



**Hampshire  
Mammal Group**

**Hampshire &  
Isle of Wight**  
Wildlife Trust



# **Hampshire Mammal Group**

Mammal Report 2006 to 2016



**Isabelle Spall**  
October 2017

## Introduction

We are very fortunate in Hampshire in possessing a wide variety of wildlife habitats, ranging from the coastal marshes, through the ancient woodlands and heaths of the New Forest to the chalk down lands in the north of the County. Each of these has its own particular set of plant species and this is reflected in the range of mammals which can be found there. You can see this clearly from many of the distribution maps shown in this year's Mammal Report and it makes very interesting reading.

The first map shows that almost all of the 2Km squares have at least one mammal record, suggesting a good coverage of the observer effort throughout the County.

The main highlight for me has been the noticeable increase in the number of records of pine martens in the report. From a species which was believed to be functionally extinct in the County by around 1850, it has made an impressive recovery since the first recent record in 1971 when a skull was found at West Meon. Nearly all the later records have been from the New Forest and 2016 produced a bumper crop of 13 verified records including two road traffic accidents and one animal recorded on a trail camera operated by Russell Wynne and Marcus Ward.

Also the release of over 2,000 water voles into the River Meon by the South Downs National Park Authority is an exciting project which hopefully will result in the re-establishment of the species in that part of Hampshire.

Our thanks to Izzie Spall for the compilation of the report for this year and of course to all those of you who have contributed the records which form the basis of its production.

Finally the report is only as good as the data which comprises it. So this is a request to you all to send in your mammal records, no matter how many or few or of what species. All are important to us.

Martin Noble

**Chairman of Hampshire Mammal Group**

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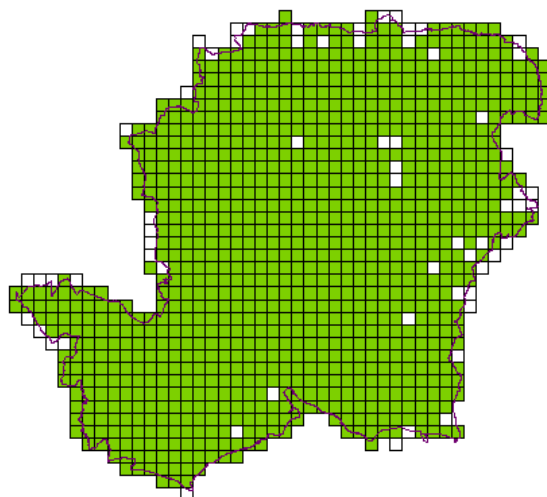
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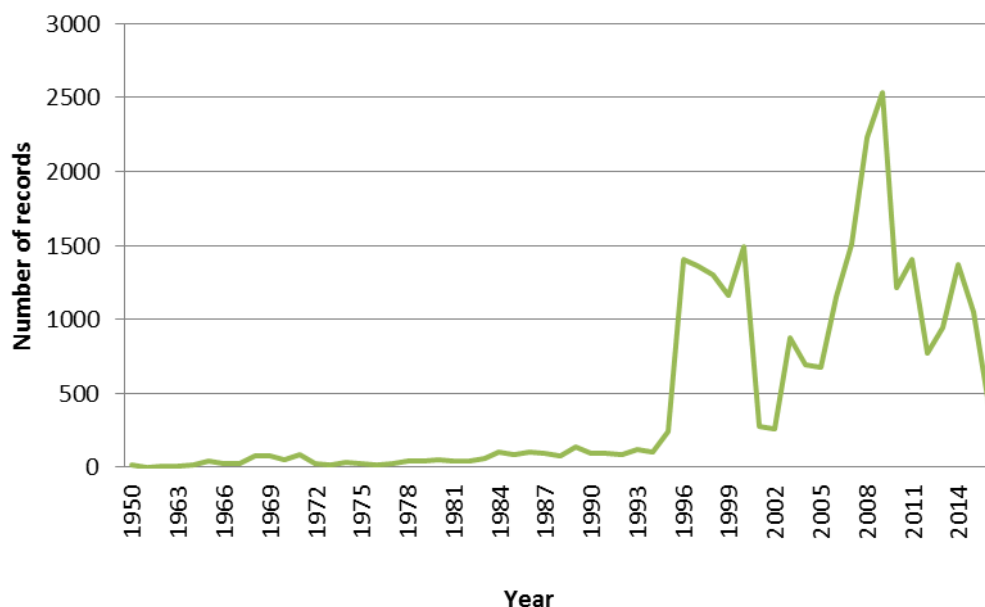
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## Mammal Records Overview

Mammals have been recorded in almost all 2km squares within the Hampshire County, with over 26,000 mammal records 1950 to present. The number of records submitted has increased with the greater use of technology to handle biological records as shown in Map 1. In total 14,583 records were submitted between 2006 and 2016 (11 survey seasons). We are still receiving records for within this time period, so this is not a definitive record but gives a good indication of distribution and recorder effort. This Mammal report focusses on records received during the period from 2006 to 2016. Map 1 is a summary of all records submitted to the Hampshire Mammal Group Vice County Recorder, displayed at a resolution of 2 km squares. Hampshire County border is shown in purple.



**Map 1.** All Mammal records from 1950 to 2016



**Figure 1.** Numbers of Mammal records received from 1950 to 2016 by year

The role of the County mammal recorder is to collect and process all the mammal records received from members of the public and from commissioned mammal surveys. These records are essential to our understanding of the current status of mammals in Hampshire. Furthermore, the survey work of local ecologists and organisations such as the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust has added significantly to the current known distributions of several mammal species; for example brown hare, harvest mouse, otter and water vole.

The maps in this report show where each tetrad (2km square) in Hampshire contains a mammal record. However, the maps are more likely to represent recording effort than true changes in distribution. Consequently, many of the maps still contain gaps where we *know* mammals are likely to be present but we simply don't have any official record of them. Furthermore it is often the common mammals that have the most inaccurate distributions on our maps. It is just as important to record the common species because they too may become scarce in the future; after all, polecats, water voles and red squirrels were all common once! As too was the humble house mouse. Where has it gone? Do you still get them in your homes?

When considering recording the common species (e.g. rabbits & squirrels), if you see them in the same location regularly you only need send such records in biannually, for example. Of course it goes without saying, all uncommon and rare species you may see, it is imperative to make a note of them and share your observations with us, including as much detail as possible.

Recording mammals is not always easy; many are small, nocturnal and elusive. But actual sightings aren't the only way to find out where mammals are. Their tracks, signs and burrows can provide us with lots of reliable records (consider sightings of molehills are much easier to spot than a mole itself).

Hampshire Mammal Group, the Trust and Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre are promoting the online recording system: Living Record. There are more details at the end of this document or visit [www.livingrecord.net](http://www.livingrecord.net). It is encouraging to note that the majority of mammal records have increased since the online portals have become established. You can of course still send records direct to me at [HMGRecorder@hiwwt.org.uk](mailto:HMGRecorder@hiwwt.org.uk). I would also like to thank all the contributors that have enriched our knowledge of mammal distribution in Hampshire. Long may your valuable time and observations continue.

Andy Rothwell

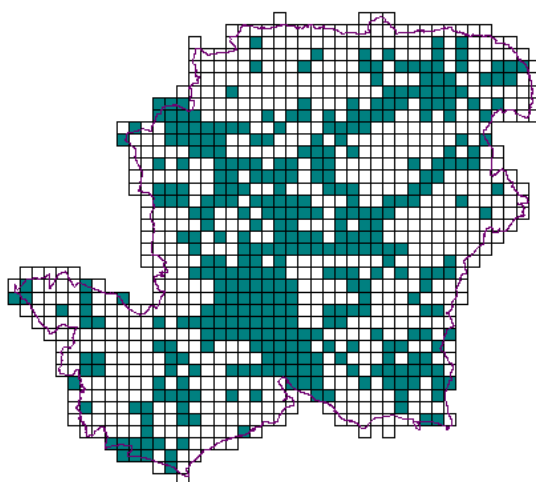
**Hampshire County Mammal Recorder**

## Species Distribution Maps

The following maps are for individual species' records, where species were recorded as present between 2006 and 2016 inclusive. The maps highlight our knowledge on the distribution of more vulnerable species but also under-recording of some common species. All records for all species are important, as who knows which species may become vulnerable in the future.

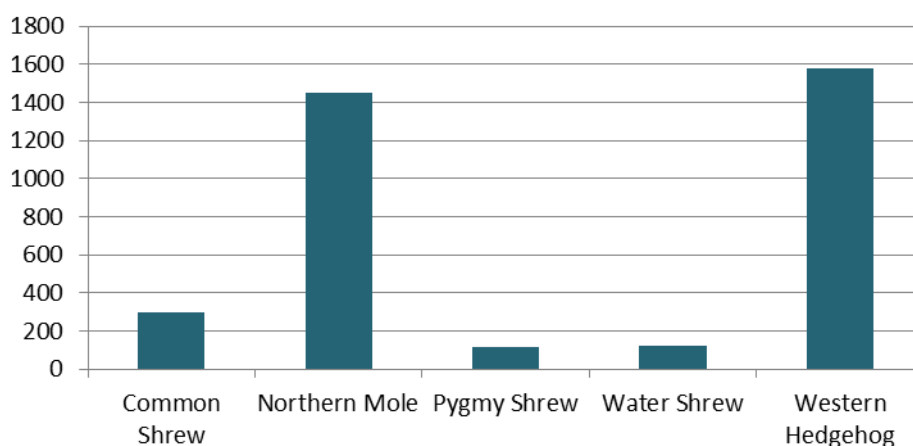
## Eulipotyphla

Eulipotyphla is an order of mammals that contains small ground-dwelling species that mainly feed on insects. These species were previously assigned to the order Insectivora. In the UK there are three families; Erinaceidae (hedgehog), Talpidae (mole) and the Soricidae (shrews). Two of these shrews, greater white-toothed *Crocivura russula* and lesser white-toothed shrews *C. suaveolens* only occur on the Channel Islands.



