

Welsh Otter

FACT SHEET



The Welsh Otter Survey is a project that monitors the population of Otters in Wales.

Scientists and volunteers work together to gather information about where otters live and how their numbers are changing.

- In the 1970's, otters had disappeared from most British rivers.
- In Wales, over 1,000 sites were visited, with signs of otters found at **20%** of sites.
- The second survey in 1984 found signs of otters at **38%** of sites.
- The third survey in 1991 found signs of otters at **38%** of sites.
- In 2002, otters were found at **72%** of sites, with 90% of sites with signs of otters in 2009-10.
- Between 2015-2018, **71%** of sites showed signs of otters.

Otter Homes

Otters build cosy homes called 'holts'.

They often choose riverbanks or tree holes, lining them with moss or leaves.

Holts provide otters with a safe and warm place to rest, sleep, and raise their young.

Otter Signs

Otter pathways along the water's edge.

Leftover remains of their prey, like fish bones.

Otter droppings, called spraint, which have a distinctive sweet smell!

Otter footprints in the mud.



Male otters can be over a meter long and weigh about the same as a toddler.