

Arvicola terrestris (Water Vole)

Full report outputted on the 30/07/2003 17:01:45

1. Status of the habitat / species

Please give your most accurate assessment of the status of your species or habitat for the UK and for each country. Leave the row blank where the species or habitat does not occur in that country.

	Amount:	Units:	Year:	Accuracy:	Reference for data:
UK	875000	Individuals	1998	Partial or sample survey	Preliminary report on the changes in the water vole population of Britain as shown by the national surveys of 1989-90 and 1996-98 - The Vincent Wildlife Trust
E	486000	Individuals	1998	Partial or sample survey	"
NI	0	Individuals	1998	Partial or sample survey	"
S	354000	Individuals	1998	Partial or sample survey	"
W	35000	Individuals	1998	Partial or sample survey	"

Information originally entered by Alastair Driver on Friday, December 06, 2002

Information last changed by Alastair Driver on Friday, December 06, 2002

2. Trend in Biological Status

Please give your best estimate of the current trend for your species or habitat for the UK, and each appropriate country, using the following categories. Please give an estimate unless there is absolutely no information on which to assess status.

	Trend:	Accuracy:	Reference for data:
UK	Declining (slow ing) ▼	Informed guess ▼	Vincent Wildlife Trust survey reports, Wildlife Trust survey reports, etc
E	Declining (slow ing) ▼	Informed guess ▼	"
NI	Not applicable (does not occur in this country) ▼	Informed guess ▼	"
S	Declining (slow ing) ▼	Informed guess ▼	"
W	Declining (slow ing) ▼	Informed guess ▼	"

Information originally entered by Alastair Driver on Friday, December 06, 2002

3. Status of knowledge

To what extent is our scientific knowledge of the habitat / species (e.g research information, autecological knowledge, knowledge for effective re-introduction or habitat restoration/re-creation) sufficient to deliver the plan targets?

Please give an assessment for the UK overall but if there is significant difference in knowledge between different countries this should be noted.

Status of knowledge:	Know ledge sufficient to make some impact, but more research needed. ▼
Notes:	Know ledge on habitat requirements is good, but still more research needed on many aspects eg key sites, introductions ar translocations, genetics and mink control.

Information originally entered by Alastair Driver on Friday, December 06, 2002

4. Progress on targets

Each of the revised targets from the 2001 Targets Review is listed below.

For each one please give a qualitative assessment of progress for the UK and each country. You can also enter quantitative information on progress by entering data in each of the target boxes and entering the current amount in the amount box. For more information see Help.

T1: Maintain the current distribution in order to arrest the decline of the species in Britain.

Target start date: 1997

Target end date: Ongoing

Target units:

Occupied 10 km sq.

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	Some progress (behind schedule)	545	545	Partial or sample survey	Yes
E	Some progress (behind schedule)	423	423	Partial or sample survey	Yes
NI	Not applicable	0	0	Informed guess	No
S	Some progress (behind schedule)	42	42	Best guess	Yes
W	Some progress (behind schedule)	80	80	Partial or sample survey	Yes

T2: Maintain the current abundance in order to arrest the decline of the species in Britain.

Target start date:

1997

Target end date:

ongoing

Target units:

Sites/ Populations

Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
----------	--------	---------	----------	------------

UK	Some progress (behind schedule) ▼	875000	875000	Informed guess ▼	Yes ▼
E	Some progress (behind schedule) ▼	486000	486000	Informed guess ▼	Yes ▼
NI	Not applicable ▼	0	0	Informed guess ▼	No ▼
S	Some progress (behind schedule) ▼	354000	354000	Informed guess ▼	Yes ▼
W	Some progress (behind schedule) ▼	35000	35000	Informed guess ▼	Yes ▼

T3: Restore water voles to their former widespread distribution, using the Vincent Wildlife Trust survey of 1989/90 as a baseline, by the year 2010.

