

WATER VOLES



Water voles have historically been a widespread species occurring in rivers, ditches, lakes and occasionally ponds and canals across England, Wales and Scotland. This species has been in decline since 1900, with an accelerated rate of decline since 1980.

A licence is not required to survey for water vole, however there are licences available to enable the removal of water vole habitat or the displacement of water voles for the purposes of development or management. Natural England is able to issue site-specific licences for the purposes of '*preserving public health or safety or imperative reasons of over-riding public interest*' (including development). However, a licence cannot be granted unless it can be shown the action permitted will not have '*a detrimental effect on the favourable conservation status of water vole*'.

Water voles can often be accommodated as part of a development scheme or maintenance schedules, and only in exceptional cases may need to be translocated away from affected areas, requiring a mitigation licence.

Our Ecologists can provide:

- ✓ **Habitat Assessments**
- ✓ **Site Surveys to determine the presence/likely absence of water voles**
- ✓ **Water Vole population assessments**
- ✓ **Consultation with stakeholders and interested parties**
- ✓ **Mitigation and compensation strategy and implementation**
- ✓ **Management plans for water vole habitat**
- ✓ **Report production to support planning applications and Environmental Statements**



Our Ecologists possess extensive experience and knowledge of protected species and development control and are members of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and the Royal Society of Biology and abide by their codes of professional conduct. By consulting with us at the early stages of your project we are able to identify potential constraints and assist in resolving any potential conflicts between development and these protected species.

Please refer to our survey calendar for optimal time periods for surveys. However, if the timing falls out of the survey period please get in touch, as surveys and inspections could possibly still be carried out in a bid not to hold up development.



ELMAW Consulting
Consultant Ecologists
& Wildlife Managers