

Dear Landowner/Manager

People's Trust for Endangered Species *National Water Vole Monitoring Programme*

Water voles have undergone one of the most serious declines of any wild British mammal during the last century. Two National Surveys in the 1990s detected that in just seven years water vole numbers plummeted by almost 90%. To find out what has happened since then the People's Trust for Endangered Species launched the first ongoing National Water Vole Monitoring Programme (NWVMP) across England, Scotland and Wales in 2015.

We have selected more than 800 sites across England, Scotland and Wales that were surveyed during the two National Surveys in the 1990s that we would like volunteers to re-survey and continue to monitor each year. At each site volunteers will walk a continuous 500m length of waterway bank looking for any water vole field signs once a year in May. We will also be asking volunteers to record any field signs of mink and otter they encounter along their survey route. This survey should take between 45 mins and 1 hour.

We would also like to find out some more information about the habitat and management of the site. We would appreciate it if you could take the time to fill in the attached questionnaire and return it to the freepost address at the bottom of page 2.

This information will allow us to look at the effect of habitat and land management on the presence or absence of water voles. We can assure you that any personal details provided will be kept confidential.

Further information about the programme and about water voles in general can be found on our website – www.ptes.org/watervoles. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact us.

Many thanks for your help,

Henrietta Pringle, NWVMP Coordinator
watervoles@ptes.org
020 7498 4533

National Water Vole Monitoring Programme landowner questionnaire

Contact name/s:

Address:

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Telephone:

email:

Site number:

OR OS grid reference:

1. Habitat the site is in:

Upland Lowland Coastal

2. Waterway type:

river stream/burn lake/loch reed bed marsh bog
pond canal reservoir ditch/dyke other

If other please specify:

3. Land use bordering the waterway (tick all that apply):

Upland grass Permanent/temporary grass Mix/broadleaf woodland
Conifer woodland Peat bog Arable crop Salt marsh Heath
Urban/industrial Park/garden Fen

4. Current speed of the waterway (tick all that apply):

Rapid Fast Slow Sluggish Static

5. Width of the waterway (tick all that apply):

1m 1-2m 2-5m 5-10m 20-40m >40m

6. Mean depth of waterway (tick all that apply):

0.5m 0.5-1m 1-2m >2m

7. Vegetation cover along the banks (tick all that apply):

Bankside trees Shrubs Short grass/herbs Tall grass/herbs

8. Are the banks treated in any way?

Canalised Maintained Wild

9. Does weed control happen along the waterway?

Mechanical Chemical None

10. Are there mink present on this waterway?

Yes No In the past but not currently Don't know

11. If there are mink present/they have been present, does/did any mink control happen along the waterway?

Yes, currently Yes, in the past No Don't know

12. Have you seen water voles on your land in the last:

Year 5 years 10 years 15 years Other Never

13. Have water voles ever been reintroduced onto this waterway?

Yes No Don't know

If yes please specify:

Keep me informed

We would like to keep you updated about our water vole work and our other work at People's Trust for Endangered Species. We will never share your personal details with anyone else. Would you like to hear from us by:

By email: Yes No

By SMS: Yes No

By post: Yes No

By phone: Yes No

If you tick NO for all the above options, you won't hear from us again, including any updates on our water vole work.

Please visit our website www.ptes.org/watervoles for further information about water voles. Thank you for your time and help. Please return your completed form to the freepost address below:

FREEPOST PTES

Survey information will be placed in the public domain and will be shared, in summary form, with other environmental organisations. This information will NEVER include your contact details