

APPENDIX 4: OTTER EVIDENCE

Section 1

Table 1: Section 1 – Survey Evidence of Otter Holts

Figure ID	Field Sign	Date	Description	ITM Coordinates
2025 evidence				
S1 - HLT1	Potential holt	03/07/2023; 08/10/2025	2023: Potential holt site between rocks and opening to cavity under bank. Could not determine how deep. Assumed to not be currently active. 2025: Holt located and categorised as disused due to lack of spoil heap and cobwebs present at entrance.	610868 893106 (within CPO boundary)
S1 - HLT2	Potential holt	05/07/2023; 08/10/2025	2023: Large tunnel into bank between rocks with another possible entrance in area. Not currently active but signs of use. Spraint on rock just at entrance and possible bedding at end. Cobwebs over entrance. Camera trap (TC3) deployed in August 2023. 2025: Potential holt with no evidence of regular use present.	613085 895230 (37 m from CPO boundary)
S1 - HLT3	Potential holt	05/07/2023; 08/10/2025	2023: Large hole in bank, extends far back with other holes in the area. Suitable otter habitat. This holt was identified while resurveying for a previously identified holt in 2020 (HLT8) located approximately 6 m south of HLT3. 2025: Potential holt with interconnected tunnel system. Does not appear used however spraint located 2m from hole.	613052 895228 (40 m from CPO boundary)
S1 - HLT4	Holt-inactive	05/07/2023; 08/10/2025	2023: Disused otter holt on bank with slide running into River Finn. 2025: Hole has almost entirely sealed and is no longer considered a potential holt.	612578 895007 (22 m from CPO boundary)
S1 - HLT5	Potential holt	05/07/2023; 08/10/2025	2023: Possible holt under large sycamore just to the west of the bridge. 2025: Hole was found and considered to small to act as a holt.	612418 895053 (33 m from CPO boundary)
S1 - HLT7	Holt – inactive	15/12/2020; 08/10/2025	Pre-2023: Active holt in bank with extensive stand of Japanese knotweed, currently being treated. 2025: No holt was identified and no otter signs were recorded in this area.	614396 894878 (1,023 m from CPO boundary)
2023 evidence				
S1 - HLT6	Potential holt	05/07/2023	Potential holt site 10 m from water edge. 20 cm wide and 20 cm tall. Not in use. Survey was not carried out in 2025 due to limited access.	612013 895172 (52 m from CPO boundary)
Pre-2023 evidence				
S1 - HLT9	Potential Holt	04/03/2020	Potential holt/couch but undisturbed sand/ground outside along banks indicates a lack of usage.	613581 895088 (423 m from CPO boundary)
HP1	Holt Potential	18/02/2020	Two good holt potential locations but undisturbed sand/ground outside along banks indicates a lack of usage.	610660 893120 (within CPO boundary)
HP2	Holt Potential	13/12/2017	West of bridge both banks with dense WL1/WL2. hawthorn (A), ash (F), willow (F). Slightly better potential for holts, good coverage of bramble (D) on lower bank.	612360 893470 (806 m from CPO boundary)

Figure ID	Field Sign	Date	Description	ITM Coordinates
HP3	Holt Potential	13/12/2017	North bank is a high clay bank. South bank is low with fencing. Both banks have holt potential.	612470 893680 (575 m from CPO boundary)
HP4	Holt Potential	13/12/2017	Steep banks (clay) with a cobble base. Good holt potential.	615200 894590 (1,112 m from the CPO boundary)
HP5	Holt Potential	13/12/2017	Banks have potential for holts. Good coverage throughout.	619580 895200 (2,519 m from the CPO boundary)

