

# Windows on Wildlife

## Weasels



### Widespread but Elusive

Weasels can be found in many different habitats but due to their small size they can be hard to see. Look out for them along dry stone walls and field margins. A good spot to see them is the Lochshore path.

### Small but Mighty

They may be small but this adaptation allow weasels to pursue their small mammal prey, such as mice and voles, down into their burrows.

## Who's who?



### Weaselly Recognisable

Weasels are smaller than stoats. They have a short tail with a blunt tip and an irregular line between the russet-brown back and white belly.

### Stoatally Different

Look for the long tail with a black tip to the end. In summer the stoat has a brown back and a white belly. In winter stoats often go white all over, weasels do not.



## Weaselly Signs



### Rarely Found but Easy to Identify

Weasel poo is long, very thin and twisted. It often contains fur and can be found at dens or in prominent places. Their tracks can be hard to find but the weaving paths they take can be sometimes seen in soft mud or fresh snow.



### Are they Villians?

Portrayed as bloodthirsty in 'Wind in the Willows', weasels are efficient, aggressive and bold beyond their size. However, they are graceful, inquisitive and fun to watch. Try squeaking on the back of your hand when you see one. They will often come in for a closer look thinking the noise is made by potential prey.

### Nocturnal or Not

Weasels are active throughout the day and night. They usually spend about 40 minutes foraging before resting for a couple of hours. If the weather is warm they may be found resting above ground.

