

Water Vole Survey Report

Sand Street, Longbridge Deveril, Warminster

Amelia Airey, Wiltshire Council

SUMMARY

Wiltshire Council undertook preliminary Water Vole surveys on the River Wylfe at Sand Street, BA12 7DS. The aims of the survey were to ascertain whether the projects associated with Revamp the Tank would have any impacts on protected species.

Despite the site supporting some habitat and historical Water Vole records along the river corridor in this location, no evidence of Water Vole were found at this location.

The proposed replacement of several septic tanks in this area would therefore be unlikely to result in negative adverse impacts and therefore no recommendations for licensing or mitigation will be required for this species.

1.0 AIMS

The survey conducted aimed to determine the presence or likely absence of Water Vole at the location as well as determining the impact of the Revamp the Tank upgrades proposed in this location. The survey area covered a small stretch of the River Wylfe from approximately ST 8701 4088 to ST 8698 4095.

2.0 METHODS

The field survey followed methods outlined by 'peoples trust for endangered species' using National Water Vole Monitoring Programme methods. The survey was undertaken in September 2025 by Wiltshire Council ecologist Amelia Airey.

3.0 RESULTS

The River Wylfe has a partial artificial bank for some of the survey length making it unsuitable for burrows. The remainder of the bank profile was low and thus less suitable. No burrows were observed. No latrines, feeding signs or footprints were observed. It was therefore deemed that this small section of the River Wylfe does not support populations of Water Vole.

It should be noted that upstream outside of the survey area reedbed and taller denser vegetation were observed which may provide more suitable habitat, additionally the depth and water flow observed is considered to be suitable to support Water Voles.