

# Mammals of Dumfries

A checklist of the mammals recorded in and around Dumfries · 29 species

|                          |                                                                                     |                                                        |                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> |    | <b>American Mink</b> <i>Neogale vison</i>              | Escaped from fur farms, and the single biggest reason the water vole has all but gone.                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |    | <b>Badger</b> <i>Meles meles</i>                       | The striped face is famous; the sett beneath it may be centuries old and dug by generations.           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |    | <b>Bank Vole</b> <i>Myodes glareolus</i>               | Blunt-nosed and chestnut-red — the vole most likely to appear under a Dumfries bird feeder.            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |    | <b>Brown Hare</b> <i>Lepus europaeus</i>               | Long black-tipped ears, golden eyes and a flat-out sprint that no rabbit could manage.                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |    | <b>Brown Long-eared Bat</b><br><i>Plecotus auritus</i> | Ears nearly as long as its body — and it hunts so quietly it is known as the whispering bat.           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |    | <b>Brown Rat</b> <i>Rattus norvegicus</i>              | Introduced, adaptable and genuinely clever — and never as far from you as you think.                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |    | <b>Common Shrew</b> <i>Sorex araneus</i>               | Must eat every few hours or die — a life lived at a pace nothing else here can match.                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <b>Daubenton's bat</b> <i>Myotis daubentonii</i>       | A low, fast flier that skims insects straight off the water's surface.                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <b>Field Vole</b> <i>Microtus agrestis</i>             | The animal that feeds half the region's predators — kestrels, owls, foxes and stoats all run on voles. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <b>Grey Squirrel</b> <i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>       | Introduced from North America, and the main reason the red squirrel is in retreat.                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <b>Hedgehog</b> <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>             | A gap the size of a CD cut in a garden fence is the single most useful thing you can do for one.       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <b>House Mouse</b> <i>Mus musculus</i>                 | Greyer, smaller-eyed and mustier than a wood mouse — and it came here with the first farmers.          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <b>Mole</b> <i>Talpa europaea</i>                      | You will see the molehills long before you see the mole — most people never see one at all.            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <b>Natterer's Bat</b> <i>Myotis nattereri</i>          | Gleans insects straight off leaves and bark, and can take a spider out of its own web.                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <b>Noctule bat</b> <i>Nyctalus noctula</i>             | The UK's biggest bat, cutting fast and high overhead on summer evenings.                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <b>Otter</b> <i>Lutra lutra</i>                        | A sleek, whiskered hunter that slips along the Nith and Solway shore mostly unseen.                    |

|                          |                                                                                     |                                                         |                                                                                                           |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> |     | <b>Pipistrelle bat</b> <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i> | The UK's commonest and smallest bat, flickering over gardens and hedgerows at dusk.                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |    | <b>Pygmy Shrew</b> <i>Sorex minutus</i>                 | Britain's smallest mammal — an adult weighs less than a two-pence coin.                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |    | <b>Rabbit</b> <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>              | Brought here by the Normans as livestock, escaped, and reshaped the British countryside.                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |    | <b>Red Fox</b> <i>Vulpes vulpes</i>                     | The scream on a January night is not distress — it is a vixen advertising for a mate.                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |    | <b>Red Squirrel</b> <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>             | Dumfries and Galloway is one of the last strongholds in Britain — and holding the line takes active work. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |    | <b>Roe Deer</b> <i>Capreolus capreolus</i>              | The deer you are most likely to meet around Dumfries — small, neat, and gone in three bounds.             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |    | <b>Soprano Pipistrelle</b> <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i> | Identical to the common pipistrelle by eye — it took a bat detector to prove it was a separate species.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |    | <b>Stoat</b> <i>Mustela erminea</i>                     | The black tail-tip is the whole identification — a weasel has no such thing.                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |   | <b>Water Shrew</b> <i>Neomys fodiens</i>                | Britain's only venomous mammal, and it swims with a silver skin of trapped air.                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <b>Water Vole</b> <i>Arvicola amphibius</i>             | 'Ratty' from The Wind in the Willows — and Britain's fastest-declining wild mammal.                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <b>Weasel</b> <i>Mustela nivalis</i>                    | Britain's smallest carnivore — small enough to hunt a vole down its own tunnel.                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <b>Whiskered Bat</b> <i>Myotis mystacinus</i>           | So similar to Brandt's bat that for two centuries nobody realised they were two species.                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <b>Wood Mouse</b> <i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>            | Huge black eyes, enormous ears and a habit of getting into the shed every autumn.                         |

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