**Map 2.** All Eulipotyphla records from 1950 to 2016.

A total of 3572 records were submitted between 1950 and 2016 for the order Eulipotyphla. As shown in Figure 2 the highest number of records received was for the hedgehog, followed closely by the northern mole.



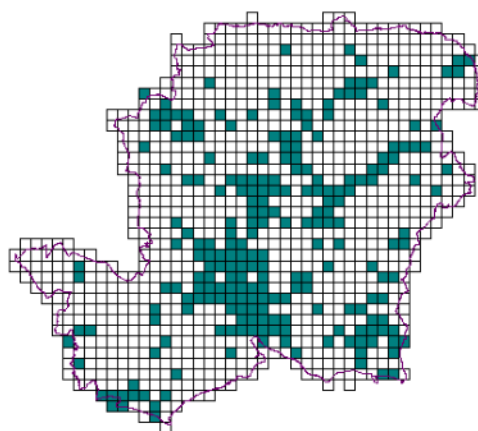
**Figure 2.** Numbers of Eulipotyphla records submitted for between 1950 and 2016 according to species

### Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)

There are 1578 hedgehog records on the database from 1950 to 2016, with 898 between 2006 and 2016. Though, in 2007 there was a hedgehog feature published in the Eastleigh Borough News which resulted in an influx of records (314 out of the 898 records are from 2007.) In recent years there has been an increase in road kill records, with 98% of road kill records submitted between 2006 and 2016. As with other Eulipotyphla species the distribution map shows a notable absence of records in the central region of the New Forest, suggesting that the ancient woodlands do not stand as favourable habitat for insectivorous mammals. The Wildlife Trusts have teamed up with Hedgehog Street to help encourage people across Britain to think about how hedgehog friendly their gardens, schools and community spaces are, this year's Wild About Gardens Week, find out more here:

<http://www.hiwwt.org.uk/news/2015/08/17/gardeners-encouraged-unite-save-nation%E2%80%99s-hedgehogs-autumn>

Hedgehog by Gillian Day

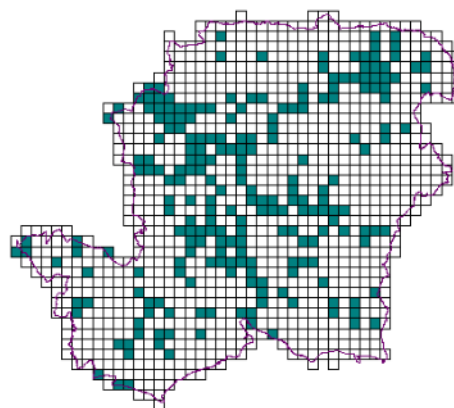
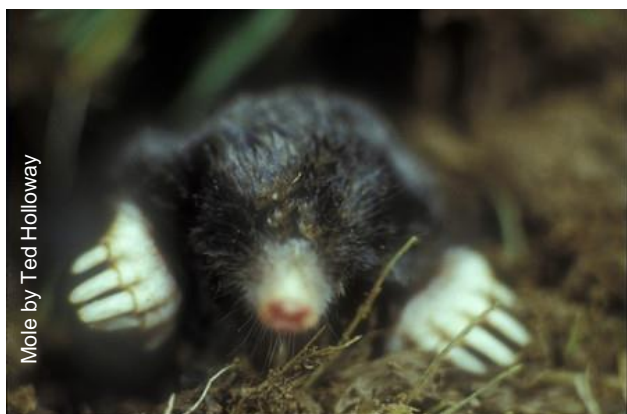


Map 3. All hedgehog records from 2006 to 2016.

### Mole (*Talpa europaea*)

There have been 1454 records received for moles between 1950 and 2016 with 462 records submitted for 2006 to 2016. Map 4 below shows presence at a 2km resolution. Moles are widespread, and found everywhere except for the Channel Islands, the Isles of Scilly, Scottish islands, the Isle of Man and Northern Ireland. However, it has been observed that mole distribution can be locally restricted i.e. abundant in one area yet absent in neighbouring areas. Most of the records submitted are for mole signs i.e. molehills rather than direct sightings.

Mole by Ted Holloway

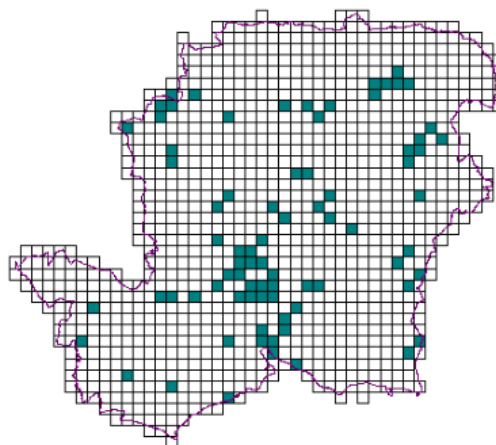


Map 4. All mole records from 2006 to 2016.



### Common shrew (*Sorex araneus*)

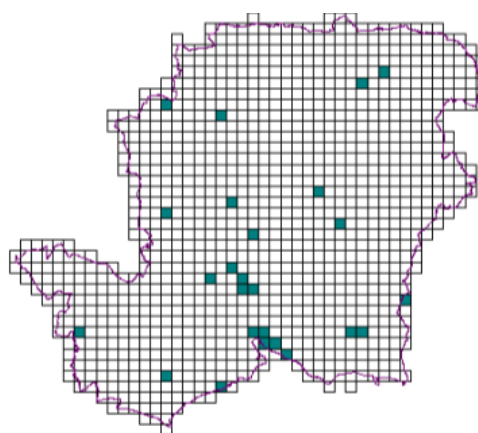
There have been 681 positive records for common shrew between 1950 and 2016 with 200 between 2006 and 2016. The common shrew is found throughout mainland Britain and has also been introduced to many islands except Ireland, the Outer Hebrides, and Shetland. On Jersey the similar French shrew (*Sorex coronatus*) fills this niche. The majority of records have been made through small mammal trapping surveys or being found dead.



Map 5. All common shrew records from 2006 to 2016.

### Pygmy shrew (*Sorex minutus*)

A total of 119 records have been submitted from 1950 to 2016 with 14 records received between 2006 and 2016. The pygmy shrew is less abundant than the common shrew in most habitats across the UK. Though pygmy are also found on the Isle of Man and Outer Hebrides, where common shrews are absent and they are the only species of shrew to be found in Ireland.

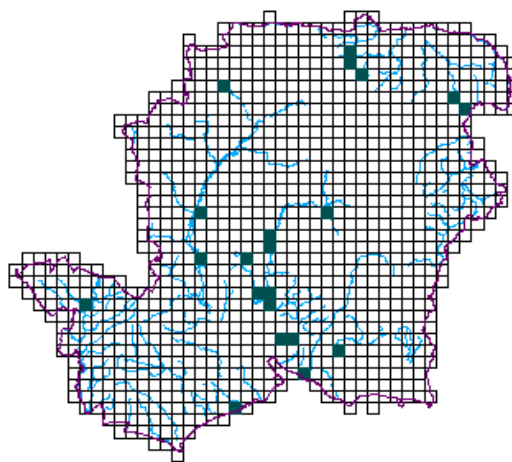


Map 6. All pygmy shrew records from 2006 to 2016.

### **Water shrew (*Neomys fodiens*)**

A total of 121 records have been submitted from 1950 to 2016 with 75 records received between 2006 and 2016. In recent years, the main source of records has been as a result of an increase in the number of records submitted as part of Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan. Further to this the Mammal Society initiated the first national water shrew survey to determine their distribution and habitat occurrence. The survey was launched in 2004 to 2005 and was carried out over 4 survey seasons.

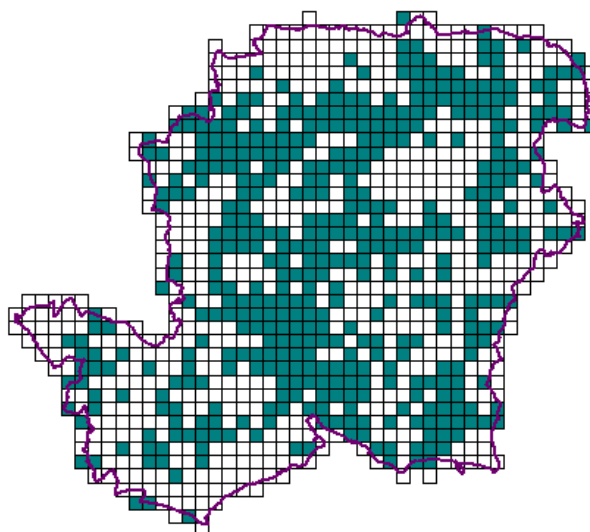
Water shrew by Debbie King



**Map 7.** All water shrew records from 2006 to 2016.

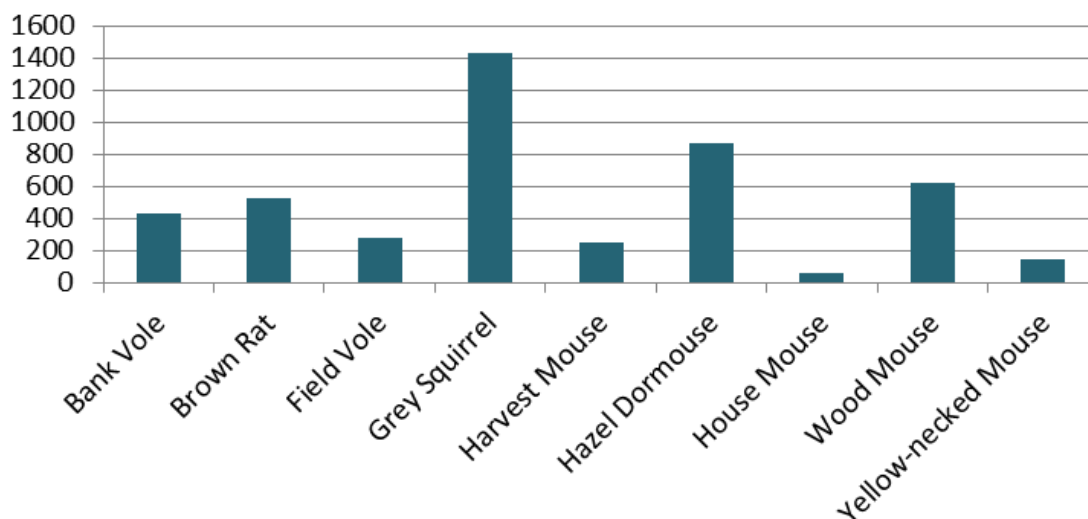
## Rodentia

Rodentia is the most extensive order of mammals, they are by upper and lower pairs of continuously growing incisors. Rodents found in the UK include mice, rats, squirrels, voles and dormice. Most rodents eat seeds or plants, though some have more varied diets.



