

Bristol Avon Impact Study



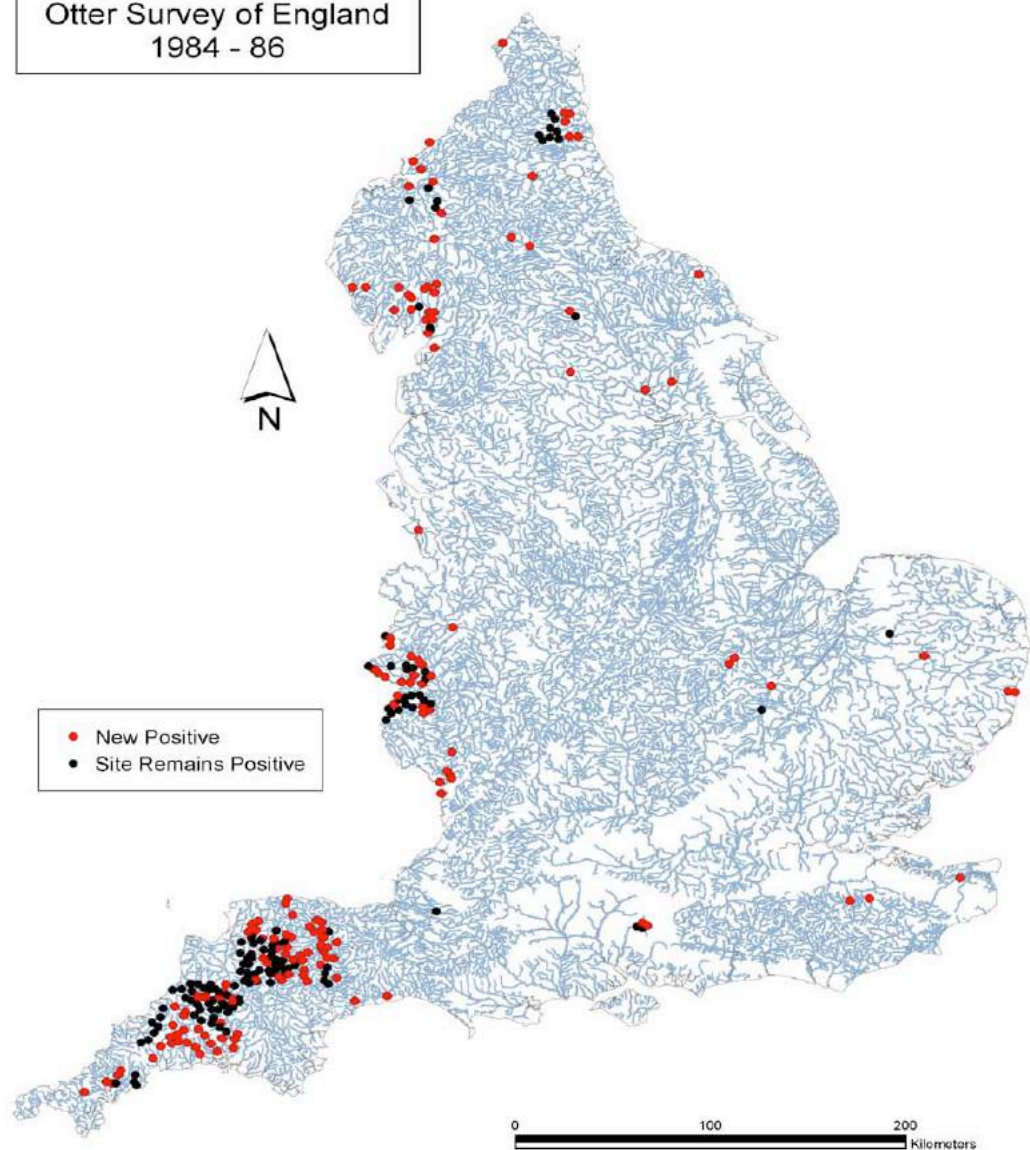
History

- Original fish from the River Kennet
- Stockings in 1964, 1966 and 1969
- Most large barbel that we have been fishing for, are 30-35 years old and from this stocking.



1st EVER BARBEL 8lb 102 1981

Otter Survey of England
1984 - 86



- New Positive
- Site Remains Positive

The 90's

Fishing 3-4 times per week

Average catches 100 – 150 fish per season

Understanding wife.

