



Waterlife
Recovery
Trust

To whom it may concern,

The Waterlife Recovery Trust (WRT) is looking for landowners and volunteers across Lincolnshire to support an important conservation project of eradicating the invasive American Mink. This invasive species devastates our native wildlife, particularly water voles and ground-nesting birds, reducing biodiversity and damaging the ecosystem. Our project involves establishing a trapping network across the country in order to remove them from the environment and prevent any further damage. Our traps and rafts are completely free of charge and are fitted with a remote monitoring device (RMD) that negates the legal requirement to check a trap every 24 hours. All we are looking for are landowners with suitable mink habitat (i.e., watercourses, lakes and ponds) and volunteers who will be able to monitor one or two traps and others who can dispatch any caught mink.

Your support will be helping a hugely important national project that has recently been expressed on various news outlets. If you are interested in hosting a trap or volunteering, please read on to learn more about the project and how to get involved:

The WRT Species Recovery Project first began in East Anglia in 2018 and achieved great success in eradicating mink in Norfolk and Suffolk. This is a government funded project with the aim to create a mink-free GB. Following this success, the project has expanded to cover the catchment areas from London to Lincolnshire, and we are looking for landowners within these areas to host traps and assist in the continued eradication efforts.

By partnering with us, you will receive a floating trap raft to be placed on a water course (river, lake, pond) at your site. Additionally, these traps are attached with a remote monitoring device (RMD) called a Remoti that has a magnet attached to it and the trap door. When the door shuts, the Remoti will send an email and text alert to the landowner and dedicated volunteer, alerting you to check the trap. This means you do not have to check the trap every 24 hours, saving a lot of time.

A local WRT Project Officer will set up and install each trap with you, and will provide training, guidance and year-round assistance where needed, but it will be up to a dedicated volunteer who has access to the trap to monitor each activation. The possession of a suitable firearm (a .22 air rifle is sufficient) will be needed to humanely dispatch each mink, following our advice. Your project officer will routinely visit to collect any dead mink, as well as to re-lure the trap every three months, and move its location if needed. Each responder would need to maintain good communication with the WRT Project Officer after each trap activation so that accurate records can be kept. The WRT also collects the mink carcasses, as they provide invaluable data, in a network of freezers available across the county if you are unable to use your own.

Every delay diminishes the chances of water vole and other native species recovery, and with the increasing effect of climate change and pollution their job is already hard enough, so eradicating the mink is of upmost importance for the UK ecosystem.

Please get in touch with your local Project Officer Elliot McDevitt (elliott.mcdevitt@waterliferecoverytrust.org.uk) or via the WRT website at www.waterliferecoverytrust.org.uk if you have any more questions and to hopefully arrange a date to meet.