**Map 8.** All Rodentia records from 1950 to 2016.

There were a total of 8818 records submitted for Rodentia between 1950 and 2016, as shown in Figure 3. By far the highest number of records received were for grey squirrels *Sciurus carolinensis*.

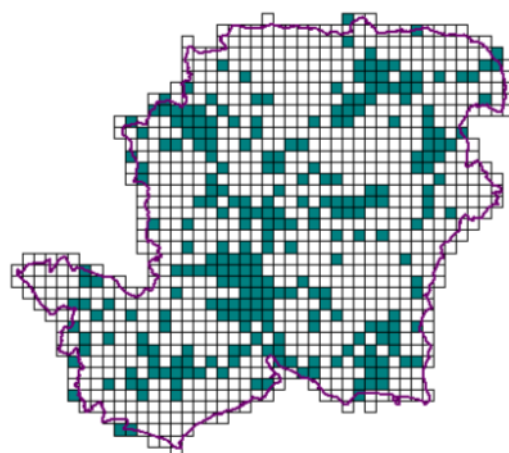


**Figure 3.** Numbers of Rodentia records submitted for between 1950 and 2016 according to species

### Grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*)

There have been 1433 positive records for grey squirrels between 1950 and 2016 with 665 between 2006 and 2016. Grey squirrels were originally introduced from North America during the late 19th Century and since then has displaced the native red squirrel across most of England and Wales. It is likely that grey squirrels have been under-recorded as they are often so familiar in gardens that people do not send records in.

Grey squirrel by Darrin Smith

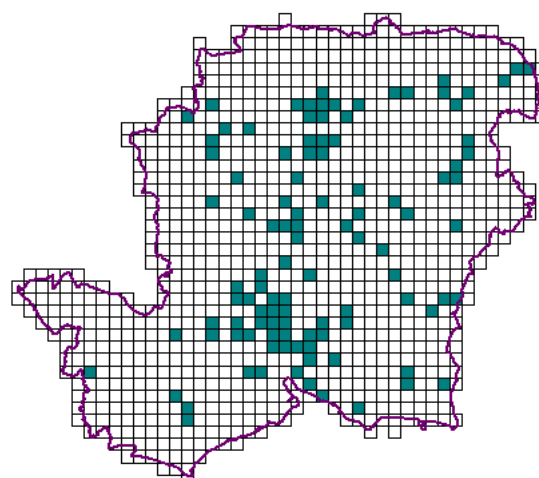


Map 9. All grey squirrel records from 2006 to 2016.

### Wood mouse (*Apodemus sylvaticus*)

A total of 625 records have been submitted for wood-mice from 1950 to 2016 with 332 records received between 2006 and 2016. The wood mouse is the UK's most common and widespread wild rodent. It is an inhabitant mainly of woodland and fields but is highly adaptable and is found in most habitats if not too wet. Wood-mice are principally nocturnal though some individuals will venture out during daylight, this paired with the fact that they are often not seen for long enough to identify them may explain the low number of records submitted.

Wood mouse by Brian Shorter



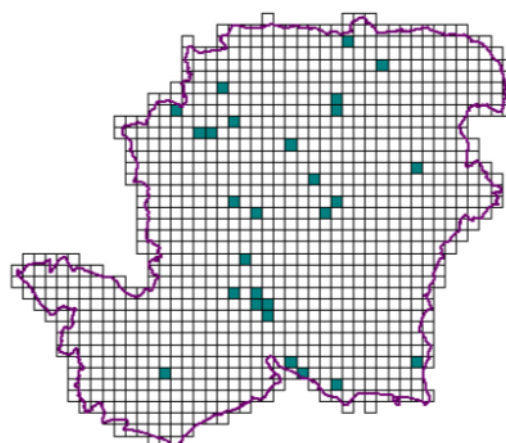
Map 10. All wood mouse records from 2006 to 2016.

### Yellow-necked mouse (*Apodemus flavicollis*)

There have been 148 records received for yellow-necked mice between 1950 and 2016 with 63 records submitted for 2006 to 2016. . In recent years, the main source of records has been as a result of an increase in the number of records submitted as part of Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan.

The yellow-necked mouse has a restricted range compared to that of the wood mouse. The species is found predominantly in the southeast, south and west of England and in central and eastern Wales and is noticeably absent from the southern Midlands, around Oxford and from the north and far south-west. The current status of this species is also less than clear, despite being common in some areas g.

Yellow-necked mouse by John Buckley



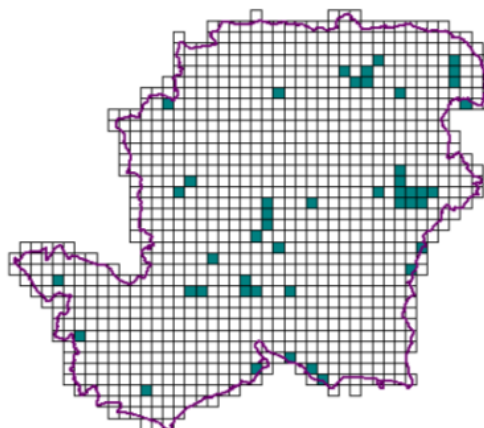
Map 11. All yellow-necked mouse records from 2006 to 2016.

### Harvest mouse (*Micromys minutus*)

A total of 249 records have been submitted for harvest mice from 1950 to 2016 with 184 records received between 2006 and 2016. In recent years, the main source of records has been as a result of an increase in the number of records submitted as part harvest mouse survey launched by The Mammal Society in 2013.

The majority are records of nests, but there are also live sightings, mainly through live mammal trapping, and dead mice. HIWWT carried out a harvest mouse survey in 2008 b. The survey involved searching for Harvest mouse nests on a number of sites throughout Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, in order to establish current occurrence of the harvest mouse. Over 63 nests were found, particularly in the Lower Test region. The majority were small summer nests, although a small concentration of breeding nests were found at Calshot. Over 20 individual nests were discovered at Test wood Lakes Nature Reserve, with individuals being found consistently in following years through small mammal monitoring of this site, carried out by the Trust.

Harvest mouse by Peter Vaughan

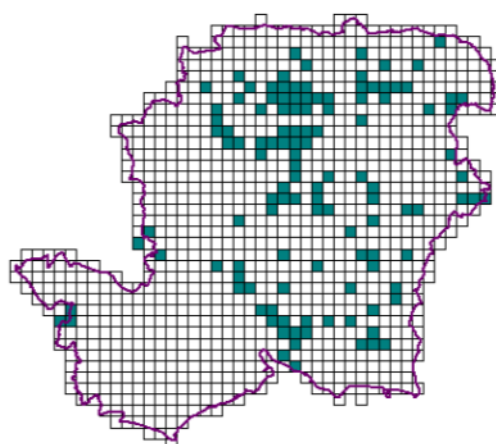


Map 12. All harvest mouse records from 2006 to 2016.

### Hazel dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*)

There have been 869 records received for hazel dormice between 1950 and 2016 with 615 records submitted for 2006 to 2016. In recent years, the main source of records has been as a result of an increase in the number of records submitted as part of the Peoples Trust Endangered Species National Dormouse Monitoring Programme. Dormice are a priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan due to a decline in numbers and distributional range by half in the past 100 years. Dormice are significant bioindicators as they are particularly sensitive to habitat and population fragmentation. So where dormice are present, the habitat is typically suitable for a wide range of other species.

Hazel dormouse by Darin Smith



Map 13. All hazel dormouse records from 2006 to 2016.

### Edible dormouse (*Glis glis*)

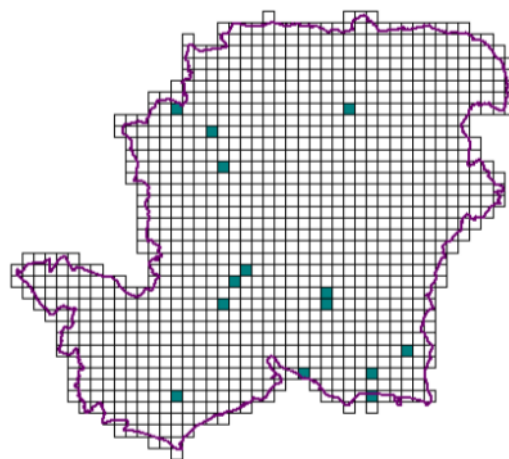
There are currently no records of edible dormice in Hampshire. Edible dormice are a non-native species, originally from continental Europe. They were introduced to a collection in Tring just over 100 years ago. Since then escaped individuals from this collection have established a wild population, mainly concentrated in the Chilterns around Tring, there are 11 records listed on the NBN Gateway within the last ten years. There are very few historical records of this species in Hampshire, but a species to remain aware of.