Table 2: Section 1 – Survey Evidence of Otter Activity

Field Sign	Date	Description	ITM Coordinates
Spraint	08/10/2025	Mammal spraint found on large rock on bank of River Finn.	613050 895222 (60 m from CPO boundary)
Spraint	23/09/2025	Mammal spraint found on boundary of conifer plantation approx. 250m east of Burn Daurnett_010 watercourse.	611146 893817 (within CPO boundary)
Live sighting	31/07/2019	Disused railway, Landowner information: individual observed along river and along stream.	616540 895000 (135 m from CPO boundary)
Slide	19/08/2020	Slide grades into rough wet grassland area near Cloghroe 12 stream.	616065 899973 (8 m from CPO boundary)
Slides	30/07/2019	Activity, slides numerous, <i>Centaurea</i> (F).	612660 895000 (65 m from CPO boundary)
Slide	13/12/2017	Underpass and slide. Note series of tracks along track and potential slides.	615200 894600 (1,107 m from CPO boundary)
Print	27/08/2020	Print record.	616606 895147 (within CPO boundary)
Print	27/08/2020	Print record.	616578 895099 (44 m from CPO boundary)
Print	04/03/2020	Print on exposed sand and slide on disturbed ground. Couch potential 10 m east.	612559 895099 (3 m from CPO boundary)
Print	05/12/2019	Print under Ballybofey Bridge.	614401 894836 (1042 m from CPO boundary)
Print	30/07/2019	Prints under bridge.	612420 895099 (24 m from CPO boundary)
Track	29/07/2019	Stream has signs – used for commuting. No holts seen. Sand deposits and runs along banks evident.	610660 893120 (within CPO boundary)
Track	25/09/2018	Tracks under Logue's Bridge.	611639 895446 (306 m from CPO boundary)
Spraint	04/07/2023	Spraint on rocks.	616024 899942 (within CPO boundary)
Spraint	-	Spraint of various ages on rock.	613051 895211 (56 m from CPO boundary)
Spraint	05/07/2023	On rock by bridge.	612417 895050 (32 m from CPO boundary)
Spraint	05/07/2023	Otter spraint on bank of river.	612405 895053 (40 m from CPO boundary)
Spraint	-	Large amounts of spraint on rock.	611919 895237 (36 m from CPO boundary)
Spraint & Slide	-	Clear area on bank with various bits of spraint with slide leading into river.	612440 895006 (within CPO boundary)
Spraint	05/07/2023	Otter spraint on rock at side of River Finn.	611890 895218 (3 m from CPO boundary)

Field Sign	Date	Description	ITM Coordinates
Spraint	05/07/2023	Otter spraint on rock on bank of River Finn.	611917 895192 (4 m from CPO boundary)
Spraint	05/07/2023	Fresh and old otter spraint on rock on bank of River Finn.	611947 895163 (5 m from CPO boundary)
Spraint	10/07/2023	Spraint on rock.	616562 896125 (within CPO boundary)
Spraint	July 2023	Fresh spraint on rock still with jelly. Some evidence of older spraint.	611999 895162 (35 m from CPO boundary)
Scat	28/08/2020	Scat record.	613984 896666 (177 m from CPO boundary)
Scat	28/08/2020	Scat record.	613965 896666 (153 m from CPO boundary)
Scat	28/08/2020	Scat record.	613025 895323 (within CPO boundary)
Scat	25/09/2018	Scat/droppings present. Located on top of a rock a few metres from the River Finn.	612385 895075 (48 m from CPO boundary)
Scat	13/12/2017	Densely vegetated, overhanging vegetation/trees providing prominent high points and spraints.	619580 895075 (2,519 m from CPO boundary)

Table 3: Section 1 – Survey Evidence of Possible Otter Activity

Field Sign	Date	Description	ITM Coordinates
Live sighting	13/12/2017	Potential mammal approximately 100 m east of bridge.	612510 895222 (646 m from CPO boundary)
Track	03/07/2023	Potential otter trail leading into river.	610848 893066 (within CPO boundary)
Track	11/07/2023	Potential otter trail running along river bank, with trails turning off at multiple points towards the river.	616505 894997 (135 m from CPO boundary)
Track	05/12/2019	Run under fence to FW4 and crossing potentially otter. Hairs on fence 10 m south of crossing.	615590 898466 (within CPO boundary)
Track	31/07/2019	Large, culverted stream. Low flow. Good potential, but no evidence. Likely signs at stream.	616610 896880 (15 m from CPO boundary)
Track	30/07/2019	Riparian habitat very good potential.	613120 895210 (72 m from CPO boundary)
Track	30/07/2019	Native section of TN14, Track clearance works ongoing. Stream has high potential.	613070 895260 (4 m from CPO boundary)
Track	25/09/2018	Mammal track.	612424 895048 (27 m from CPO boundary)
Track	25/09/2018	Mammal track.	611873 895301 (79 m from CPO boundary)
Track	13/12/2017	Potential mammal tracks at bridge.	612500 893660 (589 m from CPO boundary)
Track	13/12/2017	Potential mammal track at west of bridge at bottom of pitch.	615180 894580 (1,130 m from CPO boundary)
Track	13/12/2017	Potential mammal track to river on north bank/west side.	614340 894290 (942 m from CPO boundary)
Spraint	03/07/2023	On rock in stream possibly semi washed away.	611065 893215 (2 m from CPO boundary)
Spraint	11/07/2023	Possible spraint rock in suitable stream but recent rains will have washed evidence away.	616176 896988 (within CPO boundary)

Field Sign	Date	Description	ITM Coordinates
Couch	25/09/2018	Potential Couch.	611723 895398 (230 m from CPO boundary)
Print	25/09/2018	Potential otter print.	611701 895409 (247 m from CPO boundary)

