

BISHOPSTOWN OTTER TRAIL

Introduction

There are 13 different species of otter worldwide. In Ireland there is only one species of otter - the Eurasian otter. This is the most widely distributed otter species, and can be found across Europe, Asia, and Africa. In recent years the Eurasian Otter has declined in a number of European countries due to a range of factors e.g. hunting, pollution, loss of habitat. Ireland is home to one of the healthiest populations in Europe. They can be found right here in Cork City.

Réamhrá

Tá 13 speiceas éagsúil madra uisce ar fud an domhain. In Éirinn níl ach speiceas amháin an madra uisce Eoráiseach. Is é seo an speiceas madra uisce a dháiltear go forleathan, agus is féidir é a fháil ar fud na hEorpa, na hÁise agus na hAfraice. Le blianta beaga anuas tá laghdú tagtha ar an madra uisce Eoráiseach i roinnt tíortha Eorpacha mar gheall ar raon fachtóirí e.g. fiach, truailliú, cailliúint áit dhúchais. Tá an phobail is sláintiúla san Eoraip againn i Éireann. Is féidir iad a fháil anseo i gCathair Chorcaí.

Common name: Eurasian Otter

Scientific name: Lutra lutra

Family: Mustelidae (along with badgers, weasels, stoats, and minks)

Physical features: webbed feet, muscular tail, 2 layers of fur (one on the outside that is waterproof, and one on the inside that is warm).

Ainm coitianta: Madra Uisce Eoráiseach

Ainm eolaíoch: Lutra lutra

Clann: Mustelidae (in éineacht le broc, ruán, easóg, agus minc)

Gnéithe fisiciúla: cosa grinneall, eireaball mhatánach, 2 shraith fionnaidh (ceann ar an taobh amuigh atá uiscédhíonach, agus ceann ar an taobh istigh atá te).



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Diet

The otters diet mainly consists of fish but they have also been known to eat birds, small mammals, and frogs. Their varied diet means that they can inhabit any unpolluted water system as long as there is a good enough food supply. Otters are nocturnal and so they forage at night. They do so with the aid of their highly sensitive whiskers, which help detect their prey.

Aiste bia

Is éard atá i réim bia na madraí uisce iasc den chuid is mó ach is eol dóibh freisin éin, mamaigh bheaga agus froganna a ithe. Ciallaíonn a n-aiste bia éagsúil gur féidir leo maireachtáil in aon chóras uisce neamhthruaillithe chomh fada agus a bhíonn soláthar bia maith go leor. Is ainmhithe oíche iad madraí uisce agus mar sin déanann siad foráiste san oíche. Déanann siad é le cabhair óna gcuid féasóg leicinn an-íogair, rud a chabhraíonn lena gcreach a bhrath.



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Habitat

Otters are very territorial, with their home range stretching for several kilometres. Otters in Ireland can be found in an array of aquatic habitats, including streams, rivers, lakes, and sandy beaches.

Otters can be elusive and difficult to spot, so how do we know where they are?

They leave many signs of their presence, including spraint, slides, trails, and footprints.

Gnáthóg

Tá madraí uisce cosantóir áitiúil, agus tá a raon baile sínte ar feadh roinnt ciliméadar. Is féidir madraí uisce in Éirinn a fháil i raon gnáthóg uisceach, lena n-áirítear sruthanna, aibhneacha, lochanna agus tránna gainimh.

Is féidir le madraí uisce a bheith deacair a fháil agus mar sin cén chaoi a bhfuil a fhios againn cá bhfuil siad?

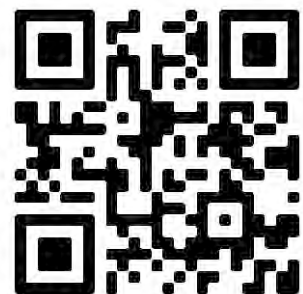
Fágann siad go leor comharthaí go bhfuil siad i láthair, lena n-áirítear spraeáil, sleamhnáin, cosáin agus loirg na coise.



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Conservation

Otters are ranked as near threatened by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature). Although the Irish otter population is one of the most stable in Europe, there is some evidence that suggests there have been a decline in their numbers. Although otters are a protected species in Ireland, meaning that they cannot be hunted, they are still threatened by habitat loss, disturbance, pollution, or accidental deaths on our roads. It is so important that the otters of Cork City are kept safe and protected.

What can you do to help keep our otters safe?

Make sure not to litter so that our rivers don't become polluted. You can check out our social media pages to keep up to date with the latest otter news and spread your new found knowledge to someone you know.

Caomhnú

Rangaítear madraí uisce mar bhagairtí gar don IUCN (An tAontas Idirnáisiúnta um Chaomhnú an Dúlra). Cé go bhfuil daonra madraí uisce na hÉireann ar cheann de na cinn is socair san Eoraip, tá roinnt fianaise ann a thugann le tuiscint go bhfuil laghdú tagtha ar a líon. Cé gur speiceas cosanta iad na madraí uisce in Éirinn, rud a chiallaíonn nach féidir iad a fhiach, tá siad fós faoi bhagairt ag cailliúint gnáthóige, suaitheadh, truailliú, nó básanna ar ár mbóithre. Tá sé chomh tábhachtach go gcoinnítear madraí uisce Chathair Chorcaí sábháilte agus cosanta.

Cad is féidir leat a dhéanamh chun ár gcuid madraí uisce a choinneáil slán?

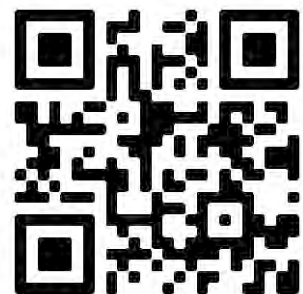
Déan cinnte gan bruscar a dhéanamh ionas nach mbeidh ár n-aibhneacha truailithe. D'féadfaidh tú ár leathanaigh meán sóisialta a leanúint chun coinneáil suas chun dáta leis an nuacht is déanaí faoi na madraí uisce agus an t-eolas nua atá agat a scaipeadh le gach duine a bhfuil aithne agat air.



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