

# Charnwood Forest Landscape Partnership Scheme

## Mammal Signs Spotter Sheet



### Rabbit

*Oryctolagus cuniculus*

Droppings - almost perfect sphere, yellowish-brown or greenish colour approx. 10mm diameter with a sweet digestive biscuit smell. Often found where grass nibbled short on pathways or at side of fields (NB Herbivore droppings generally rounded or cylindrical with visible plant remains and deposited in large accumulations).



### Water Vole

*Arvicola amphibius*

Droppings - average 8-12 mm long and 4 – 5 mm wide, usually greenish-brown and rounded at both ends. Odourless and usually found in small single groups or as much larger latrines on edges of water courses or exposed stones or wood above water line (herbivore).



### Otter

*Lutra lutra*

Droppings - tarry, black and slimy when fresh with characteristic jasmine tea/fresh mown grass smell. When older they become light grey and crumbly. They are generally composed of fish scales, bones and pieces of shell (carnivore).



### Badger

*Meles meles*

Droppings - very variable: dry & sausage-shaped or soft & runny depending on diet. Usually found in a shallow hole made by the Badger and may be several nearby (latrine) or found singly on surface of ground. Has a strong, musky smell which can be unpleasant (carnivore).



### Fox

*Vulpes vulpes*

Droppings - variable 80-120 mm and 20 mm wide, usually dark when fresh and grey when old; contain fur, feathers and bone and occasionally fruit, has a strong musty smell (NB - carnivore droppings either long, frequently twisted containing bones, fur or feathers OR shapeless and sloppy. All have a distinctive smell).



### Harvest mouse

*Micromys minutus*

Summer nest - spherical and made of grass blades approx. 8-10 cm diameter and found 30-40 cm above ground usually amongst grasses. Breeding females can build several in a season which are green at first and then become straw coloured as the grass dies off.



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### Wood Mouse

*Apodemus sylvaticus*

Feeding remains - can be found in favoured sites e.g. amongst tree roots, under logs etc will leave nut shells, seeds, fragments of catkins and pine cones.



### Water Vole

*Arvicola amphibius*

Feeding remains - eats mainly grasses or reeds leaving stems in a pile that are approx. 10 cm long, Found on the edge of water courses at regular intervals sometimes in the open but usually under cover of some vegetation.



### Water Vole

*Arvicola amphibius*

Tracks - paws with four or five elongated toes, print of hind foot up to 34 mm L, forefoot looks like a star, rear foot 1st and 5th toes at right angles.



### Badger

*Meles meles*

Tracks - paws with five short toes (fifth toe often does not show), forefoot 35mm W x 45 mm to back of palm pad, toe pads almost in a row, forefoot has very long claws and broad, kidney-shaped palm pad.



### Fox

*Vulpes vulpes*

Tracks - paws with four short toes and obvious pads, symmetrical – an imaginary "cross" will not touch any pads, 35 mm W x 50 mm L, large space between toes and pad, sometimes with hairs visible, triangular palm pad similar in size to toe pads.



### Otter

*Lutra lutra*

Tracks - paws with five short toes (fifth toe often does not show), forefoot 60 mm W x 65mm L, hindfoot 60mm W x up to 90mm L, frequently only four toes show, complete tracks are rare.