

AMERICAN MINK CONTROL POLICY FOR WATER VOLE RECOVERY

The Leicestershire and Rutland Water Vole Steering Group (LRWVSG) consists of a partnership of organisations who are committed to native wildlife conservation and have responsibilities for water or land management on, adjacent to or adjoining water bodies. The partnership has an agreed vision to assist Water Vole recovery across the two counties.

The Vision

To facilitate the conservation of Water Voles across Leicestershire and Rutland by taking actions that will increase their numbers and allow them to disperse more widely across the two counties.

This document sets out the Steering Groups Policy on Mink control for Water Vole conservation agreed by its members and the organisations they represent.

- The SG support the strategic and humane control of Mink for the purpose of Water Vole conservation where Mink control guidelines and best practices* are followed to ensure maximum benefits to Water Voles.
- Projects must be well planned, ecologically sound, properly resourced, time-limited, monitored and documented.
- Those organisations represented by the steering group members will be proactive in engaging with Mink control on land that is within their responsibility in accordance with best practice.
- Those organisations that do not have direct responsibility for land but act in an advisory capacity, will work with landowners and those directly responsible for Mink control within their regions to encourage and actively support Mink control when undertaken using best practices.
- Only live-capture traps must be used, and any non-target species released unharmed.
- Methods used to capture and dispatch Mink are humane, safe and targeted i.e. by shooting with an air rifle. Mink must not be drowned or hunted with hounds.
- Mink control will be co-ordinated in parallel with habitat restoration projects to provide long-term protection for Water Vole.
- The policy will be reviewed subject to monitoring and research, and any new information on control methods or changes in best practice.

*See WaterLife Recovery Trust Operational Plan and Field Manual for Smart Mink Trapping

Leicestershire and Rutland Water Vole Steering Group Members

Anglian Water	Canal & Rivers Trust	Charnwood Borough Council
County Mammal Recorder East Midlands)	East Mercia Rivers Trust Leicester City Council	Environment Agency (Anglian and Leicestershire CC
Leics & Rutland Wildlife Trust	Severn Trent Water	Trent Rivers Trust
WaterLife Recovery Trust		

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