



# American Mink

*Neovison vison*

## Quick facts

**Order** Carnivora

**Conservation status**

GB N/A - non-native

RE CE E V NT LC DD

England N/A

Scotland N/A

Wales N/A

Global *Least concern*

**GB trend** *Stable or declining*

**Size** Body 37 cm, tail 18 cm

**Weight** Males 0.8 - 1.5 kg, females 0.5 - 0.8 kg

**Life span** 10 - 12 years

The mink has dark brown fur, appearing black when wet, and variable white patches on the chin, throat, chest, and groin. They are invasive in Great Britain and Ireland, having been introduced by escaping or being released from fur farms.

### Habitat

Semiaquatic. Rivers, wetlands, sheltered rocky coastal areas and marshland.

### Behaviour

Strictly territorial. Males maintain territories 1 - 6 km in length; females have smaller territories within or overlapped by those of males. Uses scats to mark boundaries of territory and the neighbourhood of dens, which are usually within 10 m of the water. Becomes more diurnal where it faces competition with otters or polecats.

### Diet & Feeding

A generalist, feeding on a range of prey including mammals, birds, and fish (diet is typically 1/3 of each), sometimes invertebrates including crabs, crayfish.

### Reproduction

1 litter of 4 - 6 young born in May. Sexually mature at 1 year of age.

### Conservation & Threats

Have caused serious damage to water vole populations and seabird colonies on offshore islands (especially black guillemot). Attempts to remove mink from river systems and offshore islands mainly use mink rafts and cage-trapping; these attempts have successfully eliminated the mink from North Uist in the Outer Hebrides.

### Range

