

Dolphins Look Out

The Mammal Society Cetacean Group has teamed up with Greenpeace Environmental Trust to launch "Dolphin Lookout" project. They are asking for volunteers to join the "Lookout" and provide sighting records of numbers and movements of whales and dolphins around Britain and Ireland. They welcome all records. An illustrated field identification guide and standardized recording forms have been produced. For further details contact: Dr P.G.H. Evans, Secretary, Cetacean Group, c/o EGI Zoology Department, South Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3PS. Telephone - 0865 247448.

This work is particularly important as these animals face many pressures and threats in our waters, for example: overfishing of prey items, pollution and hunting. The "Dolphin Lookout" project aims to improve and expand the sighting network in order to identify conservation needs.

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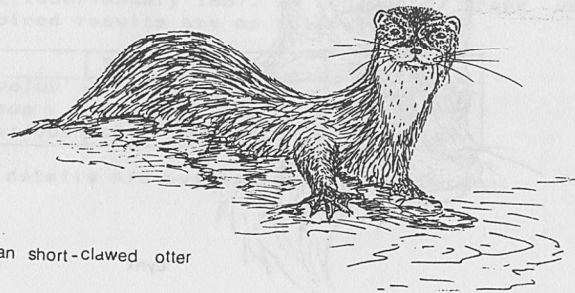
Reintroduced otters breeding in the wild

In a February edition of this year's Eastern Daily Press, the Otter Trust in Norfolk revealed that two female otters (*Lutra lutra*) had bred successfully. They were released in 1984 and signs of their small litters were found in the form of footprints in the breeding area. Two other otters released at the same time show no evidence of breeding, but show evidence of surviving in the wild.

Similar success is reported for a re-introduction scheme in Suffolk, where four females were breeding in 1985. The release locations are kept secret to protect the animals.

To date there have been four release projects in eastern counties. Hopefully their success marks the beginning of a permanent population of otters and may encourage further efforts in other parts of the country.

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Asian short-clawed otter

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