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Invasive mammal issues and control in the UK

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The UK is a group of large islands off the coast of mainland Europe. The native mammalian fauna has been increased by the introduction of a wide range of exotic and at times invasive mammalian species. These have had a range of impacts on the native fauna and environment, both on the main islands and on many smaller offshore islands which contain high levels of native biodiversity.

This paper will review the introductions and impacts of different mammalian species, highlighting those species that have caused particular conflicts and issues. It will also consider and review the routes by which these species have been introduced and the risks of future establishment of other species and ways of mitigating these risks. The paper will then concentrate on the various control methods and programmes that have been employed to manage and in some cases eradicate invasive mammals in the UK, with particular emphasis on the Coypu and American Mink.