

INFORMATION SHEET
An Environmental Protection Team Service



House Mouse
Mus domesticus

The house mouse has been identified from pre-Roman Iron Age deposits and is believed to have arrived in Britain circa 10th Century BC. It is common in a wide range of urban and rural buildings. Although mainly a house dweller, it may live outdoors for part or all of the year. The house mouse may be confused with the wood mouse or long tailed field mouse, the yellow-necked field mouse, the harvest mouse or voles. Identification of the species is paramount because methods used for the pest species may be inappropriate or even illegal.

The house mouse has grey-brown fur, which is slightly lighter on the underside. It usually weighs an average of 15g and has a combined head and body length of 70-90mm and a tail that is 80% of the head and body length.

Mice are capable of reproducing at 8-12 weeks, have several litters (every 17-20 days) and live for less than a year.

Mouse droppings are approximately 3-7mm in length and may often be spindle shaped. They produce about 80 per day. Small mounds or 'urine pillars' are sometimes formed in places which are habitually used by the mice and indicate a long established infestation. House mice can gain access to a harbourage via a gap less than 10mm wide and they are very good climbers.