

Common name	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 4
European otter	X			X
Water vole		X		
Brown rat			X	
American mink			X	
Common kingfisher		X		
Grey heron	X		X	
Common moorhen	X		X	
Mallard duck	X	X	X	X
Mute swan			X	
Common frog	X	X		X
European eel				X
Northern pike				X
European perch				X
Common minnow	X	X		
Common roach	X	X	X	X
North American signal crayfish	X		X	
Water spider				X
Emperor dragonfly		X		X
Common darter	X		X	
Common mayfly		X		
Blue tailed damselfly		X		

Species impact on the environment

Which of these species are predators?

European otter, grey heron, American mink, common kingfisher, Northern pike, European perch, North American signal crayfish and water spider.

Are there any endangered species present?

Water vole and European eel.

Are there any invasive species present?

American mink was introduced to the UK in 1929 for fur farming. Many escaped or were deliberately released. Wild breeding has been confirmed since 1956. This species is linked to the decline in water vole populations.

North American signal crayfish were first introduced into the UK for the seafood market in the 1970s. Signal crayfish burrow into riverbanks, causing considerable damage to the structure and vegetation. As well as environmental damage, North American signal crayfish are responsible for a big decline in the native white-clawed crayfish in Britain, which they have both outcompeted and infected with a fungal disease known as 'crayfish plague'.

The brown rat was introduced to the UK around 1720, carried by ships from Central Asia. It quickly adapted to the UK environment and has since spread throughout the country. The brown rat has outcompeted the native black rat, causing their numbers to decline. Brown rats can spread disease impacting native wildlife.

Are any species indicators of good water quality?

Mayflies are very sensitive to pollution and their presence is a strong indicator of good water quality, as they require oxygen-rich water to lay their eggs and for nymphs to develop.