

P15 Mink monitoring and control

Theme(s):	A: Conserve and restore river habitat, and adapt to / mitigate for the physical impacts of weather extremes and climate change.
Goal(s):	A2: Retain or restore biodiversity, taking account of weather extremes and climate change.
Sub-goal(s):	A2b: Remove or manage problem non-native species, and prevent the introduction of new invasive species where possible.

Co-ordination of mink monitoring work across (and beyond) the Tyne catchment, including in the North Pennines AONB and Kielder forest, including dissemination of monitoring information to interested parties and follow-up mink control in sensitive areas. The North Pennines AONB Partnership is particularly interested in protecting the important water vole populations in the North Pennines (particularly the South Tyne, East and West Allen and Derwent) and allowing the re-colonisation of the lower parts of these sub-catchments, however most of the control needed would have to be undertaken outside of the North Pennines AONB boundary. Monitoring of water voles in response to control and other factors would also be a key element of the project. The main expenditure would be a co-ordinator post with associated travel, office and other costs, and some budget for mink rafts, traps and training events. One of the aims of the project would be to secure long-term monitoring and control of mink through the landowning/gamekeeping community.

Project Status:	Proposed
Potential Deliverer(s):	Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, Tyne Rivers Trust, Northern Gamekeepers Association, Country Land & Business Association, National Farmers Union, Environment Agency, Northumberland Wildlife Trust, Durham Wildlife Trust, North Pennines AONB Partnership, Northumberland National Park Authority
Estimated Timeframe:	1 to 5 years
Estimated Project Cost:	£100,000 to £250,000
Protected area link:	North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty