

Marten Map

Data Submission User Guide

National Pine Marten Monitoring
Programme — June 2025

Introduction

This guide will detail how to enter your pine marten monitoring data into VWT's online National Pine Marten Monitoring Programme form. The database is hosted by ArcGIS and enables the collected data to be mapped and analysed.

Please note: Records can only be uploaded via an internet browser on your device not through the Survey123 mobile app.

The online form is designed to capture data from the following monitoring survey types

- Den box
- Monitoring station
- Scat sampling

If you have seen a pine marten (alive or dead) outside of your structured monitoring surveys and wish to share this incidental sighting with VWT, please enter your record into our incidental records form: <https://arcg.is/L1fG0> or contact us at enquiries@vwt.org.uk

Quick reference notes

Entering dates

Anywhere a date is requested, please note that depending on your web browser settings, Survey123's date format may display in the American format (MM/DD/YYYY).

Please use the calendar to ensure that you are entering the correct date.

Be assured that the correct date will be recorded in British format (DD/MM/YYYY) in our database.

Submitting trail camera monitoring data

The system has been designed so that monitoring data from a den box or fixed position monitoring station need only be submitted once a year. If your monitoring involves a trail camera, we do not require data for each time you visited the camera, eg, to change batteries. You can simply enter data at the end of your monitoring period.

Required fields

Some elements of the survey form need to be completed before you can submit your records. These are indicated with an *.

Marten Map Pine Marten Monitoring Survey Form

Fine Marten Monitoring Survey Form

Location of observation*

Use the map to identify the location of your monitoring point. Enter a postcode or nearby location (e.g. town/village) in the search box. Zoom in on the map and navigate to your monitoring point, and pin the location. If you're monitoring a den box where the location needs to be consistent between years, make a note of the lat/long (dec, min, sec format) for future use and past time enter this directly into the search box. If you already have a grid reference for your den box visit www.gridreferencefinder.com to convert to lat/long. See the Marten Map user guide for further info.

Kinross Forest, Wigtown, Scotland

Cartosat-3 Imagery © 2019

Lat: 54.962456 Lon: -4.426328

Surveyor/recorder name*

Contact email*

Surveyor/recorder organisation type*

Please select:

Is data entry by the surveyor

☐ No ☒ Yes

Survey type*

☐ Den Box ☐ Monitoring Station ☐ Scat Sampling

Data sharing

By submitting information on this form I agree that it may be used and shared for environmental decision making, education, research and other public benefit uses in accordance with NPM&M Marten Map's Terms of Use available on the pinemartens.uk website.

Section 1 — location, contributors and survey type

Location of observation

- To be able to use the map function, you may need to allow your device's location to be used by ArcGIS Survey123. This can be changed in your internet browser's settings.
- Use the map to enter the location of the den box/monitoring station/scat sample. To navigate to the general area, you can enter the name of the nearest town/village in the search box and then use the cursor to move the map.
- To zoom in and out, you can either use the + and - keys to the top left of the map or use **Control+Scroll** on your mouse.
- The blue tag on the map identifies your monitoring point and the corresponding Latitude and Longitude is automatically populated at the bottom of the map. You can also copy and paste latitude/longitude coordinates in the degs, mins, secs format (eg: 54° 55'39"N , 003° 48'36"W) directly into the search box and click on the search button (magnifying glass) to navigate to the corresponding location on the map. See FAQs (page 9).

Top tip

If you cannot easily find the location via the map base that is pre-loaded, you can change the map view by selecting the icon in the top right-hand corner. For example, the Imagery Hybrid map view will also display some roads and place names to help you navigate.

Important Note – If you monitor a den box, the coordinates must remain the same for every monitoring record associated with that den box.

When a den box is installed (or if you are entering monitoring data for the first time if already installed), the exact location should be recorded at that time using a GPS enabled device. Please keep a record of these exact coordinates and enter these same coordinates every time you are entering your monitoring data for that den box. If you have already recorded the location with a grid reference, you can convert British National Grid References to Latitude/Longitude coordinates using [Grid Reference Finder](#). See [FAQs](#) for further information on converting grid references to lat/longs.

Contributors' details

Surveyor/recorder name

- Please enter your first and last name.

Contact email address

- Please enter your email address – this is the email address that VWT will use if we need to contact you regarding this data record.