Edible dormouse by Sarah Bignell



### House mouse (*Mus musculus*)

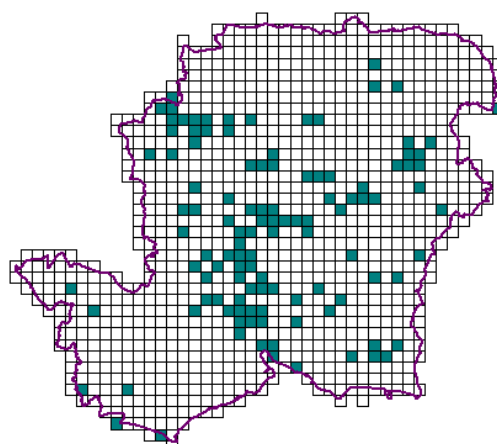
A total of 63 records have been submitted for house mice from 1950 to 2016 with 20 records received between 2006 and 2016. House mice are likely to be under-recorded as they are often so familiar that people do not send records in. Along with brown rats, the house mouse is considered to be the most widespread terrestrial mammals other than humans. Wild populations of house mouse are poor competitors with other rodents, and are often displaced by other species, hence their preference for residing in domestic homes where they do not encounter competition.



Map 14. All house mouse records from 2006 to 2016.

### Brown rat (*Rattus norvegicus*)

There have been 530 records received for brown rat between 1950 and 2016 with 237 records submitted for 2006 to 2016. Similar to other common species, brown rats are likely to be under-recorded as they are often so familiar that people do not send records in. Though not surprisingly Map 15 shows higher densities around human settlements.

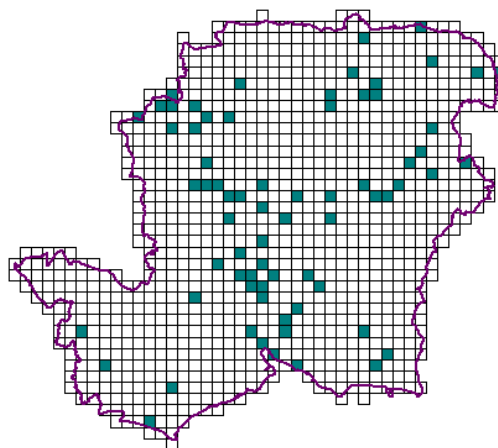


Map 15. All brown rat records from 2006 to 2016.

### Field vole (*Microtus agrestis*)

There have been 281 records received for field voles between 1950 and 2016 with 193 records submitted for 2006 to 2016. Field voles are thought to be in decline which could cause secondary effects to other species higher up the food chain, such as owls, kestrels and weasels as they form an important part of their diets. Map 16 shows an absence of records for the Field Vole in the New Forest area, this is more than likely due to high grazing pressures from large herbivores which reduces the favoured habitat of field voles.

Field vole by Alan Price

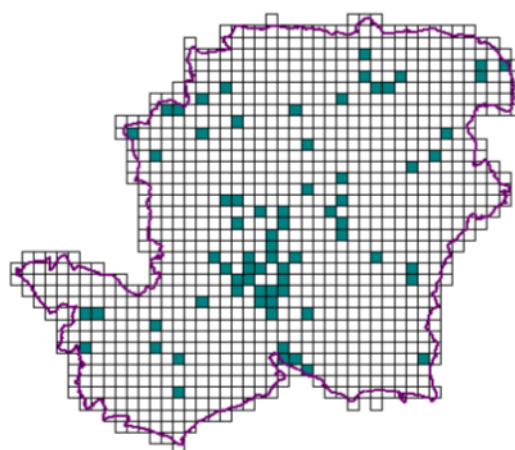


Map 16. All field vole records from 2006 to 2016.

### Bank vole (*Myodes glareolus*)

A total 429 of records have been submitted for bank voles from 1950 to 2016 with 248 records received between 2006 and 2016. Bank voles are widely distributed throughout the UK and inhabit woodland, but can also be found in scrub land and hedgerows. However, loss and fragmentation of woodlands, field margins and hedgerows poses a threat to the bank vole.

Bank vole by Natalie Rogers



Map 17. All bank vole records from 2006 to 2016.

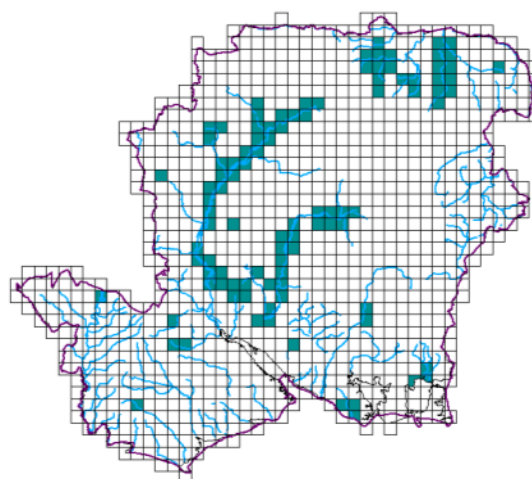


### **Water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*)**

There have been 4190 records received for water voles (and their signs) between 1950 and 2016 with 3256 records submitted for 2006 to 2016. The water vole population has plummeted nationally by over 85% since 1990 making them the fastest declining native mammal in Europe. The main reasons for their decline are habitat loss, pollution and predators. Initial analysis of data extracted from the National Water Vole Database & Mapping Project suggests water voles are in decline across Hampshire & the Isle of Wight. It is not clear at this stage how much of the decline may be due to a reduction in the number or extent of surveys. Key areas to resurvey to verify current status will be the River Rother, upper reaches of the Lymington and tributaries of the Avon in the New Forest, Basingstoke Canal and the Hampshire tributaries of the Enborne.

HIWWT are partners in an ongoing reintroduction project led by the South Downs National Park Authority to see the return of water vole to the Meon. Before reintroduction could begin, work was carried out on long stretches of river bank to create additional, suitable habitat for water voles and the resident population of American mink were trapped and despatched. Since the start of the project in 2013 over 2,000 water voles were re-introduced along two-thirds of the River Meon.

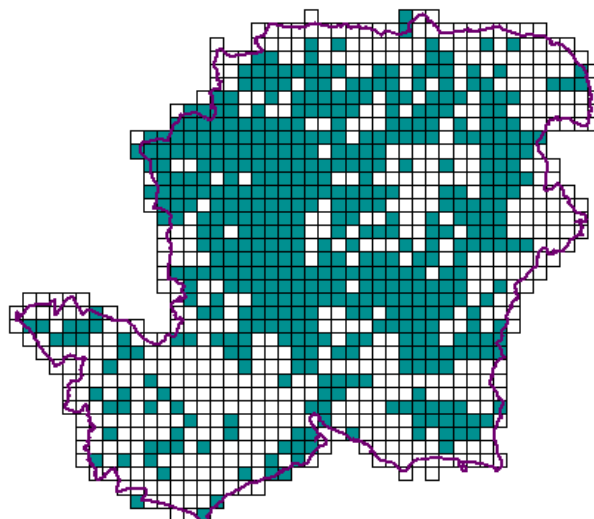
Water vole by David Foker



**Map 18.** All water vole records from 2006 to 2016.

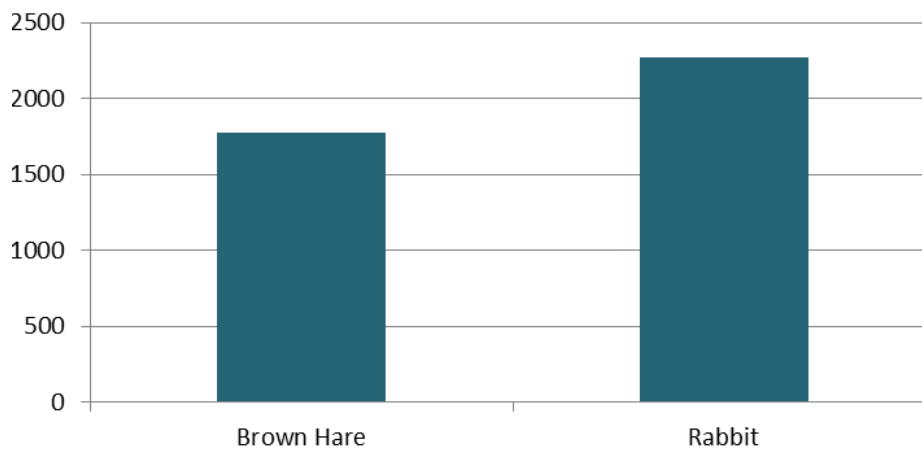
## Lagomorpha

Lagomorpha is an order of mammals, characterised by continuously growing set of four incisors. Its most familiar members of the order are Rabbits and Hares.



**Map 19.** All Lagomorpha records from 1950 to 2016.

There were a total of 4045 records submitted for Lagomorpha between 1950 and 2016, as shown in Figure 4.

