

Impact Showcase

Policy, Practice and Public Understandings of Animal Welfare

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Outline

1. Research – with focus on otters in Britain

2. Types of Impact

i) Policy Change

ii) Changing Practice

iii) Informing Public Opinion

3. Questions, Comments, Advice

1. Research

Background:

- PhD in Human Geography: The cultural and historical geographies of otter hunting in Britain, 1830-1939. Supervised by Professor David Matless and Professor Charles Watkins. 2002-2006, University of Nottingham, AHRC Award No. 02/63215
- Research interests centre on the relationships between humans, animals, public knowledge, responsibility and identity, with focus on human-otter relations and animal welfare.

1. Books

Authored books

ALLEN, D. (2014) *The Nature Magpie* (London, Icon Books), pp. 244

ALLEN, D. (2013) *The Nature Magpie* (London, Icon Books), pp. 244

ALLEN, D. (2010) *Otter* (London, Reaktion Books), pp. 183

Chapters in books

ALLEN, D. (2017) Earthworms, in: URBANIK, J. & JOHNSTON, C. L. (Eds.) *Humans and Animals. A Geography of Co-Existence* (Santa Barbara, ABC-Clio) pp. 113-115.

ALLEN, D. (2013) The Hunted Otter in Britain, 1830-1939, in: BEINART, W., MIDDLETON, K. & POOLEY, S. (Eds.) *Wild Things. Nature and the Social Imagination* (Winwick, The White Horse Press) pp. 120-141.

ALLEN, D. (2012) Animal Blood Sports, British Isles, in: NAURIGHT, J. (Ed.) *Sports Around the World: History, Culture, Practice* (Santa Barbara, ABC-CLIO) pp. 13-15.

ALLEN, D. (2007) A delightful sport with 'peculiar' claims: the specificities of otter hunting, 1850-1939, in: HOYLE, R. (Ed.) *Our hunting fathers: field sports in England after 1850* (Lancaster, Carnegie Publishing) pp. 143-164.

2. Articles

Peer reviewed journals

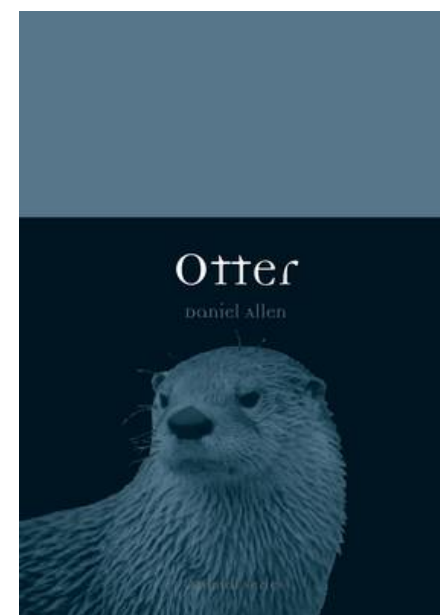
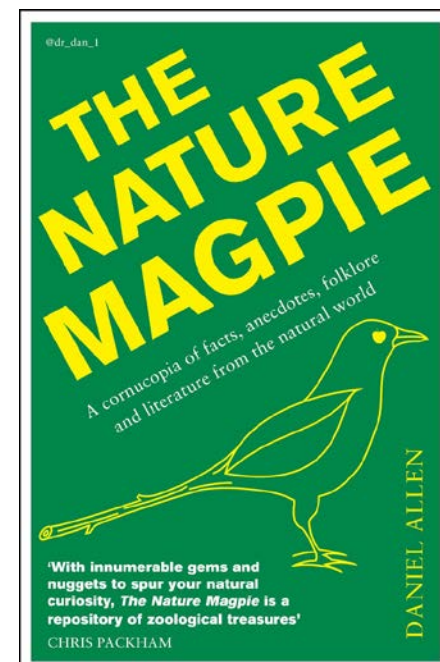
ALLEN, D. & PEMBERTON, S. (in progress) Otter predation and the reproduction of rural landscape: Conflict or consensus in the English countryside?, *Journal of Rural Studies*.

ALLEN, D. & NOBAJAS, A. (in progress) Mapping the Archive: Using Historical Hunting Records to Map the Presence of Otters in England', *Journal of Biogeography*.

ALLEN, D. (in progress). 'Spare the Spear!': Human-animal identity, moral responsibility and otter hunting in nineteenth century Britain, *Journal of Historical Geography*.

