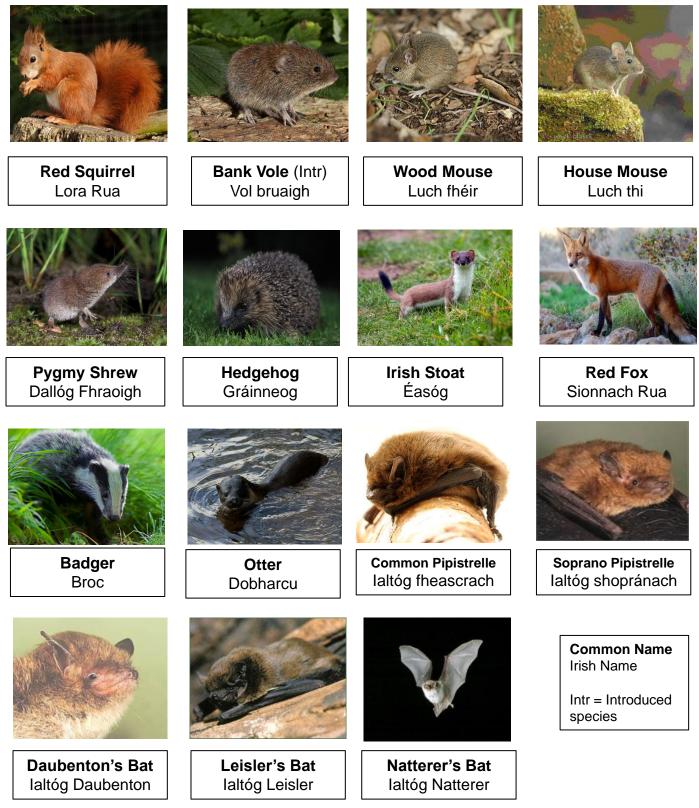
Mammals at Manch Estate





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Mammals at Manch Estate



There are only 26 terrestrial (land) mammal species that are native to Ireland. These include rodents (such as wood mice and red squirrels), hedgehogs, pygmy shrews, bats (such as common pipistrelles, Daubenton's and Leisler's) and carnivores (such as foxes and badgers).

Many native Irish mammals are declining due to habitat destruction, pesticide use, pollution, and the introduction of invasive species, such as the grey squirrel which out-competes the red squirrel for food and has lead to a massive decline in red squirrel populations.

Biodiversity (or Biological diversity) is the variety of life on earth and genetic diversity and diversity of species and habitats. The biodiversity we see today is a result of millions of years of natural selection. The Earth functions like an incredibly complex machine and if many of the components vanish, the machine can no longer function effectively. A healthy ecosystem provides a number of natural 'services', such as protection of water resources, soil formation, nutrient storage and recycling, contribution to climatic stability, food production, wood products and medicinal resources.

Example of the ecological importance of Irish mammals: The Red Squirrel

Red squirrels are small arboreal (tree dwelling) mammals that feed on seeds, nuts, berries, fungi etc. This is important for woodland ecosystems, because they spread the seeds of trees and they also spread the spores of mychorrizal fungi. These fungi form symbiotic relationships with trees and are incredibly important to their survival. Trees have formed a symbiotic relationship with mychozzizal fungi which is basically a "you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours" arrangement.

Classification of Irish Mammals found at Manch Estate

Order Rodentia: Rodents Red Squirrel Bank Vole (Introduced species) Wood Mouse

Order Erinaceomorpha: Hedgehogs Western European Hedgehog

Order Soricomorpha: Shrews and Moles Eurasian Pygmy Shrew Greater White-toothed Shrew (Introduced)

Order Chiroptera: Bats

Common Pipistrelle Soprano Pipistrelle Daubenton's Bat Leisler's Bat Natterer's Bat

Order Carnivora: Carnivores

Red Fox Eurasian Badger Irish Stoat European Pine Marten European Otter

Recording Biodiversity at The Forestry Foundation

The Forestry Foundation is currently undertaking research on the Biodiversity of the Manch Estate Habitats.

If you see any mammal species while at Manch, please let us know.

Take a photo and record where you see the animal. Biodiversity recording sheet are available from the office or on our website.

Call into the Office Phone us on (023) 8822823 Email enquiries@inff.ie

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