Surveyor/recorder organisation type

- Choose your organisation type from the drop-down list (ie, Wildlife Trusts, Project/Group, Government Agency, Private Business) or select 'individual' if you are not associated with an organisation or group.
If you are a volunteer or den box host for VWT's Martens on the Move project, please choose Wildlife Trusts for the organisation type and then select Vincent Wildlife Trust as your organisation.
- If your organisation or group is not on the list, please select 'other'.
- If you would like your organisation/group added to the list, please get in touch at enquiries@vwt.org.uk

Is the data entry by the surveyor?

- If you are entering your own monitoring data, please select 'Yes'
- If you are entering monitoring data for someone else, please select 'No'

NB If you are entering data on behalf of someone else, VWT may need to be put in touch with the original surveyor should queries on the data arise.

Survey type

- Choose the type of survey that you will be providing monitoring data for.
 - Den Box
 - Monitoring Station
 - Scat Sampling
- The next stage of the recording form will now become visible to you.

Depending on the survey type you have undertaken, skip to the relevant section of this guidance document.

Section 2 (page 5) for den box and monitoring station data

Section 3 (page 8) for scat sampling data.

Section 4 (page 8) for information on how to submit your data.

Section 5 (page 9) for FAQs.

Section 2 — Den Box and Monitoring Station data

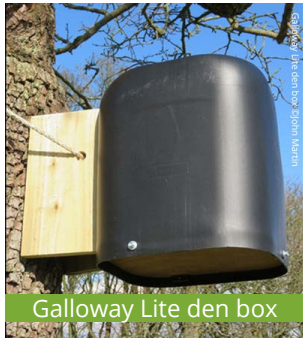
Den box/monitoring station details

Den box type

- Choose the type of den box you are entering data for.



VWT den box



Galloway Lite den box



Bespoke den box



Pine Marten Lite



Wildlife Box Mk 2

Monitoring station types

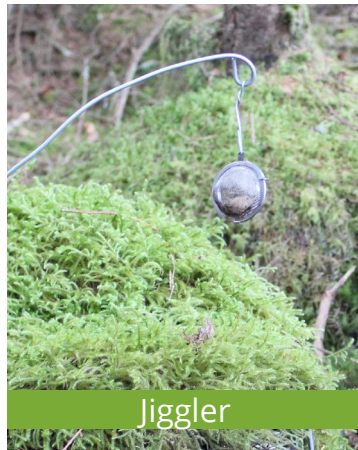
- Choose the type of monitoring station you are entering data for (ie, feeder box, free bait, jigglers, T-sniffer, non-baited, or other).



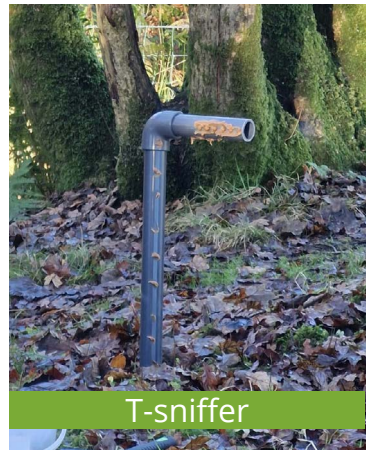
Pine marten feeder



Free bait



Jiggler



T-sniffer

Land owner/land manager

- Provide the name of the landowner/land manager of the land where the den box or monitoring station is located – this might be you.

Den box/monitoring station owner

- Provide the name of the person or organisation that owns the den box or monitoring station – this might be you. If you do not know the name, please type 'not known'.

For VWT Martens on the Move volunteers, please enter VWT as the den box owner.

Date den box/monitoring station visited

- Provide the date that you last visited the den box or monitoring station (eg, to retrieve the SD card from the trail camera or to retrieve the trail camera) and are entering the data for. [See FAQs for more information.](#)
- To select the date, click on the small calendar icon at the left-hand side of the box. Use the left and right arrows at the top of the calendar to navigate to the correct month and then click on the date to select it. The date box will be automatically populated. [See Quick reference notes on page 2 for further information.](#)

Detection equipment

Thermal imager used

- Was a thermal imager used to monitor the den box? Choose 'No' or 'Yes'

Important Note – If a heat signature is detected, you must not approach within 5m of the den box, regardless of the time of year.

If 'No' is selected, go straight to [Fresh/recent scats on the den box lid](#)

If 'Yes' is selected

- Was a heat signature detected? Choose 'No' or 'Yes'

If 'Yes' is selected go to [Fresh/recent scats on the den box lid](#)

If 'No' is selected go to [Autumn maintenance checks undertaken](#)

Autumn maintenance checks undertaken

VWT has received several requests for the system to be able to record details of autumn maintenance checks at den boxes. If this does not apply to you, simply choose 'No' and move onto the next section.

