



Otter Information Sheet

The Cheshire region Biodiversity Partnership enlisted the help of amateur film-maker Ron Thomas to film the secretive otter which has resulted in producing the longest clip of otters filmed in Cheshire. To see the footage visit <http://www.youtube.com/user/TheCrbp>.

The otter is a long slender bodied mammal with brown fur, which is quite often pale on the underside. The tail makes up approximately a third of the body length. Otters have small ears and webbed feet. To compensate for the lack of a fat layer they have a double layer of fur to trap air and keep them warm in the water.

Otters are classified as a Biodiversity Action Plan species because they need help to recover after a dramatic population decline, mainly due to poor habitat and water quality and along our rivers. To find out more visit <http://www.cheshire-biodiversity.org.uk/action-plans/listing.php?id=18>.

Otters are coming back from the brink. As our water quality and riparian habitat is getting better, the otters are able to find food within our waterways. Otters shelter not far from the waterways in undergrowth or underground chambers known as holts. They eat a variety of food found in waterways including fish, mussels and crayfish. To move between waterways they sometimes have to risk their lives crossing major trunk roads.

To help otters we need to continue to ensure good water quality in our waterways. The quality of our water is affected by various issues, some of which include dumping into waterways and throwing chemicals down our drains and road grid systems.

The Cheshire region Biodiversity Partnership, which covers Wirral, Halton, Warrington and Cheshire works to coordinate action to ensure the future survival of threatened species and habitats. To find out more visit www.cheshire-biodiversity.org.uk.