



River & Rowing
Museum
Henley on Thames

Fact File: Water Vole

Water Voles have thick brown fur, a rounded nose, small ears and a furry tail. They range from 14cm to 22cm long and can live up to one and a half years.

They live in the muddy banks of slow-flowing rivers, canals, lakes and ditches where they make burrows and build nests made of reeds and grasses to raise their young.

Although it is rare to see a Water Vole there are a couple of signs that indicate if there is one living nearby:

- Water Voles eat plants and often leave nibbled area of grass around the entrance of their burrows.
- They make areas known as 'latrines' where they leave their droppings.

Water Voles face challenges such as the destruction of their habitats and the introduction of a new predator, the American Mink.

