

OBJECTIVE	TARGET	PROGRESS	PLAN STATUS	
			2008-2010	2011-2018
A. To increase the size of the population in the county through natural re-colonisation and breeding.	2015	This target has been achieved through habitat improvement and holt construction. 70% of historic sites are positive and the otter is now present on smaller water courses and urban waterways. There is now no need for an annual survey (see RM1).	↑	↑
B. To increase the range of otters in the county to achieve 85% occupancy of 10km squares (to match National target).	2015	The otter is now widespread in the sub-region. One further survey will be carried out to see if Warwickshire matches the national target.		
Key to status: 2010: ↑ Any improvement ↔ No change ↓ Decline 2018: ↑ Good progress ↑ Some progress ↔ No change ↓ Decline				

PROPOSED ACTIONS for report	BY	REPORTED PROGRESS	NO.OF SITES/ ITEMS	TOTAL AREA/ LENGTH	ACTION STATUS ↑↑↔↓↓
SM1. Undertake practical habitat management to benefit otters, including creation of 3km of buffer strips at least 6-12m wide.	2015	<p>Much progress.</p> <p>Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 200m of the R. Sowe improved with reed bed creation of 0.2ha in 2013 • a doubling of the area of reed bed at Brandon Marsh in 2015/16 by 9ha. • with Coventry City Council (CCC), construction of shallower edges on 40m of the banks of the R Sherbourne at Lake View Park Coventry. <p>Coventry City Council (CCC): Coombe Abbey has otters on site (spraints are found on a regular basis) but conflict with some on site anglers makes habitat management difficult but not impossible. 3ha of reed bed are managed.</p> <p>Tame Valley Wetlands Scheme 2014-2018 (WWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2ha of open water and reed bed created. • 10ha of reed bed improved and created at Middleton Lakes (RSPB) in the HLF-funded reed bed project. • 4.6ha of reed bed improved and created at Kingsbury Water Park (WCC): Otter pool (2.5ha) and Mitchells Pool (1ha). <p>Warwickshire County Council (WCC) / Environment Agency: management of 1.5ha of reed bed created at Kingsbury Water Park in 2013 at Hemlingford Water.</p> <p>Warwick District Council (WDC): in 2000 wetland development at the Leam Valley Local Nature Reserve involved the creation of a mosaic of wetland habitats including 1.6ha of reed bed.</p>	9 sites	31.9ha + 40m of bank	↑
SM2. Construct at least 3 artificial otter holts per year, either repair of existing holts or building of new ones, using opportunities through planning obligations.	2020	<p>Good progress.</p> <p>WWT: 10 holts installed or upgraded throughout the county. This is no longer a priority action (see RM2).</p>	10 holts		↑

		WWT/CCC: planned holt construction near Lake View Park Coventry where otter spraint was found in March 2019			
SM3. Continue to raise awareness of non-natural otter mortalities. Implement appropriate mitigation measures (e.g. under-passes on new and existing roads and fencing at known mortality hotspots) to reduce impacts.	ongoing	In progress. WWT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advises on the construction or repair of bridges, including the installation of otter ledges under bridges to assist their movement in flood conditions. • a hot spot of road kills has been identified on the B4086 at Compton Verney with 4 road kills recorded over 3 years. 			↑
SM4. Consider the habitat requirements of otters in the management agreements of agri-environment schemes in the vicinity of water courses.	ongoing	In progress. Natural England: uptake of agri-environment scheme options benefiting otters by improving the management of riparian / wetland habitats (2016): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EE9 - 6m buffer strips next to watercourse on arable 119.98ha • EE10 – 6m buffer strips next to watercourse on intensive grass 6.14ha • EJ9 – 12m buffers next to watercourses on arable 33.06ha • HJ9 – HLS 12m buffers next to watercourses on arable 0.99ha 		160.17ha	↑
RM1. Monitor otter distribution annually through regular catchment based surveys, distributing the data as appropriate.	2020	Achieved. WWT: in view of the recovery of otter numbers and increase in range, an annual survey is now no longer necessary. It will, however, be repeated once more, on a 10km. square basis (see Objective B). Canal & River Trust: DNA analysis of spraint collected by 70 volunteers has identified 7 individual otters in the 500km of the Midlands Canals.			↑
RM2. Monitor the effectiveness and success of habitat enhancements and mitigation works including otter holt construction.	ongoing	In progress. WWT: a direct correlation between holts and presence has not been established.			↑
RM3. Monitor the state of other factors likely to impact on the otter population (e.g. water quality, fish stocks).	ongoing	In progress. EA: monitor and record significant pollution incidents/fish kills which will impact on otters.			↑
RM4. Identify areas for river and wetland habitat restoration and creation for the benefit of otters.	ongoing	Little progress. CCC: at Coombe Country Park a currently unmanaged 0.5ha of reed-bed is establishing and expanding into the top pool.	1 site	0.5ha	↑
RM5. Collect otter corpses, sending them for post mortem and tissue analysis to the Cardiff University Otter Project.	ongoing	In progress. EA: undertakes this.			↑
RM6. Identify sites of repeated road kills to direct the installation of under-road pipes.	ongoing	In progress. WCC/Highways: may consider the construction of an under-pass to the B4086 (see SM3) if other highway work has to be done in the area.	1 site		↑
CPI. Using the species as a ‘flagship’, publicise the importance of water quality and riparian / wetland habitat for the otter and biodiversity in general.	ongoing	In progress. Partnerships such as the Tame Valley Wetlands Partnership and WWT wetlands projects (and Wetlands West in the past) promote the conservation of otters through improving public awareness, and water quality, and delivering habitat creation projects.			↑