



# Bank Vole

*Myodes glareolus*

## Quick facts

Order Rodentia

## Conservation status

GB *Least concern*

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England *Least concern*

Scotland *Least concern*

Wales *Least concern*

Global *Least concern*

GB trend *Stable*

Size body 9 - 11 cm, tail 3 - 7 cm

Weight 20 - 40 g

Life span 6 - 18 months

The bank vole is reddish-brown above and cream-coloured below. It has small eyes and ears that are usually hidden under its fur, and its tail is usually half the length of its body. It is found across mainland UK and has been introduced to Ireland.

### Habitat

Strong preference for mature deciduous and mixed woodlands, also hedgerows, road verges, conifer plantations.

### Behaviour

Does not hibernate. Males occupy larger territories than females and territories of males usually overlap with those of several females.

### Diet & Feeding

Mostly plant material, especially fruits, seeds, leaves from broadleaf trees, other food sources such as flowers, grasses, moss, fungi taken opportunistically. Dead leaves are eaten in winter. Occasionally eats insects, other small invertebrates.

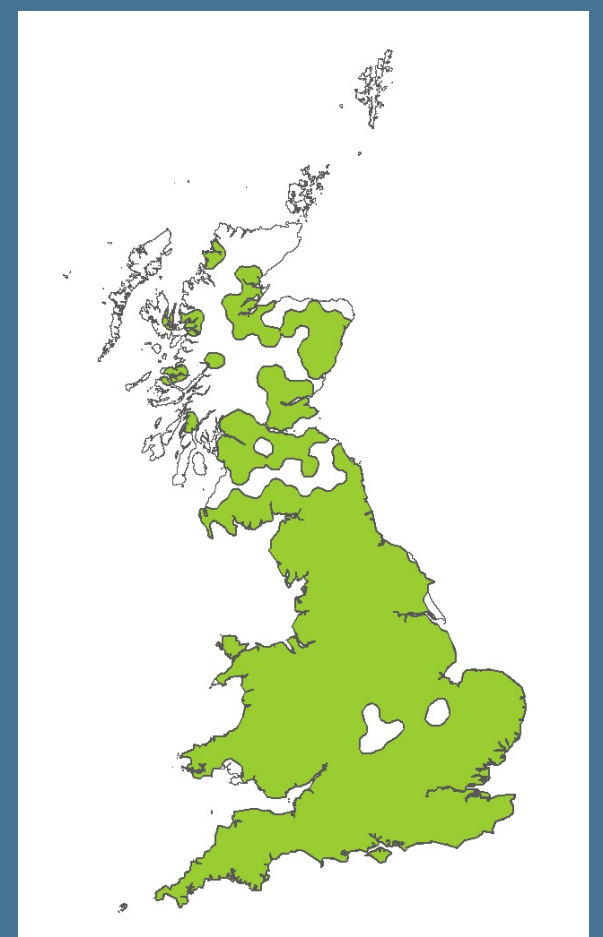
### Reproduction

Females seem to prefer more dominant males. Breeding season April - September. Up to 4 litters of 4 - 8 young, sometimes up to 10, per year.

### Conservation & Threats

Bank voles exhibit annual cycles in densities with peaks in the autumn. Multi-annual cycles are known to occur in northern Europe. Important prey of red fox, stoat, weasel, kestrel, tawny owl. Lead toxicity from roads and pesticides from farmland are threats, but due to its very wide range across Europe and western Asia it is considered common.

## Range



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