



# Identification Guide

## Otter (*Lutra lutra*)

### Appearance

- Brown fur (appears darker when wet)
- Long, slender body; thick tapered tail
- Total body length: <1m

### Tracks

- 5 arching toes (often only 4 toes seen in the print)
- Large pad, webbing is occasionally visible between the toes.
- Size ~80mm x ~80mm



### Droppings

- Known as “Spraint” – usually black, but more grey if older
- Distinctive sweet, musky odour, often compared to jasmine tea or laurel flowers
- Contain fish scales, bones, shells, feathers and/or fur
- Usually in prominent places, high up out of the water e.g. on rocks



## **American Mink (*Neovison vison*)**

### **Appearance**

- Dark brown fur (appears black when wet)
- Slightly pointed muzzle
- Total body length: ~60cm

### **Tracks**

- 5 pear-shaped toes
- Splayed 'star' shape
- Size: ~40mm x ~40mm



### **Droppings**

- Cylindrical scats with tapered ends
- Contains bones and fur
- 5-8cm in length
- Dark green to black in colours with foul odour, like burnt rubber or rotten meat.



## **Water Vole (*Arvicola amphibius*)**

### **Appearance**

- Dark chestnut-brown or black fur
- Blunt muzzle, small round ears
- Total body length: ~30cm

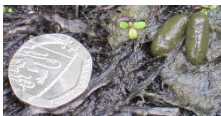


### **Feeding Remains**

- Neat piles of grass stalks with distinctive 45 ° cuts.

### **Droppings**

- Cylindrical with blunt ends, often described as 'tic-tac'-shaped
- 0.8-1.2cm in length
- Little odour with variable colours, usually dark green when broken open
- Typically found in small heaps, called latrines, close to water.



## **Brown Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*)**

### **Appearance**

- Grey-brown coat with grey belly
- Pointed muzzle
- Hairless tail that is 10% shorter than the body
- Large ears

### **Tracks**

- 5 toes
- 2cm in length



### **Droppings**

- Blackish brown
- 1.7 cm in length
- Have a blunt and pointed end
- Rancid smelling



## **European Beaver (*Castor fiber*)**

### **Appearance**

- Large robust body, short neck and limbs with webbed hind feet
- Thick dark brown fur
- Distinctive large flattened, scale covered tail.
- Total body length: <1m

### **Tracks**

- 5 toes with webbed hind paws

### **Tree Trunks**

- Visible tooth marks often seen on gnawed wood
- Felled branches may have a distinctive 'sharpened pencil' shape
- Lodges, dams, submerged food stores, and channels are all beaver signs.