Job – with an understanding boss



FISHING SEASON 16 JUNE - 14 MARCH 1993/94

2.4 2.6 2.14 2.19
 8.5 10.15 6.2 5.5 a 10
 25/2/94 13/94

DATE	WEIGHT		LENGTH GIRTH	BAIT	WEATHER	WATER	I.D	COMMENTS	
	LB	OZ							
SAT 19/6	6	11	-	WORM	WARM NIGHT	16-5°C 10' UP V.C	-	12.20 AM CHIPP + 1 FWC WOOD	1
TUE 24/6	5	13	-	MEAT	WARM CLEAR NO WIND	16-4°C CUFOR	-	11.15 PM CHIPP.	2
24/6	7	65	-	MEAT	- " -	- " -	-	12.35 AM CHIPP	3
24/6	10	01	29-5"	MEAT	- " -	- " -	-	11.45 PM CHIPP. + 2 LOST	4
MON 28/6	7	03	-	MEAT	WARM NIGHT NO WIND/BREEZE	17-2°C CUFOR	-	10.45 PM CHIPP + CRAZY NIGHT 1 DISC (E) LOST + WIND BLOWN	5
TUE 29/6	9	07	29-00	MEAT	- " -	- " -	-	00.40 AM CHIPP.	6
WED 30/6	7	01	-	MEAT	V. WARM MUGGY	21-4°C LOW CUFOR	SPUT OUTSIDE FISH	00.05 AM CHIPP.	7
WED 30/6	8	00	-	MEAT	- " -	- " -	SCOR LEFT SWIF TAPUS (R) PECTAL	10.15 PM CHIPP	8
SAT 10/7	7	09	-	WORM OR MEAT	6°C COOL NIGHT	WARM. PECTAL BAIT	-	01.15 SHOW ELL	9
WED 14/7	6	12	-	TANDORI	WARM MUGGY DRY	RAIN 24 HOURS TUE SE WIND	SMALL 2007 MID 2007 + 2011 PECTAL MUDY EYES LIBREPOL MUDS	00.15 CHIPP	10
SAT 24/7	11	06	30" x 17 1/2	TIKKA MEAT	MUSSET PUMP	17-8°C LOW CUFOR	-	02.05 SHOW ELL P.B	11
WED 28/7	5	03	-	- " -	V. WARM MUGGY	17.3°C LOW CUFOR	FOOT HIGH	23-45 CHIPP F/S 1ST FISH	12
WED 10/8	9	00	26 1/2 x 16"	- " -	COOL, DRY WIND	17-8°C LOW CUFOR	BACK SPINNING LEFT PECTAL	02-10 SHOW ELL (TOP SWIM)	13
MON 20/8	10	14	30" x 17"	- " -	WARM DRY WIND	18°C LOW CUFOR	1 BARBU MUDS DUMP BACK	23-20 SHOW ELL (TUE SWIM)	14
SAT 7/8	8	03	27" x 14 3/4	SMALL TIKKA MEAT	MUSSET BRUSHY MUDS	" CUFOR	WED OR TALK FISH NOT TALKING	03.05 SHOW ELL (TUE SWIM)	15
TUE 10/8	9	10	28 x 16 1/4	CORN (SAL)	MUD 1007 12°C	16.9°C V. WINDY	1 1/2 SCOR NIGHT FISH +	20.15 SHOW ELL (BURN SWIM)	16
TUE 17/8	9	1/2 02	28 1/2 x 16	TIKKA (M) MEAT	MUD 1007 DRY	STUCK	BACK WENT FORWARD OF TAIL	21.50 PECTAL SWIM	17
WED 18/8	7	13	-	- " -	COOL DRY	V. LOW STANDED	LOB DOTT TAIL + DRY SWIM DUTT	23.10 SHOW ELL (TUE)	18
SUN 25/9	6	01	-	LOB	WARM 12°C DRY	17°C CUFOR	UPPER LOWER LEFT FISH	19.00 CHIPP. 2007 LOST SWIM	19
FRI 10/9	6	03	-	MUD MEAT	WARM 10 AM. 13°C DRY COOL WIND	15.6°C 12.4°C CUFOR	-	22.15 SHOW ELL - WOODS	20
MON 4/10	7	12	-	MEAT	COOL/WIND	UP 1 FOOT 0.1007	BERT BACK	22.00 PECTAL SWIM	21
MON 11/11	4	00	-	MEAT (P)	COOL, DRY CALM	LOW CUFOR V. WINDY!	-	22.00 (T.W)	22
15/11/93	5	05	-	MEAT (L)	COOL FEELING	7.3°C CUFOR	-	-	23
4/12	4	12	-	MEAT (L)	COOL WIND	9.2°C CUFOR	-	9.00 PM (T.W)	24
4/12	5	08	-	- " -	- " -	- " -	-	8.40 PM (T.W)	25
5/12	3	09	-	- " -	MILD DRY	9.0 CUFOR	WIND TALK COST	8.45 (T.W)	26
5/12	7	12	-	- " -	- " -	- " -	WIND (WIND) WIND CALM	9.00 (T.W)	27
12/12	5	00	-	TANDORI MEAT	RAIN 24 HOURS WINDY	6.2°C	-	5.00 PM (PECTAL SWIM)	28
16/12	6	13	-	MEAT	DRY COOL WIND	6.1°C	GRASS VICTOR	11.15 PM (MAGGARD)	29
22/12	3	00	-	MEAT	COOL WIND 5°C	6.6°C (COOL)	-	5.45 PM (T.W)	30

