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Volume 7E Proposed Development (Onshore) Appendices

Appendix 3-6 Otter and Water Vole Survey Report Annex 1 Otter and water vole field signs

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

EIAR

Environmental Impact Assessment Report

1 Introduction

- 1.1.1.1 This annex supports Volume 7E, Appendix 3-6: Otter and Water Vole of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

Table 1-1: Otter Field Sign Summary Table.

Date	Watercourse/Ditch	Otter Sign	Description
20.06.2023	River Deveron: WC04	Spraint	Adjacent to small drainage burn, on rock by crossing planks.
20.06.2023	River Deveron: WC04	Spraint	Spraints on crossing plank over drainage burn.
20.06.2023	River Deveron: WC04	Spraint	Spraints on old concrete mooring.
20.06.2023	River Deveron: WC04	Spraint	Remains of otter spraints, approximately one month old. Very dried out in appearance. On rock at edge of bank.
20.06.2023	River Deveron: WC04	Couch/Spraint*	Area of flattened grass on edge of bank. Small spraint on grass. Potential couch. Short run into water.
20.06.2023	River Deveron: WC04	Spraint	Two spraints on large rock by water's edge.
20.06.2023	River Deveron: WC04	Lying on site	Partially dug out hollow, with paths either side, flattened grass indicating been used as resting spot.
20.06.2023	River Deveron: WC04	Spraint	Found on rock at edge of bank. One fresh spraint, several older ones.
20.06.2023	River Deveron: WC04	Spraint/Anal Jelly*	Spraint and anal jelly on rocks at edge of bank. Two rocks with spraint piles. Next to banking.
20.06.2023	River Deveron: WC04	Spraint	Otter spraint on rock at edge of bank on rocky embankment.
20.06.2023	River Deveron: WC04	Path	Track through vegetation with disturbed sand at entrance. Potential lying up spot under roots of tree.
20.06.2023	River Deveron: WC04	Spraint	Old otter spraint found on rock at edge of watercourse bank.
20.06.2023	River Deveron: WC04	Spraint	Two old otter spraints on rocks jutting out from bank.
20.06.2023	River Deveron: WC04	Spraint	Spraint on rock embankment, adjacent to watercourse.

Date	Watercourse/Ditch	Otter Sign	Description
20.06.2023	River Deveron: WC04	Spraint	Spraint on rock at edge of watercourse.
20.06.2023	River Deveron: WC04	Spraint	Otter spraint on rock next to vegetation on bank.
21.06.2023	Craigston Burn: WC15	Slide	Parted vegetation leading down to watercourse. No distinct otter signs.
21.06.2023	Craigston Burn: WC15	Sighting	Mustelid seen in watercourse, not clear sighting, fur very dark. Possibly mink or young otter.
22.06.2023	Burn of Brydock: WC03	Spraint	Four spraints under bridge, appears fresh.
22.06.2023	Burn of Brydock: WC03	Spraint	Possible remains of old spraint on rock next to watercourse.
22.06.2023	Burn of Brydock: WC03	Spraint	Two old spraints on rock at edge of water.
22.06.2023	Burn of Brydock: WC03	Spraint	Spraint on rock in centre of watercourse. Fairly recent with older one close to it. Surrounded by reeds.
22.06.2023	Burn of Brydock: WC03	Spraint	Old spraint found on rock in the middle of the watercourse.
22.06.2023	Craigston Burn: WC15	Slide	Vegetation shows signs of regular use, entry into burn from woodland.
30.07.2023	Burn of Monquhitter: WC10	Spraint	Spraint under bridge amongst bird droppings.
13.09.2023	Unnamed tributary or Burn of Brydock: Ditch05	Spraint	Bridge with rank grassland and tall ruderal habitat either side. Two old and two recent spraints on cobbles under bridge.
06.05.2024	Craigston Burn: WC15	Footprints	Possible otter footprints on sandy bank of watercourse. Good resting place.
06.05.2024	Craigston Burn: WC15	Slide	Possible slide through parted vegetation into watercourse.
06.05.2024	Craigston Burn: WC15	Footprints	Footprints across sandy bank.