- Have you carried out autumn maintenance checks?
Choose 'No' or 'Yes'

If 'No' is selected go to [Fresh/recent scats on the den box lid](#)

If 'Yes' is selected go to [Evidence of recent occupation](#)

Evidence of recent occupation

- Was there a depression in the wood shavings (if present), fresh scats on the ground or fresh claw marks on the tree branches below the den box? Choose 'No' or 'Yes'

NB If you are carrying out maintenance checks, they must only be undertaken during the autumn when a den box is least likely to be occupied by a pine marten. Maintenance does not need to be carried out annually; pine martens do not bring in nesting material, and den boxes can last many years without maintenance. Only people experienced in den box maintenance should undertake this work. Please email enquiries@vwt.org.uk for further information.

Fresh/recent scats on the den box lid

- Choose 'No', 'Yes' or 'Don't Know'.
Please choose 'Don't Know' if you are unsure whether there are fresh or recent scats on the den box lid.

NB Scats on the lid can be difficult to view from the ground unless you can move to elevated ground and have binoculars. Scats can easily be confused with pine cones and accumulations of leaf litter – and vice versa.

Trail cameras

- Is there a trail camera installed? Choose 'No' or 'Yes'.

If 'Yes' is selected

- Enter the date the trail camera was first installed, using the calendar as per the instructions for date entry provided above.

And

- Enter the last date that the data was retrieved from the trail camera using the calendar.

Pine marten detected

- Did you observe a pine marten on the trail camera footage that you reviewed? Choose 'No' or 'Yes'

NB It is important to know where monitoring is occurring even if pine martens are not detected.

If 'Yes' is selected, further pine marten details will be collected.

If 'No' is selected, go to [Other species using den box or monitoring station](#).

Pine marten details

Marten adult detected

- Was an adult pine marten detected? Choose 'No' or 'Yes'

If 'Yes' is selected, further data about the adult pine marten(s) will be collected

Maximum number of pine martens

- Enter the maximum number of adult martens you have seen together at **any one time**.

Maximum number of recognised pine martens

- Enter the maximum number of different adult martens that you can **confidently** recognise after reviewing all the footage.

Marten adult first date detected

- Enter the date that an adult marten was first detected by using the calendar as per the date entry instructions at the start of this document.

Marten adult last date detected

- Enter the date that an adult marten was last detected by using the calendar as per the date entry instructions at the start of this document.

Marten kit/juvenile detected

- Were any kits or juveniles detected?
Choose 'No' or 'Yes'

If 'Yes' is selected, further data about the pine marten kit(s) and juvenile(s) will be collected

Maximum number of kits/juveniles

- Enter the maximum number of kits and juveniles you have seen together at **any one time**.

Maximum number of recognised kits/juveniles

- Enter the maximum number of different kits and juveniles that you can **confidently** recognise after reviewing all the footage.

Marten kits/juveniles first date detected

- Enter the date that kits and juveniles were first detected by using the calendar as per the date entry instructions at the start of this document.

Marten kits/juveniles last date detected

- Enter the date that kits and juveniles were last detected by using the calendar as per the date entry instructions at the start of this document.

Other species using den box or monitoring station

- Please choose from the options available to record any other animals that were recorded by your camera or thermal imager at your den box or monitoring station.

NB You may have only seen a maximum of one adult at any one time, but you may be able to tell individuals from one another (eg, due to their unique bib patterns) and therefore can conclude there is more than one marten. Please only include the number of recognised individual adult martens where you are sure there are different individuals.

NB For the purposes of this form, we are considering kits to be very young pine martens that are seen with their mother. They may struggle with climbing and are not independent. Juveniles are older and may appear almost fully grown, should be exhibiting independent behaviour, and they may or may not be observed with their mother. If you are having difficulties deciding if you are observing a juvenile or an adult, email enquiries@vwt.org.uk

NB The maximum number of recognised kits/juveniles may differ from the maximum number of kits seen at any one time. For example, you saw two marten kits at once and saw their unique bib patterns, but you know there are three kits because you have seen another kit with a different bib pattern on the same camera. Please only include the number of recognised individual kits/juveniles where you are sure there are different individuals.

Please review and submit your information – see 'Submitting your data' on page 8.

Section 3 — Scat sampling

Pine marten scat details

Scat confirmation

- Select 'unconfirmed' if you are confident that you have found a pine marten scat sample, but it has **NOT** been verified as a pine marten scat by DNA testing.
- Select 'confirmed' if your scat sample has been DNA tested and confirmed to be that of a pine marten based on the results.

