

Otter Spotters- Recording Irish Otters



Short name

Otter Spotters- Recording Irish Otters

Formal name

Mapping the distribution of Eurasian Otters and investigating links of river modification and human disturbance in the Urban Environment

Contact person

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Engaging people to observe their local rivers and advocate for protective measures



Summary

Ireland is a stronghold for the Eurasian Otter in Europe. However, available data on otter populations and distribution within Ireland are on broad scale. We aim to improve the fidelity of data on Otter distribution in Ireland by giving Citizen Scientists the tools and skills to report on Otter signs (prints and spraint) in urban rivers and waterways. We wish to expand our reach to two other coastal urban areas: Galway and Tralee. Inviting citizens of these urban areas will empower individuals to engage in conservation initiatives in their local areas. We aim to train "Otter Spotters" in each urban area and assign them to survey sections of their local river for signs of otter and assess the level of human disturbance. Training will be given in Early July and fieldwork activities will be carried out in July and August. Records of otter sign will be submitted to our dedicated website page where data will be publicly available.