Date	Watercourse/Ditch	Otter Sign	Description
06.05.2024	Craigston Burn: WC15	Spraint	Two old spraints.
06.05.2024	Craigston Burn: WC15	Footprints	Footprints next to watercourse.
06.05.2024	Craigston Burn: WC15	Spraint	Old spraint on top of rock within watercourse.
07.05.2024	Craigston Burn: WC15	Spraint	Multiple old spraints on rocks underneath and at the sides of bridge.
07.05.2024	Craigston Burn: WC15	Couch	Good potential resting place underneath fallen tree root next to watercourse, alongside direct signs mentioned below.
07.05.2024	Craigston Burn: WC15	Spraint	Old spraint on rock alongside watercourse.
07.05.2024	Craigston Burn: WC15	Anal jelly	Three fresh deposits next to watercourse on sandy bank and rock.
07.05.2024	Craigston Burn: WC15	Footprints	Sandy bank beside watercourse found next to spraint and anal jelly.
08.05.2024	River Deveron: WC04 - Burn of King Edward.	Spraint	On sandy bank alongside watercourse.
08.05.2024	River Deveron, Burn of King Edward: WC04	Footprints	Possible tracks underneath bridge.
08.05.2024	River Deveron, Burn of King Edward: WC04	Spraint	Spraint on tree root next to good potential couch underneath roots where grass appears to be pressed down.
08.05.2024	River Deveron: WC04	Spraint	Old spraint on rock next to watercourse.
08.05.2024	River Deveron: WC04	Slide	Slide and tracks on sandy island within watercourse.
08.05.2024	River Deveron: WC04	Footprints	On sandy bank.
08.05.2024	River Deveron: WC04	Spraint	Old spraint on rock next to watercourse.

Date	Watercourse/Ditch	Otter Sign	Description
08.05.2024	River Deveron: WC04	Couch	Mammal hole on bank, alongside all other signs for this species.
08.05.2024	River Deveron, Burn of King Edward: WC04	Spraint	Old spraint on rock next to watercourse.
08.05.2024	River Deveron: WC04	Footprints	On sandy bank of watercourse.
08.05.2024	River Deveron: WC04	Footprints	On sandy bank of watercourse.
08.05.2024	River Deveron: WC04	Footprints	Bank along watercourse.
09.05.2024	Burn of Burnside: WC16	Spraint	Spraint on rock at side of watercourse.
23.05.2024	River Deveron: WC04	Spraint	Patch of bare ground within area of semi improved neutral grassland on bank. Dried out in appearance, approximately a month old.
*Where two different signs are recorded at the same location (e.g. spraint and anal jelly at one place), this is counted as two different field signs. Therefore, the total otter field signs are 53, at 51 locations.			

Table 1-2: Water Vole Field Sign Summary Table.

Date	Watercourse/Ditch	Water Vole Sign	Description
21.06.2023	Craigston Burn: WC15	Burrow	Small hole in bank, no water vole droppings or feed signs nearby, unlikely to be water vole but correct size.
21.06.2023	Craigston Burn: WC15	Burrow	Burrow in collapsed banking, no field signs nearby to confirm.
21.06.2023	Craigston Burn: WC15	Burrow	Two small burrows in collapsed banking, no other field signs nearby, more likely bank vole.
21.06.2023	Craigston Burn: WC15	Burrow	Mammal burrow in bank of watercourse, no suitable habitat or water vole field signs.

Date	Watercourse/Ditch	Water Vole Sign	Description
21.06.2023	Craigston Burn: WC15	Burrow	At least four burrows on bank, larger one shows old bedding just inside. No other field signs but suitable water vole habitat.
21.06.2023	Craigston Burn: WC15	Burrow	Burrow, single entrance may split into two tunnels, good habitat, no other field signs.
21.06.2023	Craigston Burn: WC15	Burrow	Rodent burrow amongst tree roots high on bank. Good habitat, no other field signs.
13.09.2023	Burn of Kinminty: Ditch06	Burrow	Top bank burrow, east bank within pasture, 1m from bank.
14.09.2023	Burn of Burnside: WC16	Burrow	Two top bank burrows.
14.09.2023	Burn of Burnside: WC16	Burrow	Potential water vole top bank burrow east bank.
08.05.2024	Burn of Kinminty: Ditch06	Burrow	Small mammal hole next to ditch. No other signs present nearby.
08.05.2024	Unnamed tributary of the Burn of Brydock: Ditch05	Burrow	Small hole on bank.
09.05.2024	Burn of Muiryfold: WC09	Burrow	Small hole on bank.
09.05.2024	Burn of Muiryfold: WC09	Burrow	Small hole looks like it goes back quite far.
09.05.2024	Burn of Muiryfold: WC09	Burrow	Small mammal hole along bank.
09.05.2024	Burn of Muiryfold: WC09	Burrow	Mammal hole with evidence of feeding nearby.
09.05.2024	Burn of Muiryfold: WC09	Burrow	Mammal hole with lots of feeding remains on bank.
09.05.2024	Burn of Burnside: WC16	Burrow	Small hole on bank.
09.05.2024	Burn of Burnside: WC16	Burrow	Mammal hole on bank.

