

Restoring Ratty Conference: A critical look at water vole conservation in the UK

Day 2: Friday 12th October 2018

09:00 – 09:15	Introduction
09:15 – 10:20	Workshop 1
10:20 – 10:40	Break
10:40 – 11:45	Workshop 2
11:45 – 12:00	Thanks and field trip

1. Translocating water voles

Facilitator: Darren Tansley, Essex Wildlife Trust

Location: Great Hall

What other mitigation techniques can we use to avoid translocation?
How do we make best use of translocated water voles?
Translocating water voles in autumn?
How do we minimise predation in a new population?

2. Mink eradication or control?

Facilitator: Amy Carrick, Tees Valley Wildlife Trust

Location: Wilfrid Room

Should we be aiming for mink eradication rather than mink control?
Is this possible to achieve on the mainland?
How can we achieve mink control over a large area?
How should we interact with the public? Hearts and minds?
What funding should be involved?

3. Captive breeding and reintroduction or just reintroduction?

Facilitator: Derek Gow, Derek Gow Consultancy

Location: Etheledra Room

When do we need to reintroduce?
When should we captive breed rather than translocate?
What barriers are there to reintroduction?
We have reintroduced – what next?

4. Habitat recreation

Facilitator: Duncan Hutt, Northumberland Wildlife Trust

Location: Great Hall

Where to prioritise?

How can we reduce population isolation in urban areas?

How can we ensure the maintenance of recreated habitat?

Where to go for habitat recreation funding?

5. Continuing water vole projects once initial funding has finished

Facilitator: Katy Anderson, Forestry Commission

Location: Priors Hall

Where can we look for additional funding?

How do we support volunteers to carry on the project indefinitely?

How do we keep landowners interested?

The role of partnerships? Spreading the work?

6. Keeping the data flowing

Facilitator: Mike Pratt, Northumberland Wildlife Trust

Location: Priors Hall

How can we encourage the public to report their sightings?

How can we get data from professionals?

How can we make it accessible – conservationists/developers/public?

Who should manage this and how should it be funded?

