

Otter Holt

A suitable location was chosen above the high water mark well away from publically accessible areas. Loosely following designs prepared by the Dorset Wildlife Trust a structure made entirely of timber was created by:

- Grading the bank to create a flat area to house chambers;
- Using logs up to 1m long and 25-40cm in diameter to form a holt roughly 3m in diameter with two chambers of 1m² and a smaller chamber of around 50cm²;
- Pegging the logs down with pointed willow poles to keep them in place;
- Creating an entrance gap facing the water's edge with a second entrance at the rear;
- Laying long poles over the structure to form a roof over the chambers and thinner poles, brash and clay on top to create a dark and dry space.
- Planting saplings of blackthorn and/or willow round the holt to enable scrub to establish and conceal the holt to ensure minimum disturbance.

Large stones have been placed at the water's edge near the entrance in the hope that otter will take the opportunity to use them as sprainting sites (spots where they mark their territory using faecal deposits). This will give us an indication as to whether the holt is being used by otter.



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