Target start date: 1995

Target end date: 2010

Target units: Individuals ▼

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	Some progress (behind schedule) ▼	730000	875000	Partial or sample survey ▼	Yes ▼
E	Some progress (behind schedule) ▼	460000	486000	Partial or sample survey ▼	Yes ▼

NI	Not applicable	0	0	Informed guess	Yes
S	Some progress (behind schedule)	240000	354000	Partial or sample survey	Yes
W	Some progress (behind schedule)	300000	35000	Partial or sample survey	Yes

Information originally entered by Alastair Driver on Friday, December 06, 2002

Information last changed by Alastair Driver on Thursday, December 19, 2002

5. Current factors affecting the habitat

When your plan was published the factors (threats) that were thought to be causing loss or decline were listed (in section 2). Re-assessing the current situation may help prioritise actions for your species or habitat. In addition, this enables identification of the main threats to biodiversity across all plans. It is useful to assess whether the importance of different factors is changing and whether there are new issues emerging.

The threat section from the original plan is duplicated below, and a first attempt at categorising the threats has been made. Please confirm that you agree with the categorisation of the original threats identified in the plan (by deleting any wrongly categorised threats and adding the correct category). Please also add to the list any significant threats that have emerged recently, being mindful of environmental issues that have increased in profile or been recognised since plan publication (e.g. climate change). Once you are happy that the list contains all the threats identified in the published plan together with any new ones, please rank them in order of severity (1= highest threat). If the situation has changed and one of the published threats is no longer significant, please leave this in the list but give this rank = 0.

Current factors affecting the habitat from the original publication:

2.1 Loss and fragmentation of habitats.

2.2 Disturbance of riparian habitats.

2.3 Predation by mink.

2.4 Pollution of watercourses and poisoning by rodenticides.

Keyworded factors:

To add factors click the add button, to delete factors check the delete box and then click the delete button.

Delete:	Rank:	Keyword:
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Accidental mortality Terrestrial bycatch - poisoning
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Habitat loss / degradation - management practice Inappropriate water channel / river bank management
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Invasive/non-native species (directly affecting species) Predation

Information originally entered by Alastair Driver on Friday, December 06, 2002

6. Constraints (optional)

Select the three most significant constraints to achieving the targets of the plan, and indicate the order of priority (1-3 with 1 being the most significant constraint). Only include constraints that are acting as a real blockage to delivering the plan targets or leading to a substantial delay in their delivery. For each constraint, please indicate whether you feel that it is within the ability of the lead partner or steering group to resolve the constraint.

Constraint 1:

Constraint keyword:

Country:

Funding and incentives Agency grant - support required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> NI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W
Solution:	Solution type:
<p>New funding for a strategic network of county based water vole projects with full-time staff resources aimed at promotion of catchment-based mink control and water vole habitat protection and enhancement.</p>	<p>Funding and incentive schemes</p>
Able to resolve:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Constraint 2:	
Constraint keyword:	Country:
Partnership Government - lack of support	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> NI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W
Solution:	Solution type:
<p>New funding is required to resource the Environment Agency (who are both Lead Partner and Contact Point) to deliver the Water Vole Species Action Plan effectively. To date the EA has received no new funds whatsoever to deliver the UK BAP, even though it is Contact Point and/or Lead Partner for 39 species and 5 habitats !</p>	<p>Funding and incentive schemes</p>

Able to resolve:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Constraint 3:	
Constraint keyword:	Country:
Policy, legislation and designation Poor legal protection for species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> NI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W
Solution:	Solution type:
Full protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)	Legislation and policies
Able to resolve:	<input type="checkbox"/>

Information originally entered by Alastair Driver on Friday, December 06, 2002

7. Steering Group

Please list all organisations that are represented on the steering group for your species/habitat (include all organisations that have contributed either directly or by correspondence within the last 3 years). Where a steering group does not exist please leave this form blank.

To add organisations click the add button, to delete organisations check the delete box and then click the delete button.

Delete:	Organisation:
----------------	----------------------

- Countryside Council for Wales
- Defra
- English Nature
- Environment Agency
- Peoples' Trust for Endangered Species
- Royal Holloway College
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- WildCRU
- Wildlife Trusts

Information originally entered by Alastair Driver on Friday, December 06, 2002
Information last changed by Alastair Driver on Thursday, December 19, 2002

8. Other Groups/Organisations

Please list any additional groups/organisations that are actively involved in implementing your action plan. (This is to try to assess which groups are involved where there is no steering group and any additional contributors). If you do not have any other organisations involved, click here.