My First Otter Sighting Sep 1994

- Bradford –On Avon , Wiltshire
- 1 X pair Adult Otters (very timid)

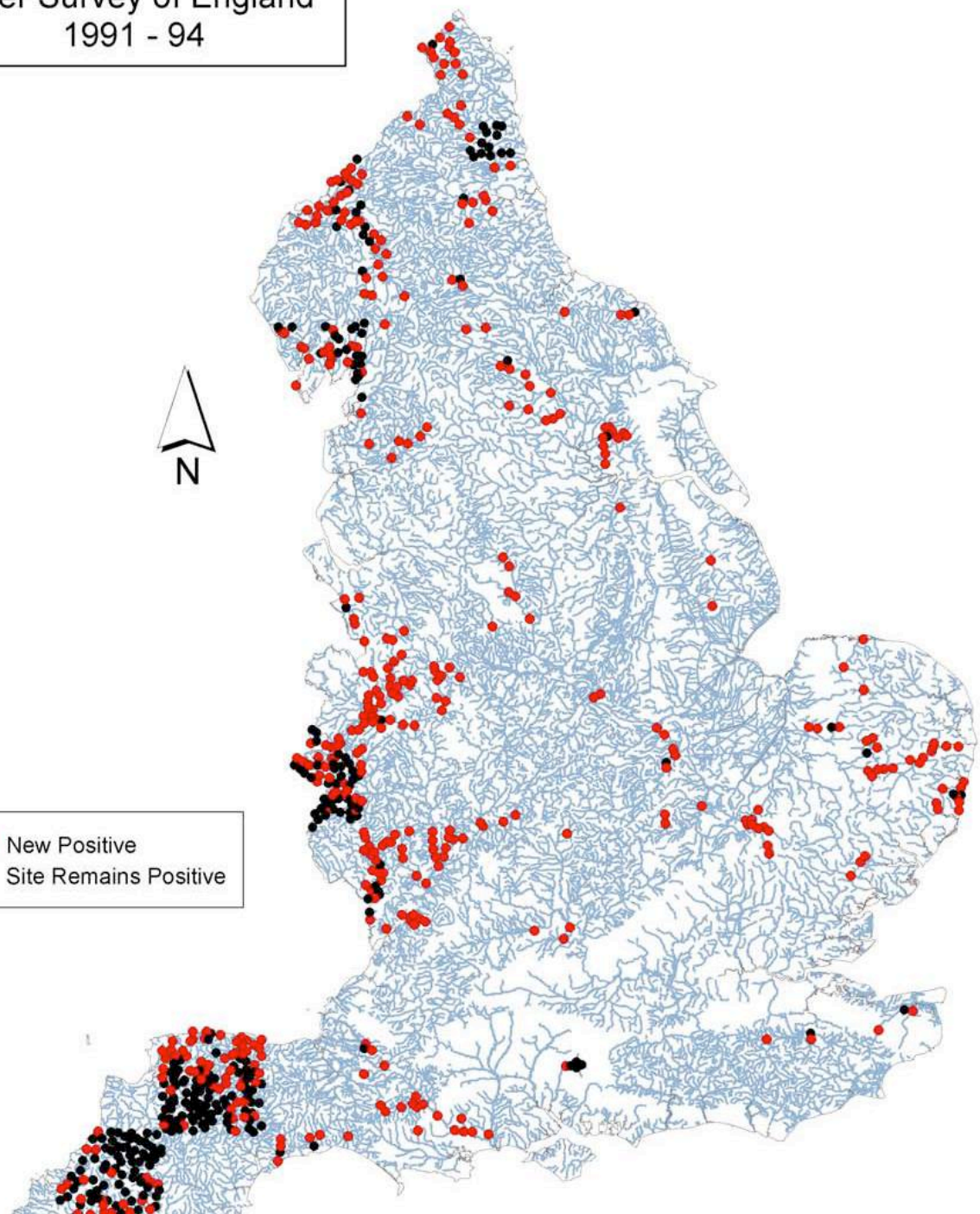
My First Otter Sighting Sep 1994

- Bradford –On Avon , Wiltshire
- 1 X pair Adult Otters (very timid)
- Dec 1994 Both found dead (hit by a train)
- Otter trust informed.

