

The Mammals of Monkwood Green by Dr Christopher J Betts PhD FBNA MRSB MEnvSc

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This is a list of the mammals I have recorded at Monkwood Green since 1985. There may be other species so do please let me know at christopherbetts@bettsecology.com if anyone has records to add.

Scientific Name	Vernacular Name	Frequency	Notes
<i>Erinaceous europaeus</i>	hedgehog	Endemic to Monkwood Green area	Regular sightings
<i>Talpa europaea</i>	mole	Permanently resident and active	Almost always molehills visible.
<i>Sorex araneus</i>	common shrew	Present but secretive	Seen now and then.
<i>Sorex minutus</i>	pygmy shrew	Rarely seen	Elusive but I have seen them.
<i>Pipistrellus</i> and other bats	pipistrelles etc.	Several bat species have been recorded, including pipistrelles and brown long-eared.	More bat detector work is required to obtain a full list.
<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	rabbit	Common	Permanently resident but sometimes reduced by myxomatosis.
<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	brown hare	Always present	The Green is known for its hare population.
<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	grey squirrel	Very common	Preyed on by buzzards and other raptors.
<i>Clethrionomys glareolus</i>	bank vole	Common	Many in the Green's grassland.
<i>Microtus agrestis</i>	field vole	Common	As bank vole.
<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>	wood mouse	Common	Often seen
<i>Apodemus flavicollis</i>	yellow-necked mouse	Not uncommon on the Green	Found when doing small mammal surveys.
<i>Mus domesticus</i>	house mouse	Probably occasional but usually in houses/other buildings	I have not seen any outside dwellings.
<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	brown rat	Ubiquitous	Fewer recently for unknown reasons.
<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>	dormouse	Occasional along woodland edge	Well-known in adjacent Monkwood.
<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	fox	Seen usually dawn or dusk	More frequent in Monkwood.
<i>Mustela erminea</i>	stoat	Frequent	Secretive – takes ducklings.
<i>Mustela nivalis</i>	weasel	Frequent	Secretive but efficient predator.
<i>Meles meles</i>	badger	Frequent	Setts in and around Monkwood.
<i>Dama dama</i>	fallow deer	Rare	I recorded one on our drive on the Green about five years ago.
<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	roe deer	Occasional	One of these was filmed being chased by a dog.
<i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>	Reeves' muntjac	Common	Often browsing on the Green.
Cattle and sheep	Various breeds	Brought in to improve biodiversity	Sadly, no-one is available to look after grazing animals today.

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Notes on other local mammal species

Polecat (*Mustela putorius*). I have seen them in nearby fields occasionally but not on the Green, though they may visit.

Feral ferret (*Mustela furo*). Usually escapees. I had one for a while until we found its home.

Mink (*Mustela vison*). Along local watercourses but not recorded on the Green as far as I know.

Otter (*Lutra lutra*). Never seen on the Green as far as I know but recorded in ponds north of Monkwood along Grimley Brook.

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A few photos (© the author)



Hedgehogs forage regularly over the Green and breed locally. This is a young one.



Highland cattle we used to have on the Green, and which did wonders for the petty whin as they reduced competing vegetation. Sadly, we no longer have grazing cattle or sheep and have to cut the grassland around the anthills and petty whin manually with strimmers and hand tools.



Grey squirrels are plentiful on the Green and in residents' gardens.



There are always moles on the Green, but they seldom come above ground.



Reeves' muntjac are regular visitors to the Green and much loved by residents, although they are not native to the UK.



There are badger setts in Monkwood, and these much-loved nocturnal mammals frequently venture onto the Green to forage.



Rabbits are often seen on the Green. This youngster had ventured through the hedge into our garden.



This was the escapee ferret on the Green which I caught and looked after for a while.