

## Good or bad for water voles?

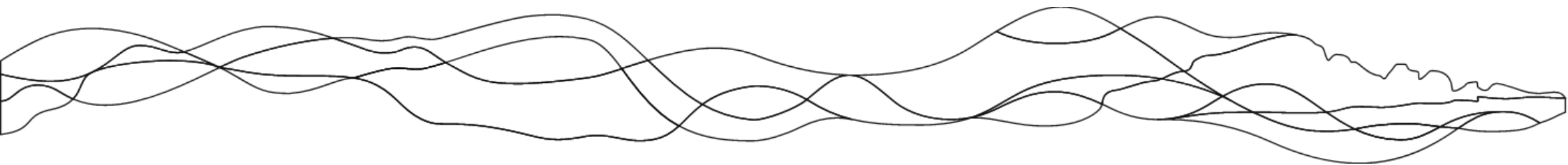
Print out pages double sided

Cut to create a set of 12 flashcards

Investigate how water voles survive on a river

Start a discussion about adaptations and behaviours

Answers and additional information on Page 2

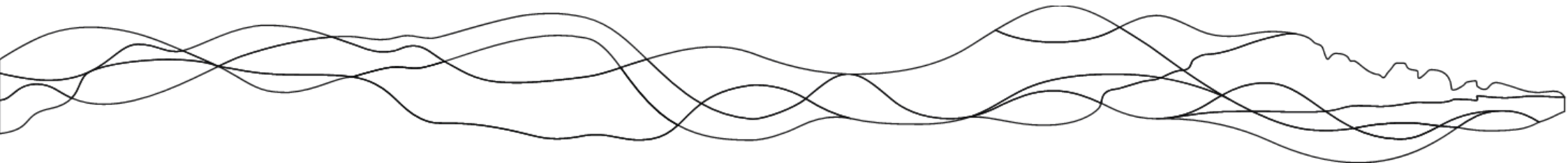


## Good

1. New water voles have been re-introduced to the river (population boost)
2. The voles have found lots of food in the summer and built up high levels of body fat (helps them to survive winter, when populations naturally/seasonally decline)
3. River banks are re-planted with a variety of herbs and grasses (providing a rich variety of food sources, voles eat over 200 different species of plant)
4. There are lots of snails living in the river (additional protein food source)
5. There are lots of flowers growing on the banks of the river (another additional food source)
6. The river banks are very high (high banks provide lots of space for burrows and tunnel networks)

## Bad

1. There are lots of herons living on the river (herons are a natural predator of the water vole)
2. American mink have been spotted on the river (the water voles have no defence mechanism against this non-native species)
3. Winter temperatures are much colder than usual (the water vole population goes into serious decline)
4. The water levels on the river are lower than usual (exposing the water voles' burrows and tunnel network to predators)
5. The river floods and the water level reaches the water vole burrows (voles are forced to abandon their territory and are more likely to be caught by predators)
6. Cows find a way to the river edge and walk along the banks to drink from the river (the heavy animals can crush the banks and collapse the water voles' network of tunnels)



SOUTH DOWNS  
NATIONAL PARK

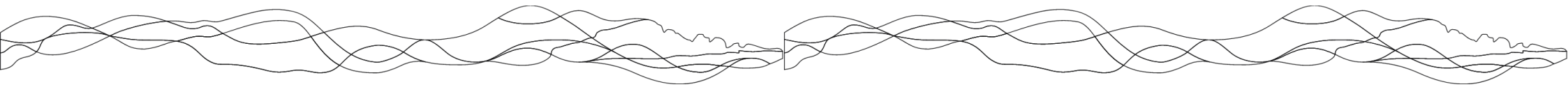
Good or bad for water voles?

The voles have found lots of food in the summer and built up high levels of body fat.

SOUTH DOWNS  
NATIONAL PARK

Good or bad for water voles?

There are lots of herons living on the river.



SOUTH DOWNS  
NATIONAL PARK

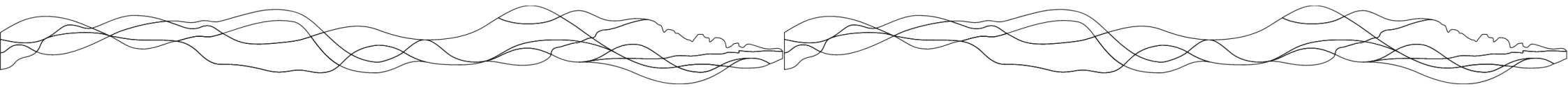
Good or bad for water voles?