Otter Survey of England
1991 - 94



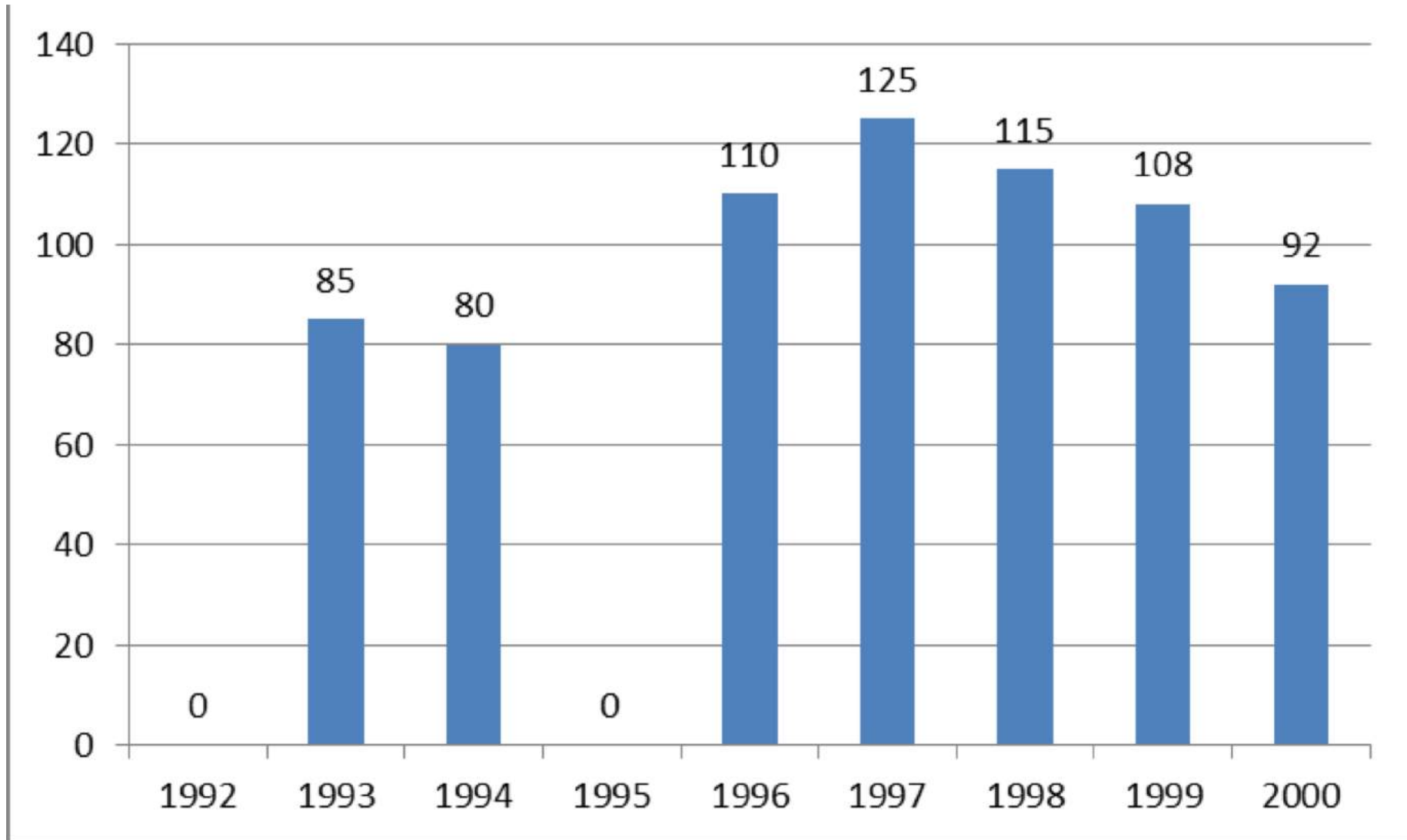
- New Positive
- Site Remains Positive







1992 -2000 Spawning Fish



SPECIES BARBEL (*Barbus barbus*)
WEIGHT 17 lbs 8 ozs 15 drms (7.964 kg)
PLACE River Great Ouse, Bedfordshire.
DATE 17th December, 2000

MR. STUART MORGAN

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE ABOVE NAMED HOLDS
THE RECORD
FOR THE LARGEST
ROD-CAUGHT SPECIMEN
OF THE ABOVE SPECIES
EVER CAUGHT IN
GREAT BRITAIN
AT THE DATE OF CAPTURE

"INTERIM"
FRESHWATER RECORD



R.W. Page
CHAIRMAN

2001

David Lane
SECRETARY

www.anglingtimes.com
**Angling
Times**
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2001 NO. 2477 £1.50



**Nine days, four
casts...and
two record
barbel**

EXCLUSIVE
story and
pics - See
Page 3



Sea Angler WEEKLY Piers, boys, gullies — and plenty of

SPECIES #BARBEL (*Barbus barbus*)
WEIGHT 17 lbs 15 ozs 14 drms (8.104 kg)
PLACE River Great Ouse, Bedfordshire.
DATE 20th December, 2000

