

RODENT FOOTPRINTS AND NESTS



Rat prints in sand (above left), mud (above right) compared to tracking plate (below)



Nests and other signs

If you encounter baby rodents in a nest, install a trail camera to confirm the species, and take further action accordingly.



Black rat



Brown rat burrow and nest



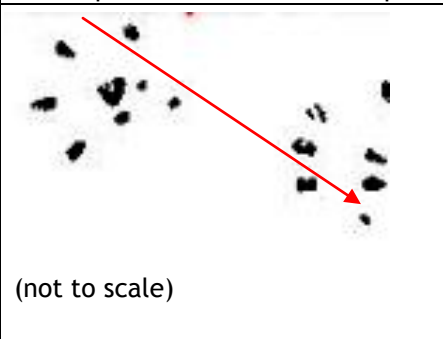


House mouse

UK invasive rodent nests and burrows

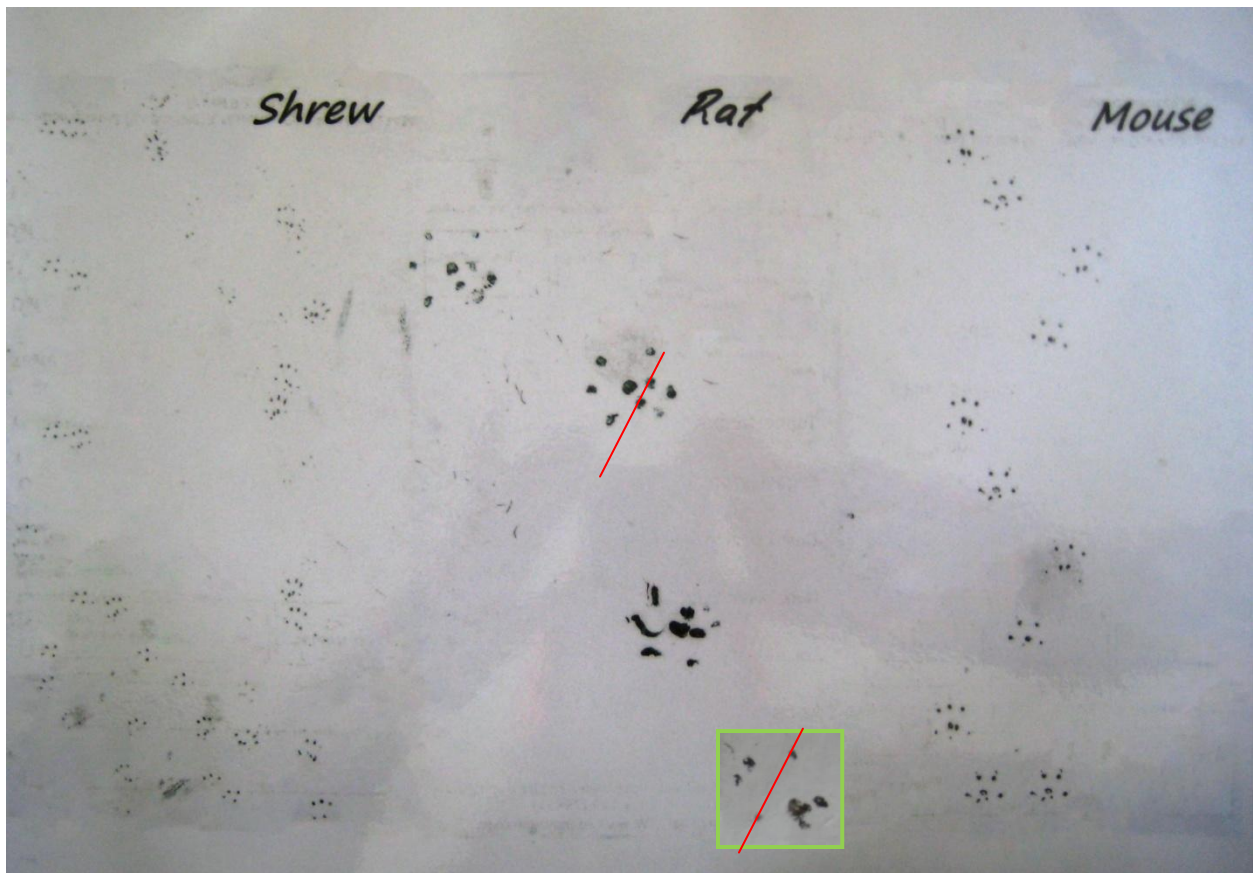


Burrow system of brown rat on coastal cliffs.
Search for other signs around the entrances to a burrow system, such as droppings.

Footprints

Black rat	Brown rat	House mouse
4 toes on front feet, 5 on rear 28-34mm long Clear split in hind foot central pad	4 toes on front feet, 5 on rear 30-42mm long Solid hind foot central pad	4 toes on front feet, 5 on rear 15-23mm long.
 <p>(not to scale)</p>		

Footprints of UK invasive rodent species. Note that the footprints of black rats shown here are similar to those which would be left on tracking tunnel plate, while those of the brown rat and house mouse are similar to those that would be left in a soft substrate such as mud, which allows more detail to be seen (see Figure 2.14). <http://www.pestdetective.org.nz/> is a good resource for identifying sign.



Size comparison of rat, house mouse and shrew prints:

Rat prints are similar in size to squirrel prints, but can be distinguished by drawing a line between the first and last toes. In rat foot prints the line will pass through the central pad, but this is not the case for squirrels (inset image in green box).