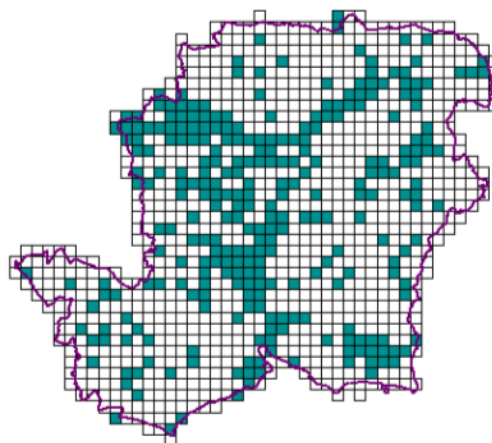


**Figure 4.** Numbers of Lagomorpha records submitted for between 1950 and 2016 according to species

### Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)

A total 2272 of records have been submitted for rabbits from 1950 to 2016 with 791 records received between 2006 and 2016. The rabbit is found throughout almost all of the UK, being absent only from Scilly and some of the small Scottish Islands. Rabbits are one of the most frequently submitted recordings. Though very common they're numbers change seasonally, and longer population decline may be due to the effects of myxomatosis and rabbit viral haemorrhagic disease.

Rabbit by Allan Price

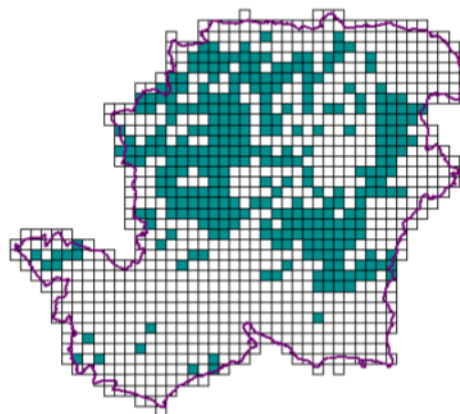


Map 20. All rabbit records from 2006 to 2016.

### Brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*)

There have been 1773 records received for brown hares between 1950 and 2016 with 1004 records submitted for 2006 to 2016. Hares have declined in numbers in recent years due to changes in agricultural practices affecting its favoured grassland habitats Annual hare walk events run by Hampshire Mammal Group members at Farley Mount Country Park have also contributed to the records. Hares are now extremely rare in the New Forest, though the reasons are uncertain a contributing factor may be the high number of dogs walked in the area.

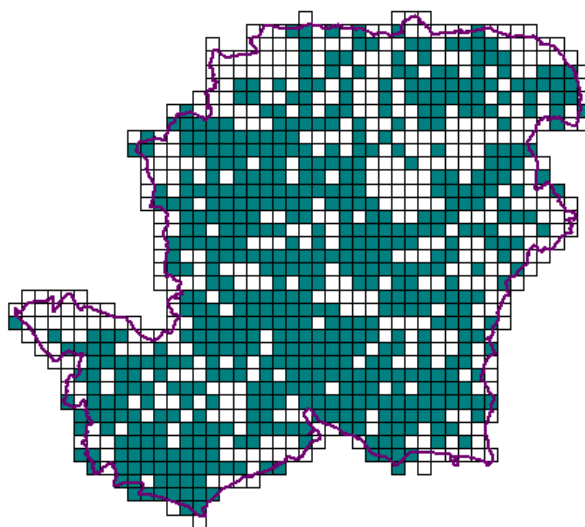
Brown hare by Russ Valentine



Map 21. All brown hare records from 2006 to 2016.

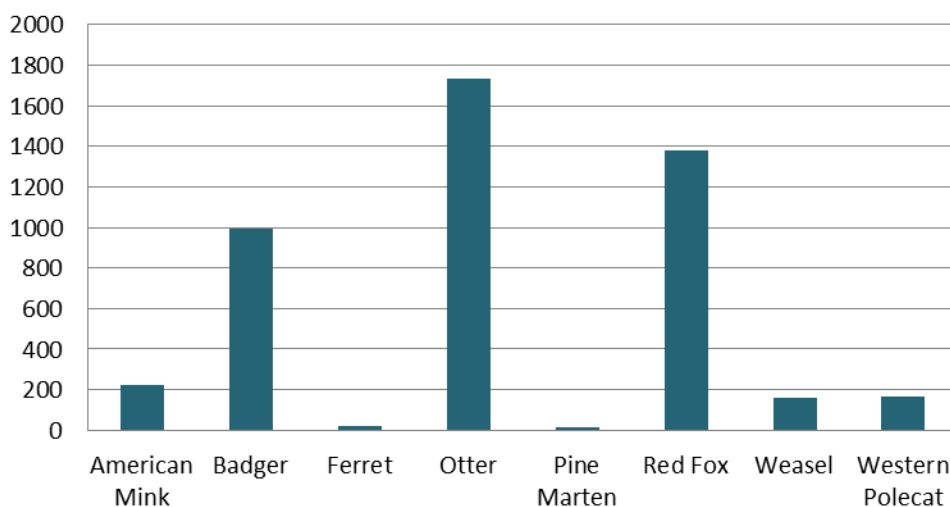
## Carnivora

Carnivora are the most diverse order of mammals, in the UK, carnivores include the fox, badger, otter, mink, weasel, stoat and polecat. Carnivores are characterised by animals with teeth and claws adapted for a diet consisting of meat, obtained either from predation of live animals or scavenging on dead animals. The diet of carnivores is not limited to meat as some species, particularly foxes, are extremely opportunistic feeders. Stoats and weasels have an exclusively carnivorous diet; polecats are primarily predators but will feed on birds' eggs though the main prey of mink are birds, rabbits, rodents and fish; and otters feed mainly on fish but will also take small mammals, birds and invertebrates. Badgers have a varied omnivorous diet and are opportunistic feeders. Their diet includes earthworms, carrion, birds' eggs, wasp and bee nests, small mammals, fruits and berries j.



**Map 22.** All Carnivora records from 1950 to 2016.

There were a total of 4045 records submitted for Carnivora between 1950 and 2016, as shown in Figure 5. By far the highest number of records received were for Otters.

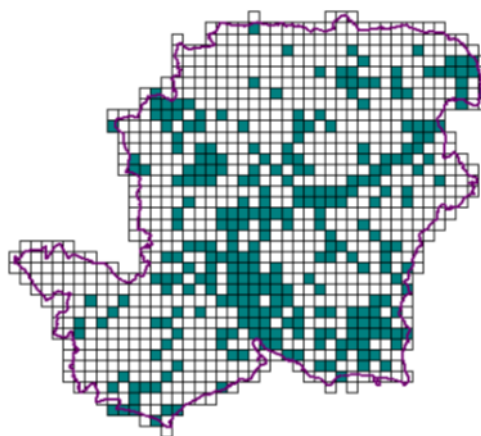


**Figure 5.** Numbers of Carnivora records submitted for between 1950 and 2016 according to species

### **Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)**

There have been 1378 records received for the fox between 1950 and 2016 with 750 records submitted for 2006 to 2016. The fox is widespread across mainland Britain and the Isle of Wight, though, it is absent from the Scilly Isles, Isle of Man, Channel Islands and all Scottish islands except Skye and Harris. The widespread rearing and releasing of game birds has probably improved fox food supply during autumn and winter. As opportunistic feeders, foxes are increasingly adapting to the urban areas, which explains the large concentration of records in the Southampton area.

Fox by Andrew Whitmarsh

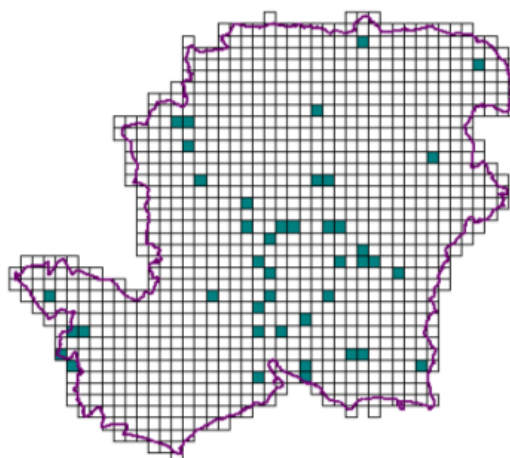


**Map 23.** All red fox records from 2006 to 2016.

### **Weasel (*Mustela nivalis*)**

A total 158 of records have been submitted for weasels from 1950 to 2016 with 69 records received between 2006 and 2016. The weasel lives throughout Britain and is the UK's smallest carnivore, feeding mainly on small rodents. Their numbers have fluctuated over the years, with the pattern of change opposite of that for rabbit, so may be associated with the negative effect of rabbit grazing on vole abundance a.

Weasel by Justin Kercher

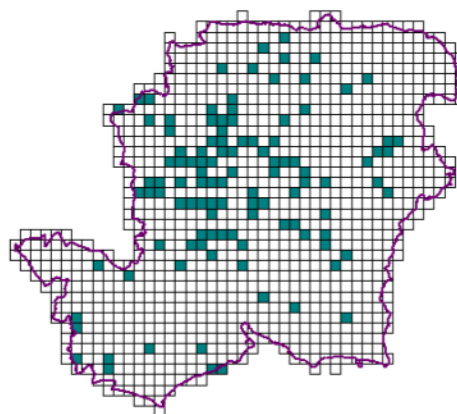


**Map 24.** All weasel records from 2006 to 2016.

### **Stoat (*Mustela erminea*)**

There have been 1287 records received for the stoat between 1950 and 2016 with 147 records submitted for 2006 to 2016. The stoat is a specialised predator of small-medium sized mammals, with its main prey being the rabbit, though they will also commonly eat gamebirds, waders, eggs and chicks. It is larger than the weasel, with its distinguishing feature being a black-tip on its tail. Stoats are not as common as they used to be, the decline in numbers is mainly attributed to changes to agricultural landscape as farming has modernised.

