

Sam and Tilly Otter FAQs

Are otters being released into the wild at Slimbridge?

No, our new otters are part of our zoological collection, and have not been released onto the reserve or into the wider visitor area.

Are the otters at Slimbridge captive or wild?

Our otters are captive and part of our Living (zoological) Collection.

What species are Slimbridge's otters?

They are Asian small-clawed otters, a species from South-east Asian, which are not native to the UK.

Where have the otters come from?

Our otters have been transferred from New Forest Wildlife Park and are part of a monitored European zoo population, and are captive bred animals.

How are the otters housed at Slimbridge?

The otters are in a purpose built exhibit with solid barriers to prevent escape, so that we can care and provide the environment and habitat the animals need to thrive. They have a brand new house, as a cool place to go in summer and a warm inside space in the winter months.

What are the otters at Slimbridge fed?

We provide the otter's food, which consists mostly of shellfish, but also fish and some red meat, with vitamin and mineral supplement. It has been carefully designed to provide them with a balanced diet.

Will the otters breed at Slimbridge?

Our pair are part of the European population and come from well-represented bloodlines. The co-ordinator of the species has recommended that we don't breed from this pairing, because it would be difficult to place and house their young to a high welfare standard if they had any. Therefore we have them on contraception.