ALLEN, D. (2018) Book Review: The Gospel of Kindness. Animal Welfare and the Making of Modern America, *Agricultural History Review*, 65, 2, pp. 348-350.

ALLEN, D., WATKINS, C. & MATLESS, D. (2018). 'An incredibly vile sport': Campaigns against Otter Hunting in Britain, 1900-39, *Rural History*, 27, pp 79-101.



‘The difficulty that otter conservationists face today is that traditional attitudes of fishery communities are bubbling to the surface, protectionist rhetoric can be tinged with sentimentality and the once authoritative hunting rhetoric which dissuaded from indiscriminate killing has been lost. The cultural history of the hunted otter and the rhetoric associated with that identity should not be excluded from present day conservationist debates.’
(Allen, 2013 p. 139)

ALLEN, D. (2013) The Hunted Otter in Britain, 1830-1939, in: BEINART, W., MIDDLETON, K. & POOLEY, S. (Eds.) Wild Things. Nature and the Social Imagination (Winwick, The White Horse Press) pp. 120-141.

- Media and Policy Advisor
 - UK Wild Otter Trust
- Member
 - All-Party Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare
- Animal Welfare Influencer
 - Twitter
- Science Communication
 - Various Media



Dr Daniel Allen ✓
@Dr_Dan_1

Tweets	Following	Followers
10.9K	42.9K	48.2K



Account home
Dr Daniel Allen ✓ @Dr_Dan_1

28 day summary with change over previous period



2. Types of Impact

i) Policy Change

CLASS LICENCE

Otter: live capture and transport

NATURAL
ENGLAND



UK Wild Otter Trust secures England's first initiative class licence from Natural England for the live capture and transport of the European Otter

Published on September 29, 2016

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/669218/cl36-otter-trapping-licence.PDF

OVERVIEW

This licence permits persons registered under this licence to capture and transport live Eurasian otters (*Lutra lutra*) for the purposes of preventing serious damage to fisheries. **This licence may only be used at fisheries that have been appropriately fenced to prevent access by otters.**

Registration	Anyone wishing to use this licence must first apply to Natural England to register. The registration process is explained in the Information and Advice notes I - p.
Recording & reporting	Record keeping and reporting for each site where the licence is used is a requirement of this licence.
Reference	WML – CL36

LICENCE TERMS and CONDITIONS

Legislation	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 ('the 2017 Regulations') and Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended ('the 1981 Act'))
Relevant section(s)	Regulation 55(2)(g) of the 2017 Regulations and Section 16(3)(h) of the 1981 Act.
Valid for the period	1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018 (inclusive)
Area valid in	All counties of England (landward of the mean low water mark)
Purpose(s) for which this licence is issued	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber or any other form of property or to fisheries.
What this licence permits	Subject to all the terms and conditions of this licence and solely for the purpose(s) stated above, this licence permits Registered Persons and their Assistants to: Capture and transport live Eurasian Otter by means of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Live capture trapping
Who can use this licence	Only persons registered to use this licence ("Registered Persons") and Assistants of Registered Persons (see 'Definitions'), except those with a recent conviction (see Information and Advice note s).
Definitions used in this licence	A "Registered Person" is a person who has successfully registered to use this licence in accordance with Condition 1. An "Assistant" is a person assisting a Registered Person in accordance with Condition 1.

LICENCE CONDITIONS

- To use this licence you must either:
 - be a Registered Person (see Information and Advice notes I - p for registration procedures and Definitions);or
 - be authorised by a Registered Person to act as an Assistant (see Definitions), in which case you may only act under the authority of this licence so long as you are doing so under the direct supervision of a Registered Person.

ii) Changing Practice



UK Wild Otter Trust safely relocate two otters from a fenced fishery

Published on May 25, 2017



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Grant (PI) (2018-2019):

- £9,500 Environment Agency (EA)
- Perceptions of Otter Predation in England
- £3,650 Keele University
– Impact Accelerator Fund
- First evidence-based research project to engage **with national and local stakeholder perspectives relating to fisheries and predation and the protected otter in England.**
- Interviews with local stakeholders, and with case studies selected to exemplify co-existence and conflict in relation to predation, as well as future challenges.
- Somerset (coexistence) x 20
- Suffolk (conflict) x 20
- Kent (future challenges) x 20

Outputs (2019):

- Final report and communication plan (EA and Angling Trust)
- (3* paper): Daniel Allen and Simon Pemberton (submit summer 2019), 'Perceptions and Practice: Geographies of Fisheries and Otter Predation in England'

iii) Informing Public Opinion

BEYOND THE headlines

SEPARATING FACT FROM FICTION

A RECENT ITEM ON COUNTRYFILE SUGGESTED THERE IS GROWING PRESSURE FROM ANGLERS TO CULL OTTERS, BUT DR DANIEL ALLEN OF THE UK WILD OTTER TRUST DISAGREES.