Date	Watercourse/Ditch	Water Vole Sign	Description
09.05.2024	Burn of Muiryfold: WC09	Burrow	Mammal hole on left bank.
10.05.2024	Burn of Balquholly: WC12	Burrow	Multiple mammal holes along banks.
10.05.2024	Burn of Balquholly: WC12	Burrow	Small mammal hole on bank.
10.05.2024	Burn of Balquholly: WC12	Burrow	Three mammal holes with feeding remains at entrances along bank.
10.05.2024	Burn of Balquholly: WC12	Burrow	Two mammal holes.
13.09.2023	Burn of Kinminty: Ditch06	Droppings	Under undercut (eastern) bank of ditch choked with watercress (<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>).
13.09.2023	Burn of Kinminty: Ditch06	Droppings	As previous, choked with watercress, monkey flower (<i>Mimulus species</i>), nettle (<i>Urtica dioica</i>) on banks. Droppings under undercut on West Bank.
13.09.2023	Burn of Kinminty: Ditch06	Droppings	Latrine under bank east side. Habitat as previous.
13.09.2023	Burn of Kinminty: Ditch06	Droppings	Droppings under east bank. See previous habitat description.
13.09.2023	Burn of Kinminty: Ditch06	Droppings	Latrine under east bank. Habitat as previous.
14.09.2023	Burn of Burnside: WC16	Droppings	As previous, droppings on east bank.
14.09.2023	Burn of Burnside: WC16	Feeding station	Same as previous.
14.09.2023	Burn of Burnside: WC16	Droppings	Latrine on cobble in central channel.
14.09.2023	Burn of Burnside: WC16	Droppings	Latrine on cobble mid channel.
22.09.2023	Unnamed tributary or Burn of Brydock: Ditch05	Droppings/ Feeding station*	Latrine in central channel with some feeding remains. Narrow vegetated ditch inundated with rank grass and tall ruderal with some scattered scrub. Wide margin from crops either side.

Date	Watercourse/Ditch	Water Vole Sign	Description
22.09.2023	Unnamed tributary or Burn of Brydock: Ditch05	Droppings	Latrine. Habitat as in previous cell.
08.05.2024	Burn of Kinminty: Ditch06	Droppings	Possible droppings spread across 0.5m area of bank.
08.05.2024	Burn of Kinminty: Ditch06	Feeding station	Possible feeding evidence next to ditch on grassy banks. Blades of grass appear to have been fed on.
09.05.2024	Burn of Muiryfold: WC09	Feeding station	Ledge on bank with large quantity of grasses fed on at 45-degree angle.
09.05.2024	Burn of Muiryfold: WC09	Droppings	Potential water vole latrine on rock within watercourse.
09.05.2024	Burn of Muiryfold: WC09	Feeding station	Reeds/grass on bank fed on at angle indicates possible feeding station.
09.05.2024	Burn of Muiryfold: WC09	Feeding station	Grassy banks next to watercourse with small hole and several blades of grass and watercress looks like they have been fed on.
09.05.2024	Burn of Muiryfold: WC09	Feeding station	Feeding station in centre of ditch.
09.05.2024	Burn of Burnside: WC16	Droppings	Latrine on raised ledge next to ditch.
09.05.2024	Burn of Burnside: WC16	Droppings	Latrine on ledge alongside bank.
*Where two different field signs are recorded at the same location (e.g. droppings and feeding station recorded at one place), this is counted as two different field signs. Therefore, the total water vole field signs are 45, at 44 locations.			

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