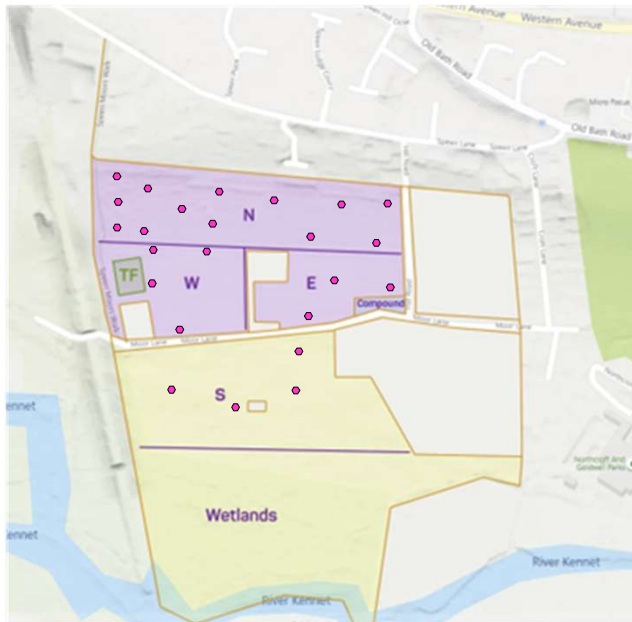
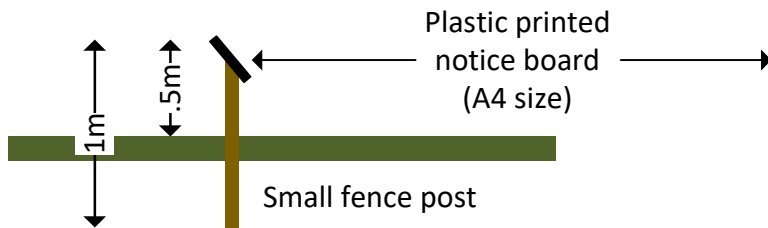


Orienteering Nature Trail

This is designed to be a permanently installed educational trail. Schools, other groups such as Scouts, or families can download the activity sheets from our website and use the trail to complete it. Virtually no preparation required and also an activity students of different ages can do self sufficiently with minimal support, making it easier for supervisors to handle large groups.

The Trail

There will be a number of short fence posts scattered along the paths, each with a small information board, with details about a species. It will have a name, photograph, a list of key information and a longer worded description. Mainly using iconic species such as otters.



Otter (Lutrinae)



Habitat: Semiaquatic
Weight: 7-11kg
Length: 94cm to 155cm
Life: 10 to 15 years old
Favourite food: Fish

Otters live in groups inside a burrow called a 'holt'. They are semiaquatic, living on land and in water. They are very sociable, chat to each other with little squeaks and play together in the river for fun. Otters can be born any time of year, with their thick fur keeping them warm. The children are called 'pups'. The parents feed their pups milk every 3 to 4 hours, for 10 to 15 minutes. They wean them onto solid food by 14 weeks old.

They mainly eat fish, but may also eat frogs, birds and eggs. They are capable of catching prey their own body weight. As an apex predator they are they are top of the food chain, meaning nothing hunts them.

There is debate about if otters and mink will share a habitat, but if the two species meet the mink will run away every time. Otters are very good fighters having play fought with their brothers and sisters as pups.

This board is part of a nature trail. You can download the activity sheets for all ages from <https://newt.earth/trail>

About 30 posts in total. 1m post, .5m above ground. A4 size colour information board, all weather, on top of post. The trick is to make these permanent education boards work with activity sheets for different ages. We can change the sheets all we like, but the boards are an expensive fixed printed material, so they need to be generic enough to work with different activity sheets; with Lots of scope for question banking to make the most out of the resource.

The activity sheets for the primary school audience, will only use information posts in one small field, making it easier for supervisors to keep track of the little ones. These posts will have a coloured ring on them to clearly show the smaller trail.

Pre-booked activities will have access to our facilities, such as toilet, hand washing, kitchen, and outdoor classroom.

It's up to people who use it if they want to be more science orientated or more of a PE orienteering way of getting kids running around, or both.

Activity Sheets

There will be several different sets of activity sheets, aimed at the different key stages. Students use these sheets with a clipboard and a pen. It will guide them through an activity that they need the information from the posts to complete.

- Primary school children would have a quest to find each species on the list. Maybe write down what colour the animal is from the photograph **"can you find the picture of the otter? What colour is it?"**
- Upper primary or lower juniors have a different activity sheet, it asks them questions that they will need to look at the list of key information list to find out **"what is an otters favourite food?"**
- Upper juniors activity sheet will require reading the longer worded description and providing a more thoughtful answer such as **"how do otters care for their young?"**
- The secondary school students activity sheet will ask more thought provoking questions and encourage creativity to solve problems, such as **"how could you ensure that a water vole reintroduction is successful?"** The information to understand this problem will not just be on the water vole information board, but it might mention mink and the otter board mentions mink too. If they go find the mink information board then that will tell them how you might control mink. It also allows students to put forward their own creative ideas that we might not have even thought of ourselves, using problem solving techniques to work around constraints.

These questions are just examples, but there would be varied sheets of random questions from a bank of questions for each key stage. A class sized group would have a variety of activity sheets for their stage, so not all students in a group have exactly the same questions.

The activity sheets for each age group are anchored to the national curriculum for each age group. We will work in conjunction with schools and educators to tailor the content for them. They are available for download from our website and members of the public who are casually visiting with children can use them too.

Most importantly, the notice board content needs to reference other boards. This allows question content to require more than one board to answer. This allows far greater scope of journeys within the activity and also highlights the symbiotic relationship between the many species on site.

Activity sheets available to download from our website:

Nature Trail Complete these fun activities on our nature trail. Explore and learn at the same time.	
5 to 7 year olds	
Question sheet 1	Answer sheet 1
Question sheet 2	Answer sheet 2
Question sheet 3	Answer sheet 3
8 to 10 year olds	
Question sheet 1	Answer sheet 1
Question sheet 2	Answer sheet 2
Question sheet 3	Answer sheet 3
Question sheet 4	Answer sheet 4
11 to 13 year olds	
Question sheet 1	Answer sheet 1
Question sheet 2	Answer sheet 2
Question sheet 3	Answer sheet 3
Question sheet 4	Answer sheet 4
Question sheet 5	Answer sheet 5
14 +	
Question sheet 1	Answer sheet 1
Question sheet 2	Answer sheet 2
Question sheet 3	Answer sheet 3
Question sheet 4	Answer sheet 4
Question sheet 5	Answer sheet 5
Question sheet 6	Answer sheet 6

What is an otters favourite food?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Trees
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fish
<input type="checkbox"/>	Children
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marmalade

Which of these animals eats fish	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fish
<input type="checkbox"/>	Otter
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mink
<input type="checkbox"/>	Water Vole