Stoat by Michael Jarrett

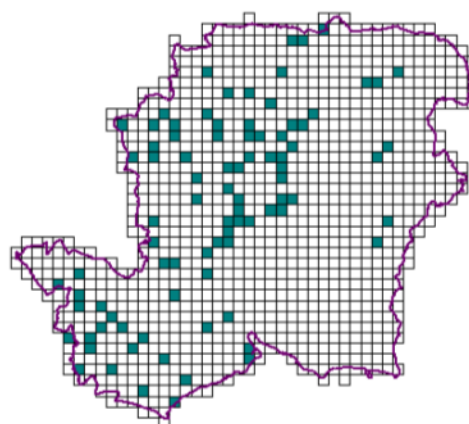


**Map 25.** All stoat records from 2006 to 2016.

### **Polecat (*Mustela putorius*)**

There have been 169 positive records for polecats between 1950 and 2016 with 127 between 2006 and 2016. Sadly, the majority of the records submitted were road casualties, along with 1 killed by a dog. A national polecat survey undertaken by the Vincent Wildlife Trust has shown that the main areas of recent range expansion have occurred in central and southern England. Both south and north Hampshire have seen a significant recent expansion in range, though records showed almost an equal number of true polecats and polecat-ferrets hybrids.

Polecat by Darin Smith

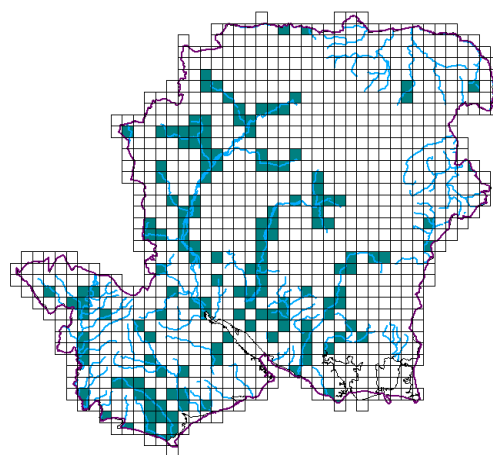


**Map 26.** All Polecat records from 2006 to 2016.

### Otter (*Lutra lutra*)

A total 1731 of records have been submitted for otters from 1950 to 2016 with 956 records received between 2006 and 2016. Rather than a change in range, the distribution map is likely to represent changes in recording effort. The otter population suffered a significant population crash in the 1950s-1960s, this decline was mainly probably the combined effects of pollution from organo-chlorine pesticides and habitat destruction, particularly the drainage of wet areas. In recent years their numbers are recovering from their last strong holds in the upper Itchen, otters are now present or visiting all of Hampshire's rivers with suitable habitat. Unfortunately, they are receiving some bad press from fishermen who fear their density is too high and depleting fish stocks. A female (bitch otter) is able to successfully rear up to four cubs. For a brief time before they disperse there may be a high local density. When young first disperse often to great distances mortality is also high, so density returns to low levels. Over 200 of the otter records came from surveys that were undertaken on the River Itchen, River Loddon, River Test, Itchen Navigation and in the New Forest. These surveys looked for signs of otter, mainly spraint and footprints.

Otter by Graham Hoggarth

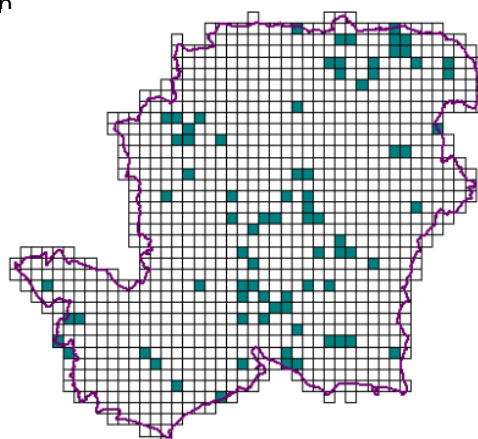


Map 27. All otter records from 2006 to 2016.

### American mink (*Mustela vison*)

There have been 223 positive records for American mink between 1950 and 2016 with 186 between 2006 and 2016. The American mink is a non-native invasive species originally from North America, the species is adapted to a semi-aquatic riparian life style and poses a particular threat to water voles. The recent increase in records may be due to an increase in survey effort as part of an ongoing project led by the South Downs National Park Authority to see the return of water vole. The resident distribution of mink along the River Meon were recorded in order to implement a control programme. As such, map 28 may not reflect the mink's current distribution

American mink by Darin Smith



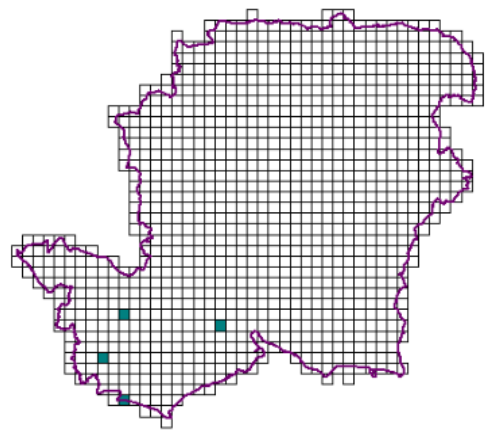
Map 28. All American mink records from 2006 to 2016.

### **Pine marten (*Martes martes*)**

There have been 33 positive records for pine martens between 1950 and 2016 with 15 between 2006 and 2016. There was an increase in number of sightings of pine martens in Hampshire between 2003- 2013 with a further two validated records were received during 2014, as with previous reports all of these sightings came from the New Forest. Both sightings and road kills confirmed their presence, but in 2016 a pine marten was recored on a camera in the New Forest by the Wild New Forest initiative for the first time. There are historic reports of two additional sightings from the woods around Mottisfont Abbey near Romsey during the late 1970s and early 1980s

We would be very interested to hear from anyone who can add to these sightings from anywhere in the County, whether current or historic records.

Pine marten by Darin Smith



**Map 29.** All pine marten records from 2006 to 2016.

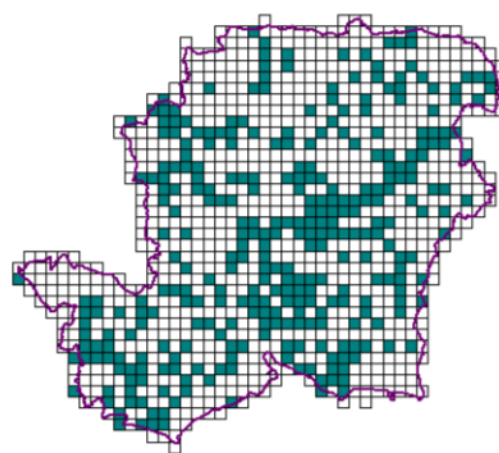


## Badger (*Meles meles*)

A total 997 of records have been submitted for badgers from 1950 to 2016 with 725 records received between 2006 and 2016, with many of the records being of road casualties or dead animals. New forest badger group have provided the majority of the records for badger signs i.e. sets, and live sightings. South West England is one on the strongholds for badgers; they are fairly widespread in Hampshire, with a high density of setts across most of the County. The agricultural landscape of mixed farming with well-connected hedgerows and large areas of deciduous woodland is ideal for badgers.

HMG records are widespread but incomplete with gaps in areas of sparse human population, particularly between Andover and Basingstoke and north of Portsmouth. In the current climate of Bovine Tuberculosis and the threat of a badger cull, it is particularly important to have up to date robust information as to their distribution and status. Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust have begun their own badger vaccination programme, more details can be found on the Trust website: <http://www.hiwwt.org.uk/campaigning-for-badgers>

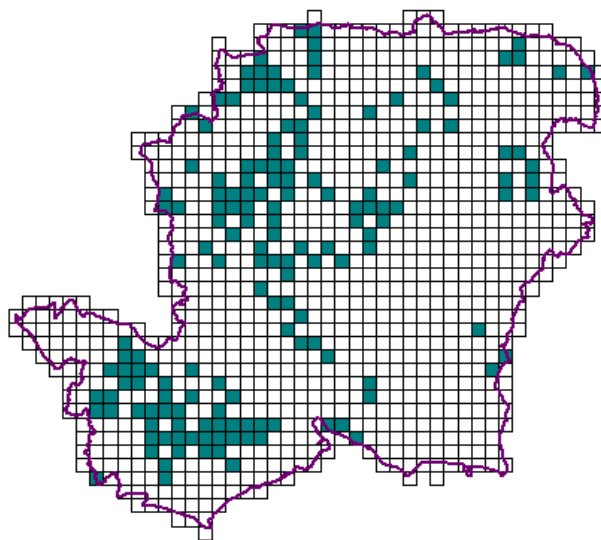
Badger by Dr Darin Smith



**Map 30.** All badger records from 2006 to 2016.

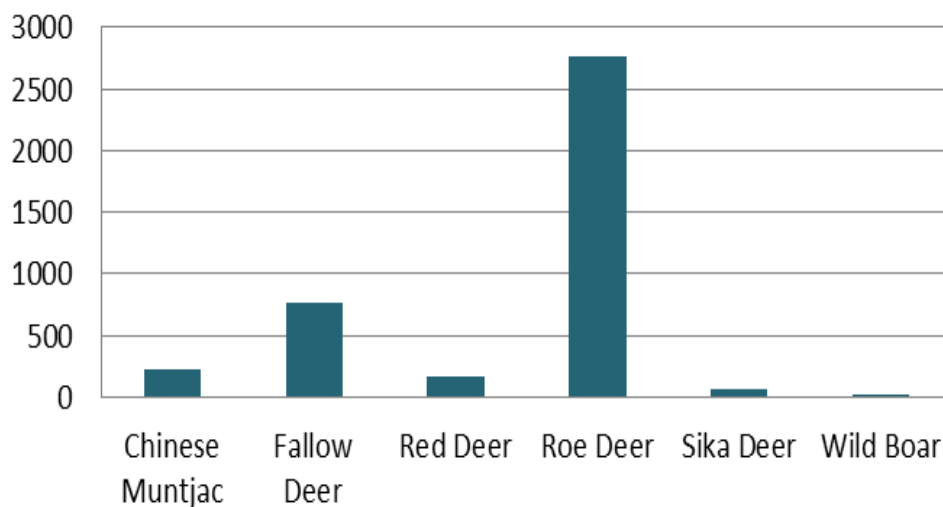
## Artiodactyla

Artiodactyla (even toed ungulates) are a large and very diverse group of mammals containing around 220 species spanning across all continents except for Australia and Antarctica. In the UK the Artiodactyla are represented by two families; Suidae (pigs) and Cervidae (deer).



