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**Changes in the status and distribution of mammals of the order
Carnivora in Yorkshire from 1600**

County history of the fox, badger, otter, pine marten, stoat, weasel,
polecat, American mink, wildcat and domestic cat

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Abstract

Data derived largely from ecclesiastical (mostly churchwardens') accounts, foxhunting statistics, local scientific society records and 19th and 20th century literature sources from a wide range of published material, have provided detailed evidence of the status and changes in distribution over the past four centuries in Yorkshire for fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), badger (*Meles meles*), otter (*Lutra lutra*), pine marten (*Martes martes*), stoat (*Mustela erminea*), weasel (*M. nivalis*), polecat (*M. putorius*), American mink (*M. vison*), wildcat (*Felis silvestris*) and domestic cat (*Felis catus*). In the case of the domestic cat, questionnaire surveys quantified population sizes and predatory activity in rural, suburban and urban situations. Evidence of the former distribution of all the carnivores studied provides a credible historical basis for biodiversity action planning and the substantial archived database and bibliography provide further research opportunities.

Keywords: vermin bounty payments, fox hunting, otter hunting, fox, badger, otter, pine marten, stoat, weasel, polecat, American mink, wildcat, domestic cat, mustelids.

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Howes, C. A. (2000) Historical review of the Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) in the Hatfield Chase, Isle of Axholme and catchments of the Torne, tidal Don, and Went. <i>Naturalist</i> 125 : 3-16.....	14 pages
Howes, C. A. (2002) Red in Tooth and Claw: Pt. 1 The history of the Wild Cat (<i>Felis silvestris</i> Schr.) in Yorkshire. <i>Naturalist</i> 127 : 41-56.....	16 pages
Howes, C. A. (2002) Red in Tooth and Claw: Pt. 2 Studies on the natural history of the Domestic Cat <i>Felis catus</i> Lin. in Yorkshire. <i>Naturalist</i> 127 : 101-130.....	30 pages
Howes, C. A. (2003) Historical review of the Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) in the East Riding of Yorkshire. <i>Naturalist</i> 128 : 3-16.....	14 pages
Total pages	74 pages

Appendices [74 pages of published papers bound into the thesis and 336 pages on CD]