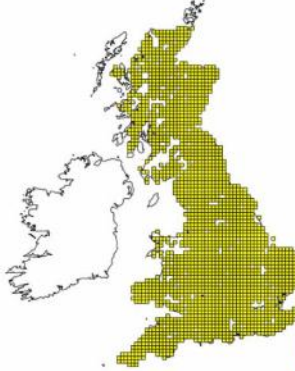
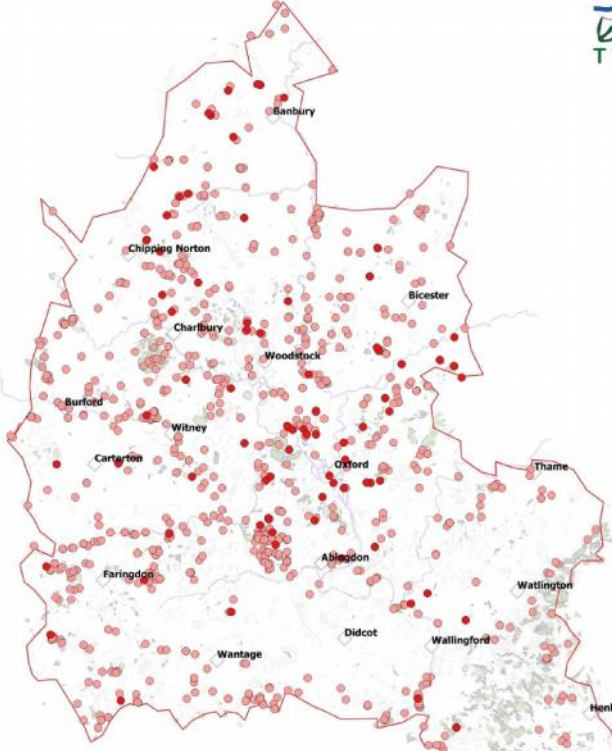





European Mole		<i>Talpa europaea</i>	 Derek Crawley
Description: Black, short, velvety fur. Long cylindrical body with very short hairy tail. Eyes small and hidden in fur, no external ears, nose long and hairless, with long whiskers. Tail dark and hairy. Head and body length 113-159mm, tail 25-40mm. Adults 72-128g.			
Field Signs			
Molehills: Freshly-turned mounds of earth that are pushed up during the excavation of tunnels.			
 Peter Newbold			
Diet: Invertebrates, particularly earthworms. Will eat adult and larval insects.		Habitat: Grassland, arable, pasture, deciduous woodland.	
Lifespan: Typically 2-3 years, but can live to 5 years in the wild.			
Breeding: Breeding season March-May. Litters of 2-7 young born blind and hairless from mid to late April. Fur begins to grow at 14 days, eyes open at 22 days, weaned at 33 days. Disperses from natal territory at 5-6 weeks.			
UK Conservation Status: Native. Common and widespread. Oxfordshire: Common and widespread. Legislation: Not currently protected.			
Don't confuse with: Water shrew: Both species have short, black fur and long pointed snouts. However, the mole is much larger, with obvious large, turned-out forefeet and lacks the pale belly and long tail of the water shrew.		<div><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></div>	