**Map 31.** All Artiodactyla records from 1950 to 2016.

There were a total of 3915 records submitted for Artiodactyla between 1950 and 2016, as shown in Figure 6. By far the highest number of records received were for roe deer.

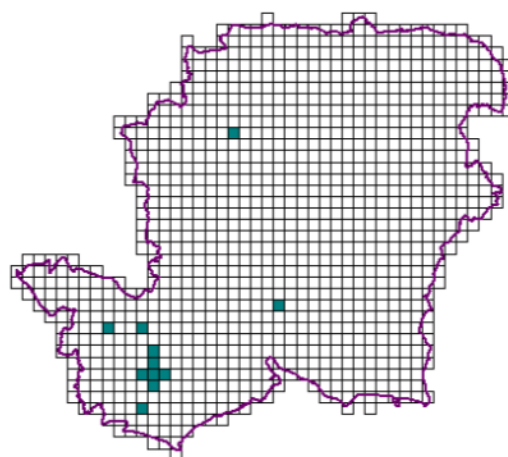


**Figure 6.** Numbers of Artiodactyla records submitted for between 1950 and 2016 according to species

### Red deer (*Cervus elaphus*)

There have been 166 positive records for red deer between 1950 and 2016 with 14 between 2006 and 2016. The majority of submitted records are from the New Forest. Red deer have had a mixed history in the New Forest, with various extinction's and re-introductions going back over several hundred years. By the middle part of the 20th century red deer were regarded as functionally extinct as a local breeding species until a introduction in 1962 revived the population. Since then numbers have gradually increased until today when there is a satisfactory breeding population ranging from the Avon valley in the west to Brockenhurst in the east.

Red deer Stag by Marion Nesbitt

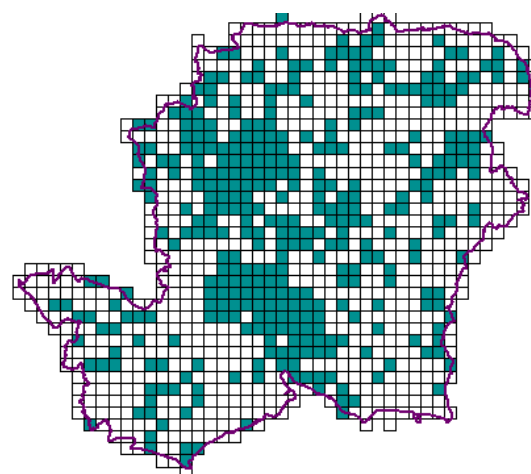


Map 32. All red deer records from 2006 to 2016.

### Roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*)

A total 2761 of records have been submitted for roe deer from 1950 to 2016 with 1313 records received between 2006 and 2016. Roe became extinct in England by 1800 due to forest clearance and over-hunting but they remained in wooded patches in Scotland. Following several reintroductions during Victorian times, their subsequent natural spread, aided by an increase in woodland and forest planting in the 20th century, roe deer are abundant today. Roe deer are the most commonly recorded species in Hampshire, with more records than all the other deer species combined. Roe deer remain widespread and common throughout the County a.

Roe Deer by Linda Priestley

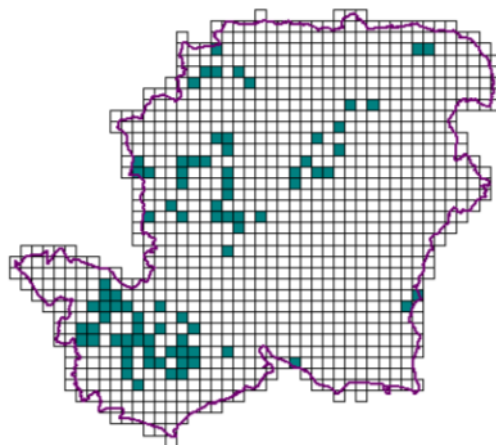


Map 33. All Roe Deer records from 2006 to 2016.

### Fallow deer (*Dama dama*)

There have been 766 positive records for fallow deer between 1950 and 2016 with 150 between 2006 and 2016. The records are concentrated in the New Forest, but regionally the species are well represented with substantial herds throughout most parts of Hampshire.

Fallow deer by Linda Priestley

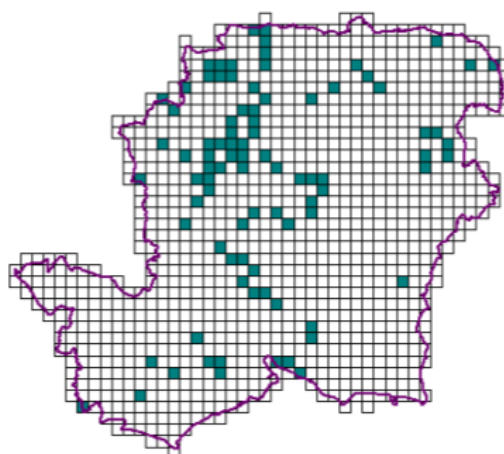


Map 34. All fallow deer records from 2006 to 2016.

### Muntjac deer (*Muntiacus reevesi*)

There have been 221 positive records for muntjac deer between 1950 and 2016 with 162 between 2006 and 2016. Muntjac deer are native to south-east China and Taiwan. They were brought to Woburn Park in Bedfordshire in the early 20th century. The species was established wild in the 1930's. They are now widespread throughout southern England and increasing in number and range.

Muntjac deer by Darin Smith

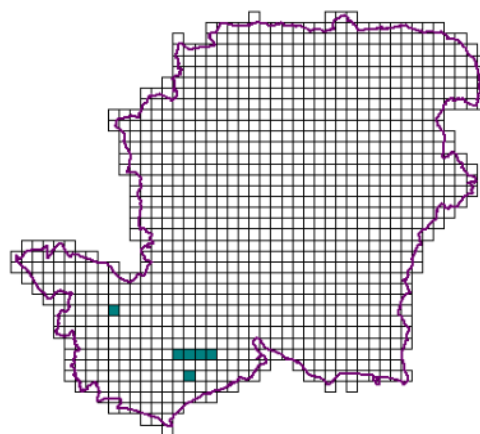


Map 35. All muntjac deer records from 2006 to 2016.

### Sika deer (*Cervus nippon*)

There have been 57 positive records for sika deer between 1950 and 2016 with 8 between 2006 and 2016. The sika deer is native to Japan, Taiwan and the adjacent mainland of eastern Asia. Following the first introductions of sika deer in the 1860s there are large populations in Scotland and Ireland with more localised populations in the Lake District, Lancashire and the South coast. They were introduced on Brownsea Island in 1896 and into the Beaulieu Estate 1900 h. The 54 verified sika deer records from Hampshire were all in the New Forest where there are two principal populations, one in the north and another in the south-east corner of the New Forest. The population size is controlled by culling to maintain an acceptable density and to minimize the risk of hybridization with the local red deer.

Sika deer Stag by Linda Priestley

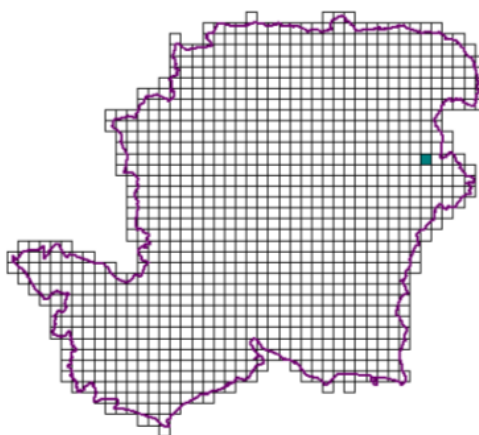


Map 36. All sika deer records from 2006 to 2016.

### Wild boar (*Sus scrofa*)

There has been 1 record of wild boar between 2006 and 2016. Wild boar were once native to the UK but have been extinct for around 300 years, however following escapes or deliberate releases from wild boar farms or animal collections, they have now established breeding populations in the wild.

Wild boar by Damian Waters



Map 37. All wild boar records from 2006 to 2016.

## Cetacea & Pinnipedia

Pinnipedia are semi-aquatic marine mammals characterised by their “fin-foot”, the order contains seals, sea lions and walrus. Cetacea are a large and diverse order of marine mammals containing Dolphins, Whales and Porpoise.

The Solent is home to the only known resident population of harbour seals, *Phoca vitulina*, in the Eastern Channel. Most of these seals live in Chichester Harbour, with Langstone Harbour hosting a popular haul out site. Recent estimations put the population at slightly higher than previously thought with between 40 and 45 harbour seals living here.

In 2009 Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Chichester Harbour Conservancy and the Sea Mammal Research Unit GPS tagged 5 harbour seals to track their movements, the results are available in Chesworth, J. C, *et al.* (2010) n. The Solent's harbour seals forage throughout the mainland harbours and often up into estuarine environments and creeks. The seals also visit areas on the Isle of Wight, and some travel further east through Sussex to Kent, where the next nearest harbour seal population lives. Transient grey seals, *Halichoerus grypus*, are also occasionally sighted in the area.

