

Water Vole

Species Description

Scientific name: *Arvicola amphibius*

The water vole lives along rivers, streams and ditches, around ponds and lakes, and in marshes, reedbeds and areas of wet moorland. Look out for the signs of water voles, such as burrows in the riverbank, often with a nibbled 'lawn' of grass around the entrance. Water voles like to sit and eat in the same place, so piles of nibbled grass and stems may be found by the water's edge, showing a distinctive 45 degree, angled-cut at the ends. 'Latrines' of rounded, cigar-shaped droppings may also be spotted

This species is protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981. Priority Species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework.



Photo: Tom Marshall

Key ID features

Small ears

Blunt, rounded nose

Easily distinguished from brown rat, which has pointed nose, longer ears and long, scaled tail



Photo: Tom Marshall