Section 2

Table 4: Section 2 – Survey Evidence of Otter Holts

Figure ID	Field Sign	Date	Description	ITM Coordinates
2025 Evidence				
S2 - HLT1	Potential holt	13/07/2023; 13/10/2025	2023: Large opening with good sized tunnel. Could not see the tunnel end. Entrance not very clear but no cobwebs and track to river 30 m away. Camera trap (TC2) deployed in August 2023. 2025: Distinct fox scent from hole however otter evidence (print) found in close proximity to hole.	618985 911646 (5 m from CPO boundary)
S2 - HLT2	Potential holt	13/07/2023; 07/10/2025	2023: Potential otter holt on bank of drainage ditch. Fallen pine leaves indicate that it was not used recently/frequently. Camera trap (TC1) deployed in August 2023. 2025: Potential holt which appears disused. Cobwebs present in entrance with spoil heap absent and no otter signs recorded in the area.	619129 911372 (89 m from CPO boundary)
S2 - HLT3	Holt - partially active	13/07/2023; 07/10/2025	2023: Potential for otter/badger. Vegetation blocking entrance, close to river. 2025: Straw bedding at entrance however vegetation and cobwebs present at entrance. Partially used holt.	619176 911410 (19 m from CPO boundary)
S2 - HLT4	Holt – partially used	13/07/2023; 07/10/2025	2023: Potential for otter/badger to use. Approximately 6 m from other entrance towards river. Vegetation blocking entrance. 2025: Bedding is present but was not considered fresh and spoil heap is unvegetated. Indicated partially used holt.	619186 911413 (30 m from CPO boundary)
S2 - HLT5	Holt – disused/absent	13/07/2023; 01/10/2025	2023: Potential holt site 5 m from stream. Probable fox den, originally. 2025: Holt has completely closed and no evidence of otter activity in the area.	621240 911167 (within CPO boundary)
S2 - HLT6	Holt – disused/absent	03/12/2019; 13/07/2023 01/10/2025	2019: Soil scrapings at entrance. Stream quality appears poor with effluent run off present. 2023: Could not be located as vegetation growth was too dense. However, otter trail running into the watercourse was recorded nearby. 2025: No holt present and no otter signs recorded in the area.	619843 910224 (18 m from CPO boundary)
S2 - HLT7	Holt – disused/absent	05/12/2019; 10/10/2025	2019: Potential Holt at drain FW4 and WL1/WS1 on bank. Western bank, south of board. 2025: No holt present and no otter signs recorded in the area.	618292 911091 (776 m from CPO boundary)

Table 5: Section 2 – Survey Evidence of Otter Activity

Field Sign	Date	Description	ITM Coordinates
Prints	13/10/2025	Trail of otter prints in estuarine mud of River Swilly.	619008 911654 (17m from CPO boundary)
Live sighting	29/08/2020	Live otter sighting on edge of River Swilly	619354 911710 (158 m from CPO boundary)
Slide	05/12/2019	Mammal trail down to estuary with otter slide.	618204 911187 (731 m from CPO boundary)

Field Sign	Date	Description	ITM Coordinates
Slide	05/12/2019	Quad track located at crossing. Footprints (otter) and distinct runs into adjacent WS1 at ITM coordinates: 061906 0911795. Fenced and cannot check for holt. Slide at outfall pipe.	619060 911795 (489 m from CPO boundary)
Slide	05/12/2019	Footprints (otter) and distinct runs into adjacent WS1.	618906 911795 (within CPO boundary)
Slide	05/12/2019	Slide to river.	618294 911062 (803 m from CPO boundary)
Slide and Couch	05/12/2019	Slide and potential couch.	618433 911204 (623 m from CPO boundary)
Prints	05/12/2019	Otter prints in estuary mudflats.	618286 911471 (772 m from CPO boundary)
Prints	05/12/2019	Finish location and otter prints.	618403 910966 (858 m from CPO boundary)
Prints	05/12/2019	Prints in mud. Eastern bank north of the existing N56 bridge. Frequent otter prints noted along mudflats.	618324 911250 (618 m from CPO boundary)
Prints	05/12/2019	Otter prints estuary mudflats.	618209 911471 (508 m from CPO boundary)
Prints	05/12/2019	Large amount of otter prints (mudflats) entering along River Swilly.	619075 911769 (within CPO boundary)
Prints	05/12/2019	Otter prints and slide.	619039 911689 (3 m from CPO boundary)
Prints	05/12/2019	Outfall pipe at opposite bank. Faint print.	618739 911464 (248 m from CPO boundary)
Prints	05/12/2019	Prints – Not as frequent at this stretch.	618663 911251 (456 m from CPO boundary)
Prints	29/08/2020	Otter prints on edge of River Swilly.	619031 911532 (80 m from CPO boundary)
Prints	29/08/2020	Otter prints on edge of River Swilly.	619118 911766 (25 m from CPO boundary)
Trail	12/07/2019	WS1/WD1 bordering brackish water. Heronry present. Otter tracks.	622992 910580 (246 m from CPO boundary)
Spraint	13/07/2023	Spraint seen under bridge with binoculars difficult to access safely.	623089 910891 (4 m from CPO boundary)
Spraint	13/07/2023	A couple of bits of spraint on edge of scrub on bank of river Swilly slide to river present.	619532 911773 (323 m from CPO boundary)
Spraint	13/07/2023	On bank of river Swilly. Old.	619862 911332 (69 m from CPO boundary)
Spraint	13/07/2023	Regular spraint if point at end of culvert under N13.	621200 911366 (within CPO boundary)
Spraint	14/07/2023	Washed out spraint on rock just to north of culvert.	621265 911068 (within CPO boundary)
Spraint	July 2023	Prominent area crustaceans visible.	619044 911321 (188 m from CPO boundary)