To add organisations click the add button, to delete organisations check the delete box and then click the delete button.

Delete:	Organisation:
<input type="checkbox"/>	British Association for Shooting and Conservation
<input type="checkbox"/>	British Waterways
<input type="checkbox"/>	literally hundreds of others too numerous to mention!
<input type="checkbox"/>	Local Authorities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Water Companies
<input type="checkbox"/>	wildwood centre
<input type="checkbox"/>	Zoos

Information originally entered by Alastair Driver on Friday, December 06, 2002

Information last changed by Alastair Driver on Friday, December 06, 2002

9. Linkages to LBAPs

a) Which of the following most accurately describes your interaction with LBAPs, up to now?

Generic advice to LBAPs on species/habitat needs or appropriate local actions produced/distributed.

b) If you have been in contact with LBAPs how was it initiated?

By Both

c) Irrespective of current contact, how important do you consider LBAP co-ordinated action will be in achieving the targets of the plan? Select from category:

Important

d) If you consider LBAP action to be anything other than unimportant, which of the following forms of engagement do you think would be appropriate? (Note, you may tick more than one category.)

- Indirect contact (e.g. posting information on UKBAP website, sharing work programmes, meeting schedules, articles in Biodiversity News, newsletter)
- Provision of generic information on habitat and/or species (e.g. advice and guidance on habitat/species ecology and management)
- Direct provision of advice (e.g. proactive approach to LBAP, response to consultations from LBAPs, advice on LBAP target setting)
- Reciprocal attendance at meetings
- Development of collaborative projects

Other (please specify):

Information originally entered by Alastair Driver on Friday, December 06, 2002

>

10. Successes (optional)

Have there been key successes in the implementation of your plan that should be drawn to the attention of government, the wider BAP partnership, or the public? Please give a brief description (i.e. 2-3 sentences) of up to three successes and allocate a topic area to each of them:

Success 1:

Description:

Water vole is "Top of the BAP Pops" as far as LBAPs are concerned, appearing in 94 LBAPs to date, partly due to its widespread distribution and charisma of course, but also thanks to the energetic promotion of water vole conservation by all the steering group organisations. Although this in itself is not a successful outcome for water voles, it sets a good foundation for recovery of the species.

Country:

UK E NI S W

Keyword:

Action plan process | LBAP partnership established

Success 2:

Description:

Country:

Numerous successful habitat enhancement schemes have been implemented in recent years, partly targeted at water voles. In many cases monitoring has revealed colonisation or expansion of water vole populations into these restored waterways and wetlands. The Key Sites study has helped to identify the relevant characteristics of large wetlands of national importance for water voles and this will help guide large-scale habitat creation in future.

UK E NI S W

Keyword:

Species and habitat management | Habitat creation / restoration - achieved

Success 3:

Description:

Country:

Water voles have spread to new locations - sometimes naturally and sometimes with assistance. In central Scotland they have colonised new Sustainable Urban Drainage Scheme pond systems and the pilot water vole introduction project at WWT Barnes has so far been a great success, with a population of app. 200 animals now established and easy for visitors to view in this superb mosaic of wetland habitats in the heart of west London.

UK E NI S W

Keyword:

Research, survey and information | Ex-situ / reintroduction techniques - studies completed or under way

Information originally entered by Alastair Driver on Friday, December 06, 2002

Information last changed by Alastair Driver on Thursday, December 19, 2002

Thankyou for answering the questions. You have not yet completed all of the questions. You can go back and answer the additional ones or edit the ones you have already answered whenever you want.

Sign-off:

When you have completed all of the questions that you are able to, you must sign off your reporting.

I agree that the steering group (if present) have agreed the information in this report and that the following contact point has also signed it off:

Contact point:	Alastair Driver	email:	alastair.driver
Your name:	Alastair Driver		
Date:	19th Dec 2002		
