
OTTER



Otters are a widespread species, historically occurring in rivers across England, Wales and Scotland, and in coastal sites in Scotland and the Scottish Islands; however the UK otter population underwent significant declines in range and number during the 1950's and 1960's.

Licenses may be granted to permit otherwise unlawful activities, but can only be given for certain purposes. Natural England issues licenses for scientific, educational and conservation purposes, this would include surveys which are likely to disturb otters. They are also able to issue site-specific licenses for the purposes of '*preserving public health or safety or imperative reasons of over-riding public interest*' (including development). However, a licence cannot be granted unless it can be shown the action permitted will not have '*a detrimental effect on the conservation status of otters*'.

Our Ecologists can provide:

- ✓ **Habitat assessment to determine the likelihood of otters being present on site**
- ✓ **Otter surveys and impact assessments**
- ✓ **Natural England Class licence applications**
- ✓ **Mitigation and compensation strategy implementation and monitoring**
- ✓ **Management plans for otter habitat**
- ✓ **River Corridor Surveys**
- ✓ **Report production to support planning applications and Environmental Statements**



Our Ecologists possess extensive experience and knowledge of otters and development control, and hold licenses to survey for otter. They are also members of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and the Royal Society of Biology and abide by their codes of professional conduct. By consulting with us at the early stages of your project we are able to identify potential constraints and assist in resolving any potential conflicts between development and these protected species.

Please refer to our survey calendar for optimal time periods for surveys. However, if the timing falls out of the survey period please get in touch, as surveys and inspections could possibly still be carried out in a bid not to hold up development.



ELMAW Consulting
Consultant Ecologists
& Wildlife Managers