



Observing Otters

Using the information provided in the 'Welsh Otter Fact Sheet', complete the following table:

	1 st – First	2 nd –				
Approximate Year	1970's	1980's				
Sites with signs of otter (%)	20%					

Round all dates to the nearest ten years.

Task

Create a bar graph using your preferred graphing tool.
Use your graph to answer the following questions:

1. Which decade had the lowest percentage of otter signs in Wales?

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2. In which decade did otter signs reach their peak in Wales?

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3. What is the overall trend in otter populations in Wales over the past few decades? Is it increasing, decreasing, or fluctuating?

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Use the scatter map (Figure 1) to identify areas with high concentrations of positive sites.

- Discuss any patterns.
- What potential threats might be impacting otter populations in certain areas?
- Why do you think this?

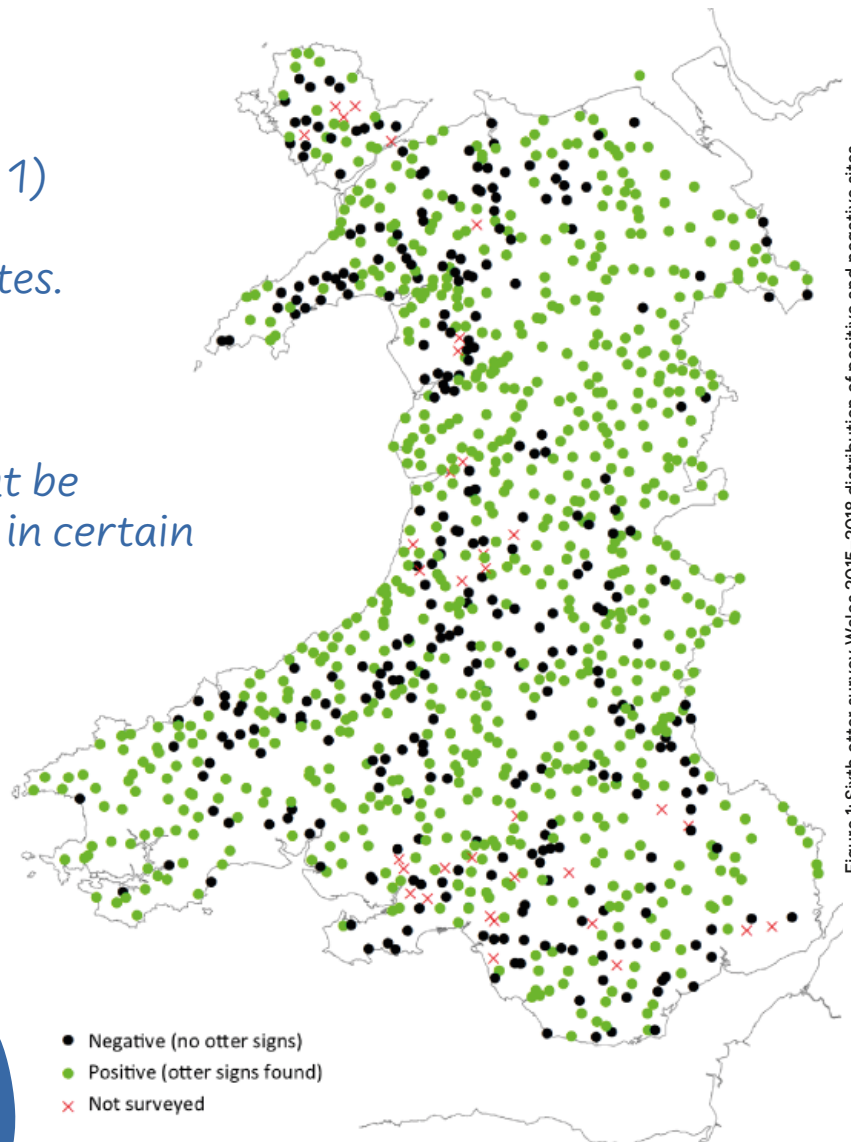


Figure 1: Sixth otter survey Wales 2015–2018 distribution of positive and negative sites

What might have caused the decline in otter populations in the 1970s?

What challenges do otters face in Wales today?
Why do you think this?

What factors could have contributed to the recovery of otter populations in the 1990s and 2000s?
Why?

How can we continue to protect and conserve otter populations?



Otters can typically hold their breath for up to 8 minutes.