



Water Vole are a charismatic creature which found fame as Ratty in the classic children's book 'Wind in the Willows'

It's a familiar and well-liked species and has undergone a dramatic decline in numbers since the 1990s with the fragmentation of its habitat there's great concern for this former widespread species. Until relatively recently it attracted little or no interest. It's also an excellent indicator of the quality of waterside habitats and their associated plant communities. Water Vole also suffer predation by non native American Mink which is a major threat to them.

Adopting this iconic species could help with the following specific actions or projects for this species:

- Monitoring American Mink in the Lee Valley
- Management work to ensure the habitat is maintained in good condition
- Bankside scrub removal and in-channel vegetation management
- Restoration of natural banks, enhancement of marginal vegetation and the provision of buffers to watercourses

The key actions for this species your support could go towards are:

- Understanding the current distribution of Water Vole in the Lee Valley
- Continuing a strategic approach to control of invasive non-native
- To maintain and expand the current distribution and abundance of Water Voles in the Lee Valley
- To facilitate recolonisation of previously occupied sites
- Raising awareness of Water Vole their protected status and best practice conservation management amongst land owners and public