Are otters a problem for freshwater fisheries?

Predation can eat into profits of those with interests in fish, but taken to

calls to cull otters are the norm. They are not.

How is the UK Wild Otter Trust (UKWOT) helping?

The Trust recently secured the first ongoing 'class licence' to capture and transport live Eurasian otters trapped in well-fenced fisheries in England. UKWOT has five trained operatives and, since October 2016, 10 fenced fisheries have approached us to help them. UKWOT is collaborating with the Angling Trust, Natural

BBC
Wildlife
MAGAZINE



inFOCUS
**LIFE
 LESSONS**

Otters are supreme predators, but learning how to be an OTTER takes time.

"Streamlined bodies, webbed feet, underwater agility and sharp instincts ensure Eurasian otters are apex predators in rivers, wetland and coastal habitats – but this role does not come naturally. Otter cubs, which average two or three to a litter, rely on their mother for their first nine to 15 months.

The dog otter, meanwhile, leads a more solitary life and is not involved at all.

Born blind, the cubs open their eyes at four weeks, and remain protected in the natal hole until about eight weeks. By 12 weeks they are weaned and ready for their first swimming lesson, where the mother often carries the cubs from the hole and – despite squeaks of protest – fully immerses them. Thanks to a double-layered covering of soft, fluffy fur that traps air, floating is easy.

Swimming takes more practice, but soon results in the species' characteristic V-shaped formation, with youngsters led by the mother. Mastering the art of diving and hunting is much more of a challenge, however. It needs several months of continuous contact; the mother and cubs do everything together. "Some otter skills have an innate basis, but others are certainly honed by maternal learning," says Gareth Parry of the IUCN's Otter Specialist Group. "For example, there is a clear genetic basis for swimming. Captive otters reared in the absence of a mother seem to become proficient swimmers quite easily. Hunting is another matter, and prey-capture skills and knowledge of foraging sites seems to be passed on maternally."

Staying safe is a challenge, too. "Even though cubs can fish at around six months, mothers will protect them until they're able to look after themselves," says Paul Vozon of the International Otter Survival Fund. Only then are the juveniles finally ready to head off and face their next test: finding a territory of their own.

● Daniel Allen is a natural-history writer and author of *Otter* (Reaktion, £9.99).

Learning the ropes: a female Eurasian otter gives one of her cubs a fish while teaching it how to hunt. The family were photographed on a lake in Hungary.



UK Wild Otter Trust @WildOtterTrust · 26 Nov 2017



This **#otter** was spotted in a **#Dorset** river yesterday - the **cable** tie is not a fashion accessory. Discarded waste can kill our **#wildlife**! Please look out for **#PlasticPollution** on your patch and pick it up RT **#BluePlanet2**



37

1.1K

658



Otter with plastic cable around neck highlights how litter is 'choking the life out of British wildlife'



The Telegraph

By **Mark Molloy**

29 NOVEMBER 2017 • 10:44 AM



The UK Wild Otter Trust hope they can capture the otter CREDIT: PAT PATRICK / UK WILD OTTER TRUST

Dr Daniel Allen, who has carried out research on otter conservation, urged people to “think and act locally and lives will be saved”.

“If Blue Planet II raised concerns about plastic pollution on a global scale, the Dorset otter with a cable tie around its neck brings the issue home. Litter and pollution is choking the life out of British wildlife.”



BBC Wildlife @WildlifeMag · May 30

#WorldOtterDay

How do otters cope in winter?

Read our wildlife Q&A with @Dr_Dan_1: ow.ly/xBEY30kfpIA

Stephan Morris / iStock



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Dr Daniel Allen @Dr_Dan_1 · May 30

#SeaOtters have the densest fur in animal kingdom, with up to 165,000 hairs per square centimetre. The trapped air not only keeps them insulated, it also helps them float on their backs (image by Tony Trupp via @Defenders) #WorldOtterDay (2)



Otter.org

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Thanks for your time.

3. Any Questions, Comments or Advice?

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