

The Mammal Society

The Mammal Society is a UK-based membership organisation involved in the study and conservation of all British mammals, both terrestrial and marine. Membership of the Society ranges from leading professional researchers to interested amateurs and includes a small number who live in the Isle of Man.

Mammal Recording methods and activity level varies from species to species and on the Island is mainly focused on those species where there is either insufficient knowledge of status and the population is low such as the native Stoat, *Mustela erminea hibernica* and those species where the population or distribution is changing such as the Brown hare *Lepus europaeus*. Over the past 20 years, the Society has ensured that the island has been included in relevant species distribution research and atlas projects and has attempted to encourage academics to carry out research into species which are potentially endangered and about which there is insufficient knowledge. This focus on key species will continue.

The Society has an Island Recorder, Ed Pooley, who passes significant records received to Manx National Heritage for database entry. Since the establishment of the Manx Bat Group and the advent of organised local groups interested in marine mammals, the Mammal Society has left the recording of such species to those bodies.

The Society is keen to see a fully integrated approach to biological recording on the Island because of the considerable interaction between terrestrial mammals and both birds and invertebrates as predator and prey. The example of owl pellets may be known to some – their analysis can show evidence of small mammal prey which can be of more interest than usual in respect of species presence given the insular context. As with many other Island species groups, the relationship between habitat presence and mammal species abundance or even survival, does not necessarily take the form typically seen on the two adjacent larger islands. The inclusion of habitat data in the integrated approach is therefore especially welcomed.