The Marine Team at Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust occasionally receive concerned phone calls from members of the public worried about seals out of the water. For the most part these are healthy animals that are hauled out which is a normal behaviour of seals at rest. A healthy animal should be viewed from a respectful distance and left well alone.

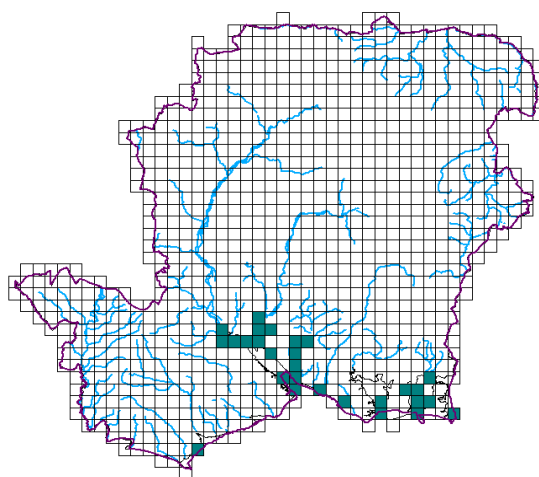
If the animal looks thin or sick British Divers Marine Life Rescue can be contacted on 01825765546.

Owain Masters

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

Secrets of the Solet- Community Engagement Officer.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust actively seek and collate marine mammal sightings and have produced marine mammal ID and sightings cards. Cetaceans are sometimes recorded with several sightings of bottlenose dolphin, *Tursiops truncatus*, in Hampshire in 2017. There were also sighting across the Solent with dolphins being sighted from the Isle of Wight coasts and harbours.



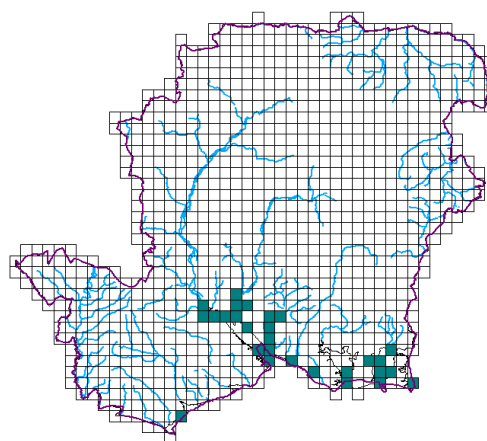
**Map 38.** All Cetacea & Pinnipedia records from 1950 to

There were a total of 684 records submitted for Cetacea & Pinnipedia between 1950 and 2016, as shown in Figure 7. By far the highest number of records received were for common seal with only 2 records for bottle-nosed Dolphins and 1 record for Harbour porpoise.

### Common seal (*Phoca vitulina*)

A total 681 of records have been submitted from 1950 to 2016 with 573 records received between 2006 and 2016. Seals are frequently seen in the Solent, which accommodates the only known resident population of harbour seals in the Eastern Channel with an estimated 20 – 25 common seals living here. The majority of records received were from sightings from the shore and when hauled out. Following the launch of a recording project in 2008 there was an increase in reported sightings in 2009 and 2010.

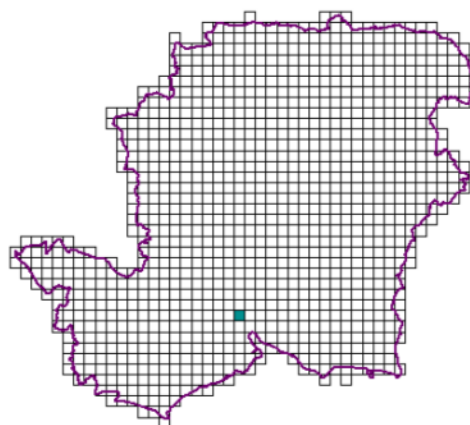
Common seal by Laura Barclay



Map 39 All common seal records from 2006 to 2016.

### Bottle nosed dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*)

There have been 2 positive records for Bottle-nosed dolphins between 2006 and 2016.



Map 40. All Bottle-nosed dolphin records from 2006 to 2016.

## Chiroptera (Bats)

Most of the 17 bat species breeding in Britain live in Hampshire. It is not easy to estimate their population size and breeding success. National statistics suggest that the common pipistrelle, Daubenton's and Natterer's bats are showing an upward trend in population, with most other species remaining stable. We are concerned that the serotine bat, which feeds on large insects such as beetles, is still showing a downward trend in Hampshire and we think that this may be connected to the decline in area of pasture. The number of known maternity roosts has declined over the past 10 years. Serotine bats are confined to the south of UK but there is evidence that they are moving northwards. The noctule bat, a large species that depends on tree holes for roosts, appears to be maintaining a stable population but is susceptible to the fate of old trees and well as the abundance of large insects. The Natterer's bat is susceptible to the loss of its preferred roosting sites in timber-framed barns and old buildings.

Bechstein's and barbastelle bats are two of the rarest species in the UK. Hampshire supports breeding colonies of Bechstein's bat both in the New Forest as well as south-east Hampshire.

Serotine by Nik Night



Barbastelle breeding colonies have been found in the New Forest, Mottisfont and recently in Hinton Ampner in central Hampshire. The Hampshire Bat Group has an active membership who record bat activity for national recording schemes as well as ongoing specific projects in Hampshire. There is long-term monitoring of known hibernation roosts of European importance, including Greywell Tunnel Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which has the highest population of hibernating Natterer's bats in the UK. Our continuing research into barbastelle and Bechstein's bats as well as two other rare species, Nathusius' pipistrelle and grey long-eared bats involves a combination of regular transect surveys, radio tracking and DNA analysis of droppings recovered from roosts. Also a bat box monitoring scheme in the New Forest has been added to the methods we use to monitor these rare species.

As all bats have European Protected Species status, our bat record database from 1943 to the present now has over 20300 records. These extensive records are of great value for guiding conservation effort and the planning process. This is a period of time over which there has been very serious decline in the populations of all bat species. We have published a series of bat distribution maps on our website, based on our almost 15,000 records: see

[www.hampshirebatgroup.org.uk/bats-in-hampshire/species-distribution-data](http://www.hampshirebatgroup.org.uk/bats-in-hampshire/species-distribution-data).

As with all mammal species, even the commonest bats are seriously under-recorded so we are always most grateful to receive contributions to [records@bats.hampshire.org.uk](mailto:records@bats.hampshire.org.uk).

The Hampshire Bat Group continues with its educational work and with the care of injured and orphaned bats.

Nik Knight, Colleen Hope & Paul Hope  
Hampshire Bat Group  
[www.hampshirebatgroup.org.uk](http://www.hampshirebatgroup.org.uk)



## Recorders

Thank you to all the recorders and contributors listed below (plus any I've missed off the list), without whose assistance our understanding of the mammals of Hampshire would be considerably poorer.

If you have a mammal record you would like to submit, please e-mail it to the Hampshire Mammal Group County Recorder: [HMGRecorder@hiwwt.org.uk](mailto:HMGRecorder@hiwwt.org.uk)

Alternatively, post to  
Hampshire Mammal Group County Recorder  
Hampshire Mammal Group  
c/o Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust  
Beechcroft House  
Vicarage Lane  
Curdridge

Hampshire  
SO32 2DP

Or using **Living Record** [www.livingrecord.net](http://www.livingrecord.net) enter your record onto Living Record and your record will also be verified before becoming part of the County and National databases.

Report produced by Isabelle Spall of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

A Butcher	Alan Tompsett	Andrew S Davidson
A J Purkiss	Alan Wilkinson	Andrew Thompson
A J Tompsett	Alastair Stewart	Andrew Whitmarsh
A Langridge	Alex C Eames	Andy Barker
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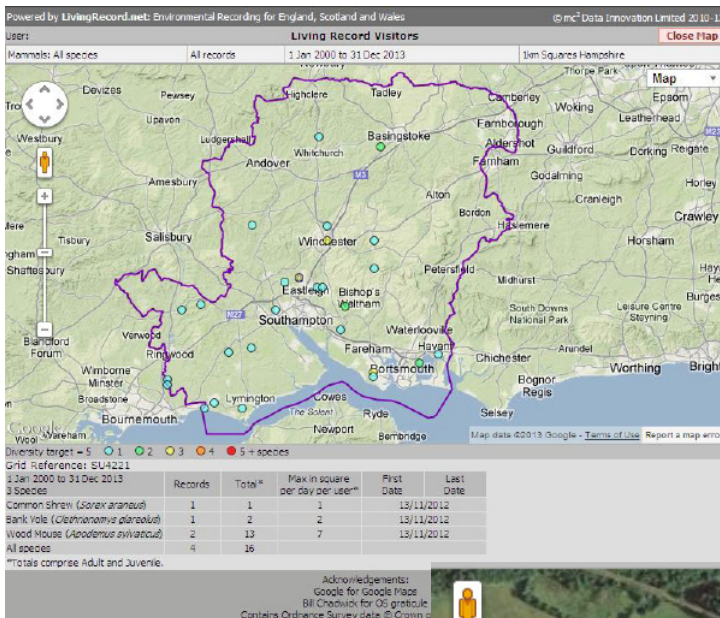
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A new online recording system for regular recorders

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) are promoting a new online system for regular recorders. The online system means that you can add all your species records in one place instead of filling in separate excel spreadsheets for each group, hopefully saving you time and allowing you to see your records easily on a map. You can view your own records as well as shared distribution maps and downloaded your records as an excel spreadsheet. The Trust reserves are also mapped so you can record sightings on our reserves. All records will still be verified by the county recorder before being sent to HBIC.



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## Acknowledgements

This report is produced directly from and as a result of the recording effort of all those who have reported their observations. These verified records are now all part of the county data base available for analysis via our Local Records Centre, Hampshire Biological Records Centre (HBIC), and beyond to the National databases.

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