

## Water vole recording form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Post code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of pond/river/stream/lake/canal: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Location (nearest town/village): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Post code (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Grid reference (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please return to:

Herts and Middlesex  
Wildlife Trust  
Grebe House  
St Michael's Street  
St. Albans  
Hertfordshire  
AL3 4SN



Or email:  
water.vole@hmwt.org

## Getting more involved

Water vole populations in Hertfordshire need your help!

- Use the attached form to let us know if you have seen water voles or their field signs.
- Join us on a water vole survey training day and get involved in water vole surveys in your local area.
- Contact us for advice on making your pond (or river bank) water vole-friendly.
- Join us for practical work on one of our wetland havens.
- Come along to one of our awareness events.
- Join us today!

The Wetlands for Water Voles and People Project is an active partnership of:



## For more details contact:

Wetlands Awareness Officer  
Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust  
Grebe House  
St Michael's Street  
St Albans  
Hertfordshire  
AL3 4SN

Tel: 01727 858901

Email: [water.vole@hmwt.org](mailto:water.vole@hmwt.org)

Website: [www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/herts](http://www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/herts)

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Herts and  
Middlesex



## Wetlands for Water Voles and People



Protecting **Wildlife** for the Future

## Water voles in trouble

Water voles were once a common sight along our waterways but are now Britain's fastest declining mammal. Populations have fallen by over 90% in the last century and as a result, the water vole now needs protection nationwide.

## The threats

Destruction of natural river banks and wetlands has resulted in a direct loss of water vole colonies as well as the isolation of remaining populations. However, by far the biggest threat facing water voles at present is predation by the non-native American mink. This species can wipe out an entire water vole colony in a matter of weeks.

## Water voles in Hertfordshire

Fortunately, the water vole is still present in Hertfordshire but in small numbers. It is still possible to see water voles at Purwell Ninesprings, Tewinbury, Silvermeade (part of Lee Valley Regional Park) and Frogmore Meadows Wetland Havens. However, it is vital that we protect our remaining water voles to ensure their future survival and population growth throughout the county.

## Our Project

The 'Wetlands for Water Voles and People' Project is an active partnership, aiming to revive water vole populations across Hertfordshire.

The project aims to:

- Provide people with a better understanding of water voles and access to wetland habitats.
- Survey, record and monitor water vole sites.
- Carry out practical conservation work in wetland areas to benefit the water vole.
- Provide advice on water vole and wetland conservation to land managers and conservation groups.
- Develop educational and promotional programmes on water vole and wetland conservation.

We will be improving conditions for water voles and making it easier for you to watch them at the following wetland havens:

- Purwell Ninesprings Nature Reserve near Hitchin (in the Purwell Valley).
- Tewinbury Nature Reserve, near Welwyn Garden City (in the Mimram Valley).
- Silvermeade, near Broxbourne (in the Lee Valley).
- Frogmore Meadows Nature Reserve near Sarratt (in the Chess Valley).
- Cassiobury Park Nature Reserve in Watford (in the Colne Valley).

## How to identify a water vole

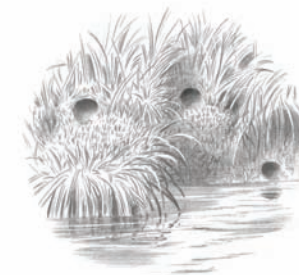
Often mistaken for rats, water voles have a more rounded nose, blunter face, and shorter, hairier tails. Their small ears are hidden in their chestnut coloured fur.

You may hear a water vole rather than see it, so listen out for a 'plop' sound as they enter the water. You can also look out for the following field signs:



*Nibbled plant remains at the water's edge typically cut at a 45° angle.*

*Cylindrical droppings, 8-12mm in length and rounded at both ends. They are often found heaped in piles (latrines) on bare patches of ground at the water's edge.*



*Burrow holes – these are very round, about 4-8cm in diameter often with a neatly cropped 'lawn' around the edges. Found along the tops and sides of banks.*