New water voles have been re-introduced to the river.

SOUTH DOWNS  
NATIONAL PARK

Good or bad for water voles?

River banks are re-planted with a variety of herbs and grasses.

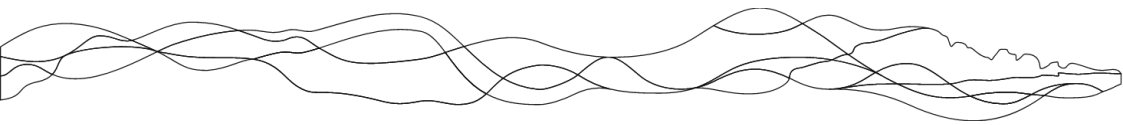




SOUTH DOWNS  
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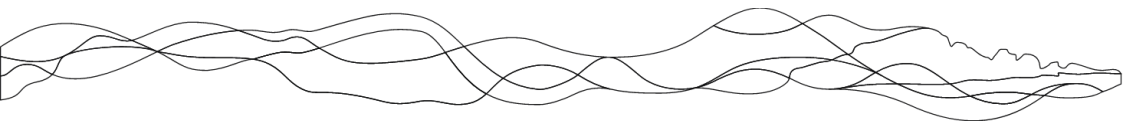
American mink have been spotted on the river.



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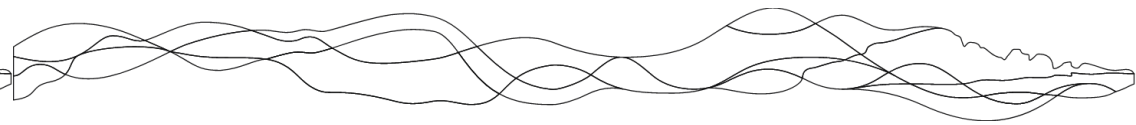
There are lots of snails living in the river.



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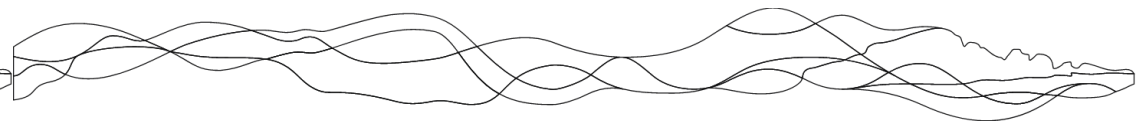
Winter temperatures are much colder than usual.



SOUTH DOWNS  
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Good or bad for water voles?

There are lots of flowers growing on the banks of the river.

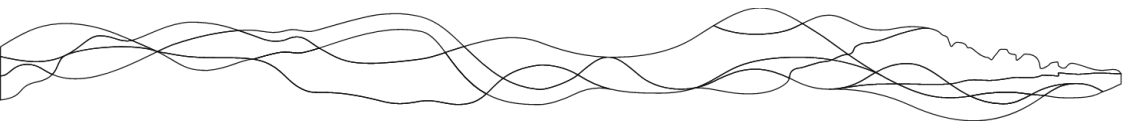




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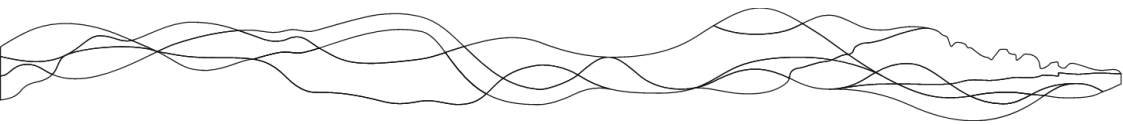
The water levels on the river are lower than usual.



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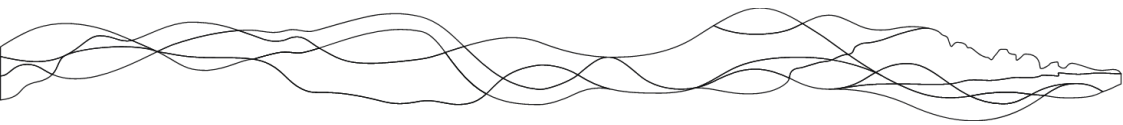
The river floods and the water level reaches the water vole burrows.



SOUTH DOWNS  
NATIONAL PARK

Good or bad for water voles?

Cows find a way to the river edge and walk along the banks to drink from the river.



SOUTH DOWNS  
NATIONAL PARK

Good or bad for water voles?

The river banks are very high.

