

STOATS



Stoats sometimes referred to as weasels , however weasels do not exist in Ireland . Rarely seen, they predate mainly on rabbits , rats , mice and birds . Living in dens in woodland , mainly nocturnal and protected by law .

MINK



The Mink similar to the stoat however the Mink is an invasive species. Introduced and bred for its fur escaping to breed and colonise in the wild . Mink are a pest due to the damage they do to the indigenous wild life including fish and ground nesting game birds .

THE HEDGEHOG



The Hedgehog resides in hedgerows , thickets and deciduous woodlands . Feeding on slugs snails , and even dead carrion . Nocturnal scavenger hibernates December to March

Six Mile Water Trust Charity
Registration : NIC102285

The Six Mile Water Trust



MAMMALS OF THE SIX MILE WATER



£1.00

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THE BADGER (BROC)



Badgers are fairly common throughout the Six Mile . Building their underground setts in wooded or thicket areas of uncultivated land .Being nocturnal and shy they are rarely seen during daylight hours .

Badgers and their setts are protected under the "Wildlife Orders " As Omnivores they eat plant roots & bulbs , insects , grubs and have been known to include rabbits and hedgehogs in their diet .

THE FOX

The Red Fox is common and is extremely adaptable to urban habitats , raiding domestic bins The fox lives in a "den " giving birth of up to 6 cubs per litter a year . The male or dog fox may have 2 or 3 females vixens in a group .Cubs are born blind and deaf and are protected by the vixen during this time, with the dog provides food.



Foxes are not protected and classed as vermin due to a tendency to predate on chickens & lambs . However rabbits , rats and mice make up a large proportion of the diet.

THE OTTER (TARKA)

The charismatic character of the river. The Otter indicates a healthy river system . Otters whilst fairly common , like most wild mammals are rarely seen .Residing in holts they can roam for up to 20km in search of food . Again Otters are protected in law. As Piscivores they eat mainly fish and eels however small birds , frogs and crayfish can be on the menu.



SQUIRRELS



Whilst there has been no recent sightings of the indigenous Red Squirrel (inset) ,Grey squirrels introduced in 1911 have spread throughout Ireland . With the competition for food ,lack of woodland and "Squirrel Pox" is thought to have been the demise of the Red . Squirrels live in dreys and forage the woodland eating mainly seeds , nuts , buds ,tree bark and flowers .