Scat notes

- Please provide a detailed but concise description regarding size, shape, colour, contents and smell of the scat and keep photographs.

Please review and submit your information.

NB *In most cases scats will be unconfirmed. VWT is unable to receive potential pine marten scats in the post and to DNA test all scats, but will contact you if interested in having your scat sample DNA tested — this will likely only be for scats that are found in areas where pine martens have not previously been confirmed.*

Section 4 — Submitting your data

Submitting your data

To submit your data please click 'submit your data'. VWT will then have access to your monitoring data for review and acceptance. If you need to change anything after submitting, please get in touch enquiries@vwt.org.uk

Data sharing

By submitting your data, you agree that it may be used and shared for environmental decision making, education, research and other public benefit uses in accordance with the National Pine Marten Monitoring Programme Marten Map Terms of Use, which is available to view online [HERE](#) and may be updated from time to time. Your personal contact information will be securely stored and will never be shared elsewhere.

Section 5 — FAQs

I'm having problems entering the location into the survey form's map – what should I do?

Latitude/longitude coordinates can be copied and pasted into the search bar on the map – click on the magnifying glass symbol to navigate to the location on the map. We recommend using latitude/longitude coordinates in the deg, mins, secs format (rather than the decimal format) to reduce issues arising.

NB Please note Survey123 does not recognise British National Grid References. To convert a grid reference to latitude/longitude, we recommend using www.gridreferencefinder.com. You may also need to check that the Survey123 website/your internet browser has permission to use your device's location – check your internet browser's settings. If there are still problems with entering the location, please let us know at enquiries@vwt.org.uk

My trail camera is permanently set up, but I haven't recorded any pine martens yet – how should I enter my data?

If your trail camera is permanently set up, treat each year as a separate monitoring session. For the camera **installation date** use 1st January, and for the camera **retrieved date** use 31st December. Recorder effort and pine marten absence are important, so if you check your camera regularly but are not recording pine martens, this absence data should be entered once a year (not every single time you have retrieved your trail camera data).

My trail camera is permanently set up and I record pine martens all the time – how should I enter my data?

If your trail camera is permanently set up, treat each year as a separate monitoring session. For the camera **installation date** use 1st January, and for the camera **retrieved date** use 31st December. There is no need to submit your data every time you retrieve and check your trail camera files. The system is designed to require data to be entered only once per year but you are welcome to submit your data bi-annually or slightly more often if this suits your management style of your trail camera.

If you would like to submit your data more frequently than once per year, please enter the last date that you retrieved data (ie, the SD card or video/photo files) from the camera as your retrieval date. The next time you submit records for your permanent monitoring point, use the following day as the installation date.

I monitor a large number of den boxes or trail cameras – how can I contribute?

If you monitor more than ten den boxes or trail cameras please contact enquiries@vwt.org.uk for a spreadsheet template for bulk upload of your data, and VWT will upload your data into the National Pine Marten Monitoring Programme database.

Why is an error message preventing me from submitting the form?

Please scroll back through your answers and check you have answered the indicated required questions in the requested format. The survey form will highlight incorrect answers in red. If problems persist, please contact enquiries@vwt.org.uk

Can I preview my data before submitting or edit my data after submitting?

Previewing the data in a final format is not possible. Please simply scroll back up through your answers to check the data that you have entered before pressing the 'submit' button. You cannot edit your data after submission. If you have made any errors that require explanation/correction, please contact enquiries@vwt.org.uk and we can make any required changes to the submitted data.

How do I record the data from my den box maintenance visit?

You can use this form to record evidence of pine marten occupation collected during autumn maintenance work. Den box maintenance work is only permitted during autumn (September, October, November) when pine martens are least likely to be present in the den boxes and should only be undertaken by people who have appropriate experience. You must always first use a thermal imager to confirm that the den box is unoccupied. For this reason, maintenance check data entry options are only visible when the 'Yes' box is selected in the 'Thermal imager used' section under 'Detection equipment'. Please contact enquiries@vwt.org.uk for further information about den box maintenance.

How do I tell adults, juveniles and kits apart?

Adult pine martens will be the size of a medium-sized domestic cat, with males typically 40% larger than females. For the purposes of this form, we are considering **pine marten kits** to be very young pine martens that are seen with their mother. They may struggle with climbing and are not independent and may be seen being carried by their mother. **Pine marten juveniles** are older and may appear almost fully grown, should be exhibiting independent behaviour, and they may or may not be pictured with their mother.

For more information on pine martens, including videos of kits and juveniles, visit www.pinemartens.uk





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