
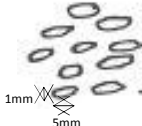

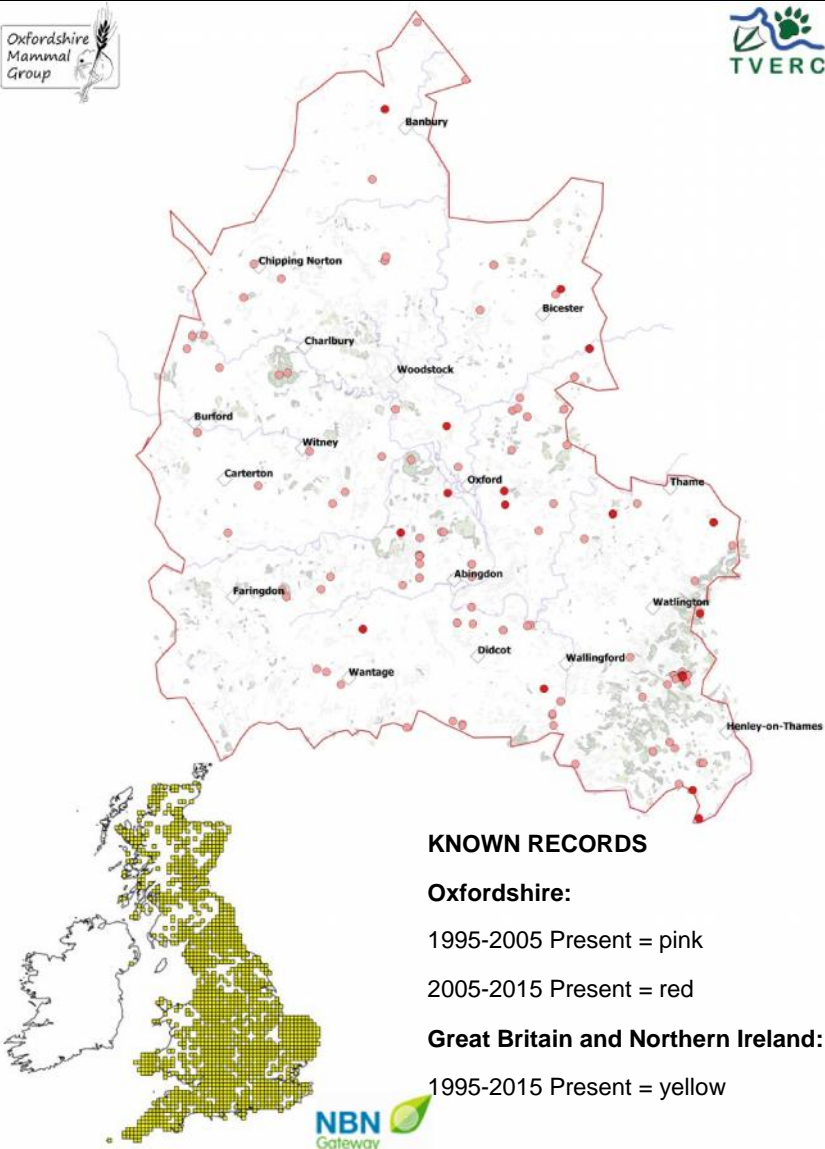


<b>Common Shrew</b>		<i>Sorex araneus</i>		
<b>Description:</b> Tricoloured, with dark brown back, light brown flank and pale belly. Long, pointed, flexible snout, tiny eyes and ears and red-tipped teeth. Tail less than ¾ length of the head and body. Head and body length 48-80mm, tail length 24-44mm. Adults 5-14g. Head and body shrink in size over the winter to reduce need for food. Active throughout the day as must eat every 2-3 hours, but most active at night.				
<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. 9.5mm long, with red-tipped teeth. Front tooth of lower jaw with cusp, appearing serrated.	<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> Terrestrial insects, worms, slugs and snails.			<b>Habitat:</b> All terrestrial habitat with good vegetation cover.	
<b>Lifespan:</b> Up to 12 months.				
<b>Breeding:</b> 3-4 litters of 5-7 young born May-September. Litters may have multiple fathers. Young emerge at 16 days and may follow their mother in a 'caravan' with each shrew holding the tail of the shrew in front.				
<b>UK Conservation Status:</b> Native. Common and widespread.				
<b>Oxfordshire:</b> Common and widespread.				
<b>Legislation:</b> ♦ Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 6				
<b>Don't confuse with:</b>  <b>Pygmy shrew:</b> Smaller than Common shrew and bicoloured (rather than tricoloured) with dark brown on the back extending down the flanks to a pale belly. Tail proportionally longer (>¾ of body length) than Common shrew. Angle between head and snout of Common shrew is flatter.  <b>Water shrew:</b> Much larger than Common shrew, with black rather than dark brown fur on back.				