



Wetland



Pipistrelle
Photo by Andrew Chick

Bats love the insects that freshwater habitats, such as rivers and wetlands, provide. They fly 2-10m above the ground catching and eating their food 'on the wing'. A tiny pipistrelle can eat from 2,000 - 3,000 insects in one night.



Common Frog

Common Frog, usually found in wetlands, due to the shelter and refuge they supply.

Wetlands - Biological Super System!

Wetlands support a vast and varied floral mix, which ensures a constant and abundant food supply for the rest of the food web. Because of this, wetlands are remarkably species rich and provide huge levels of biodiversity - just like rainforest and coral reefs!



White Clawed Crayfish

White Clawed Crayfish are omnivores that eat invertebrates, carrion, aquatic plants, and dead organic materials - all of which can be found in healthy and vibrant wetlands.

Ecological Significance

Wetlands are critical habitats that support a diverse range of terrestrial, aquatic and specialist wetland plants and animals.

By creating habitats that provide a food supply for high quantity invertebrates and herbivores, we can in turn support both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. Endangered and protected species, such as the UK native White Clawed Crayfish, and the European Water Vole, who depend on these habitats, will then have the potential to thrive.

Submerged aquatic plants that become established in wetlands provide crucial shelter and refuge, ensuring a secure place for egg laying. The shallower water created will also provide shelter, breeding habitats and food sources for amphibians, such as frogs, toads, and newts so that they can survive and colonize.

Backwater or secondary channels provide refuge and spawning habitat for coarse fish, such as Roach and Chub, away from the main channel.

Recreation of Wetlands - The Benefits

Where floodplains can be reconnected and wetlands recreated, there can be many benefits including the storage of water in higher flows and the creation of secondary channels. Often referred to as backwaters, secondary channels are beneficial to wildlife; they are often shallower and flow more slowly than the main channel, sometimes only flowing when the water level of the main channel is higher.

Where floodplains cannot be reconnected, there remains the opportunity to create invaluable ground or spring water fed wetlands, providing food sources, spawning habitats and shelter and refuge for both terrestrial and aquatic species.



Water Vole

Water voles have undergone serious decline across Britain due to habitat degradation, pollution, and predation, so creating habitats to support declining numbers is crucial for their survival. They are herbivores, and their favourite foods includes wetland plants.

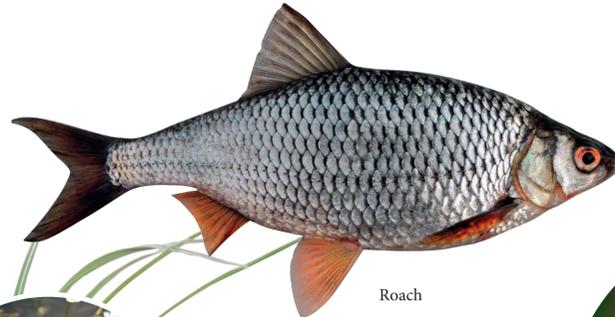
Wetland Importance

Wetlands are some of the most important habitats in the world, providing environments for birds, amphibians, insects, fish, and other aquatic species, to feed, reproduce and live in.

They also provide valuable ecological functions such as filtration and water level regulation. Sadly, human impacts have damaged and destroyed more than half of the world's wetlands since the beginning of the 20th Century.

Wetland areas are priority habitats in need of conservation and reintroduction; high rainfall within the

UK provides the perfect conditions for the formation and reintroduction of wetland environments. However, there are very few opportunities to create these habitats in urban areas, as former floodplains are often built on and are disconnected from the river.



Roach



Branched Bur-reed



Water Crowfoot



Water Forget Me Not



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