Table 6: Section 2 – Survey Evidence of Possible Otter Activity

Field Sign	Date	Description	ITM Coordinates
Trail	01/10/2025	Well worn, large mammal trails leading up and down riverbank.	621329 911299 (2m from CPO boundary)

Field Sign	Date	Description	ITM Coordinates
Trail	01/10/2025	Numerous mammal trails crossing scrub habitat.	621335 911193 (25m from CPO boundary)
Trail	01/10/2025	Mammal trail with flattened vegetation leading to gap in hedgerow	.619867 910265 (51 m from CPO boundary)
Trail and Slide	11/09/2025	Trail in agricultural field leading to slide at riverbank.	623099 910913 (25m from CPO boundary)
Trail	21/08/2025	Mammal trail running south to northeast through woodland.	620098 910503 (within CPO boundary)
Print	13/07/2023	Tracks into soft mud. Unclear but larger than fox that was also present.	618939 911473 (139 m from CPO boundary)
Trail	13/07/2023	Potential otter trail running into watercourse. Otter holt record in vicinity but vegetation too dense to get through.	619840 910223 (17 m from CPO boundary)
Trail	13/07/2023	Potential otter trail running from field, down into ditch. Vegetation too dense to walk along ditch.	619416 908756 (within CPO boundary)
Trail	13/07/2023	Potential otter trail running from field into watercourse.	619669 910937 (35 m from CPO boundary)
Trail	13/07/2023	Potential otter trail running from field into watercourse.	619641 910911 (15 m from CPO boundary)
Trail	13/07/2023	Potential otter trails running from field, under fence, and into watercourse. Dense vegetation present.	619533 911091 (within CPO boundary)
Trail	13/07/2023	Additional trails running into watercourse. Potential for otter.	619545 911073 (within CPO boundary)
Trail	13/07/2023	Potential otter trail/slide.	620095 911343 (within CPO boundary)
Trail	19/05/2021	Mammal track crossing a ditch.	619828 908043 (within CPO boundary)
Trail	04/12/2019	Mammal crossing at stream/drain.	619418 908752 (within CPO boundary)
Trail	04/12/2019	Mammal run at fence line. Southern boundary drain/ditch.	619551 908424 (45 m from CPO boundary)
Trail	04/12/2019	Numerous mammal tracks along southeast boundary at drain/ditch.	619617 908448 (83 m from CPO boundary)
Trail	04/12/2019	Potential mammal crossing at drain adjacent to ESB substation.	619686 908982 (within CPO boundary)
Trail	04/12/2019	Potential mammal run down and across ditch. More sheep also access.	619736 908443 (78 m from CPO boundary)
Trail	05/12/2019	Potential mammal crossing and drain adjacent to ESB substation.	619362 908500 (107 m from CPO boundary)
Trail	03/12/2019	Mammal track western boundary crossing to FW4 ×2.	619878 910270 (47 m from CPO boundary)
Trail	03/12/2019	Mammal track western boundary crossing to FW4.	619938 910270 (2 m from CPO boundary)
Trail	03/12/2019	Woodland/WS1 bordering GA1 and dual carriage way. Mammal track. FW4 steady flow with otter potential. No real evidence of otter.	622311 911190 (21 m from CPO boundary)
Trail	03/12/2019	Run same field. Crossing ditch/ flowing stream. Overgrown yet good flow available.	622369 910985 (174 m from CPO boundary)
Trail	03/12/2018	Birch tree clump/ wooded area. Flooded area. Mammal trail evident entering area. Otter potential at FW4 running through GA1/GS4.	622369 910985 (180 m from CPO boundary)
Trail	31/07/2019	Mammal run.	621224 911171 (within CPO boundary)
Trail	31/07/2019	Mammal run down to WS1/river.	621256 911065 (within CPO boundary)

Field Sign	Date	Description	ITM Coordinates
Trail	30/07/2019	Potential mammal crossing at overgrown FW4/ditch.	619870 901267 (52 m from CPO boundary)
Potential couch	31/07/2019	Potential couch near open section.	621251 911087 (within CPO boundary)