MR. STUART MORGAN

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THE ABOVE NAMED HOLDS
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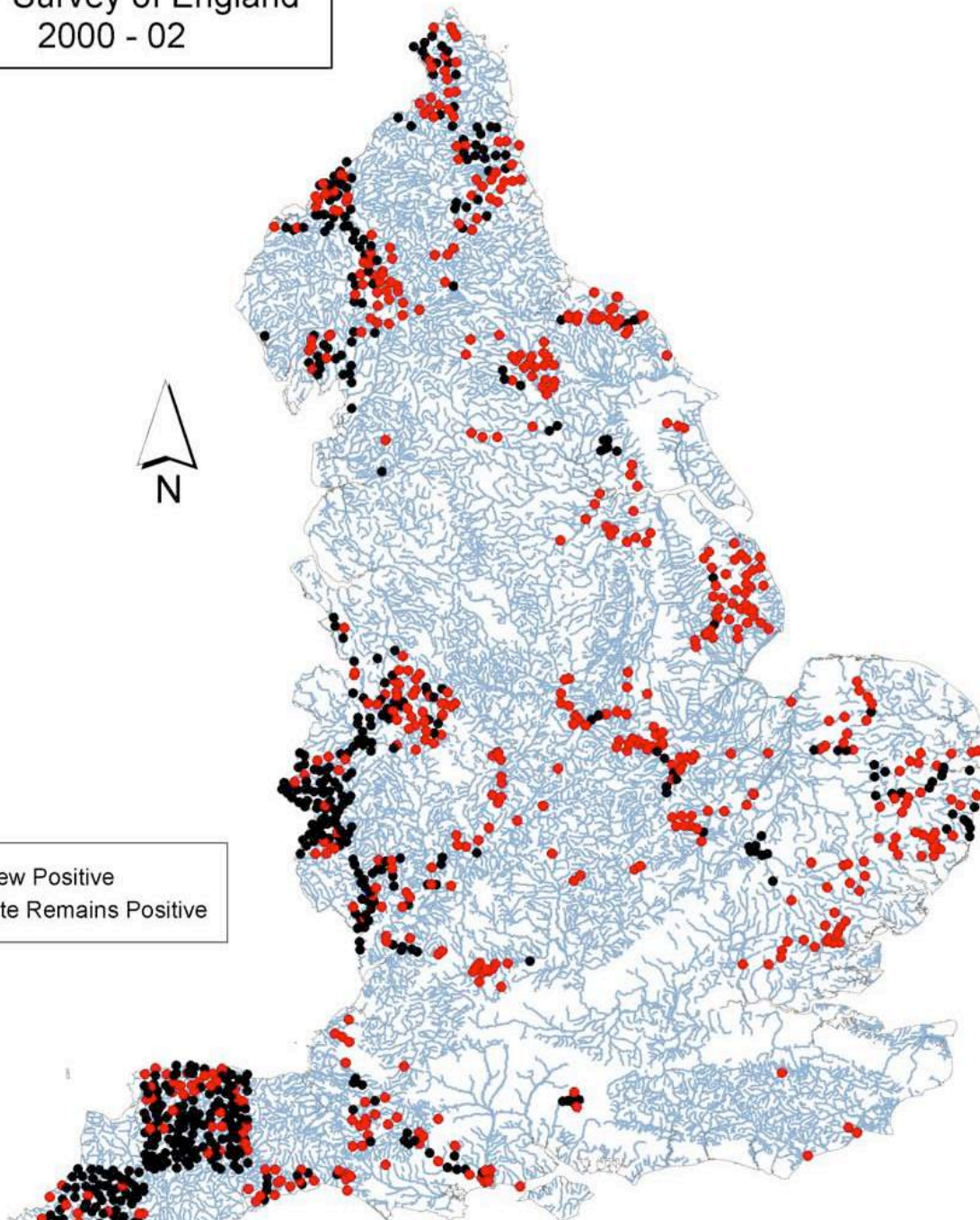
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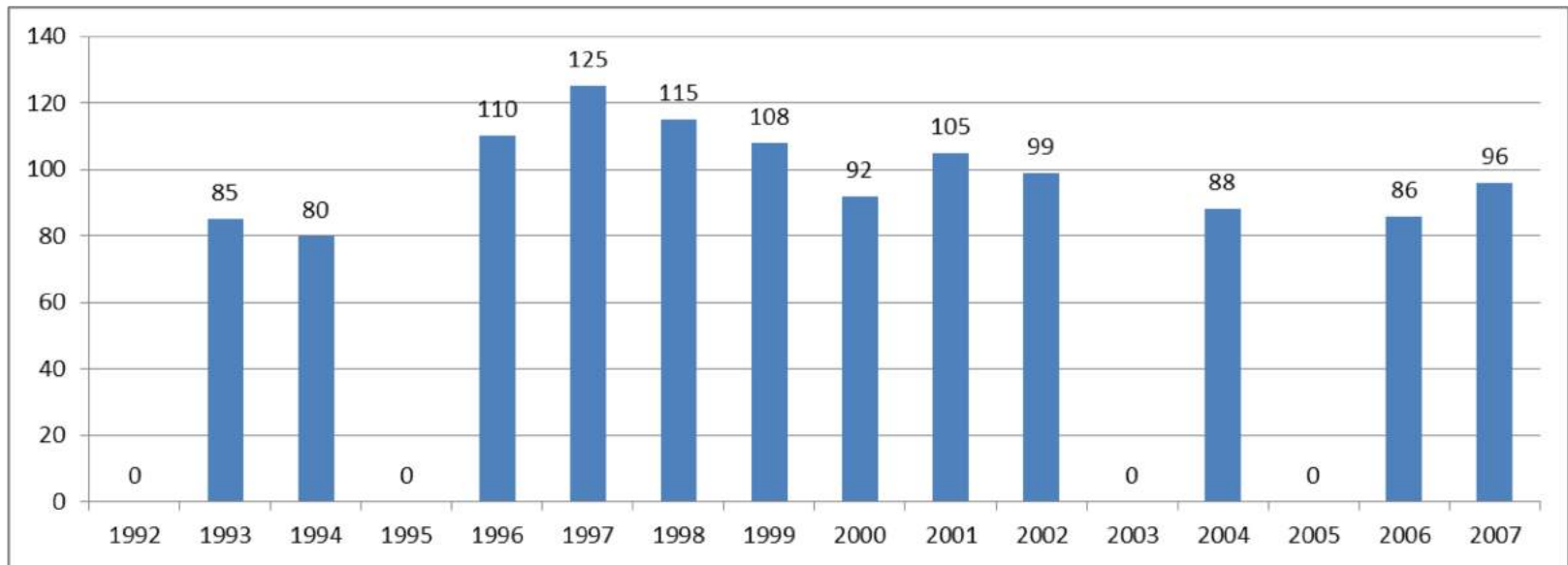
Otter Survey of England
2000 - 02



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1992 - 2007



2007

Two things happened.

1 - July 2007 - Summer Floods

2007

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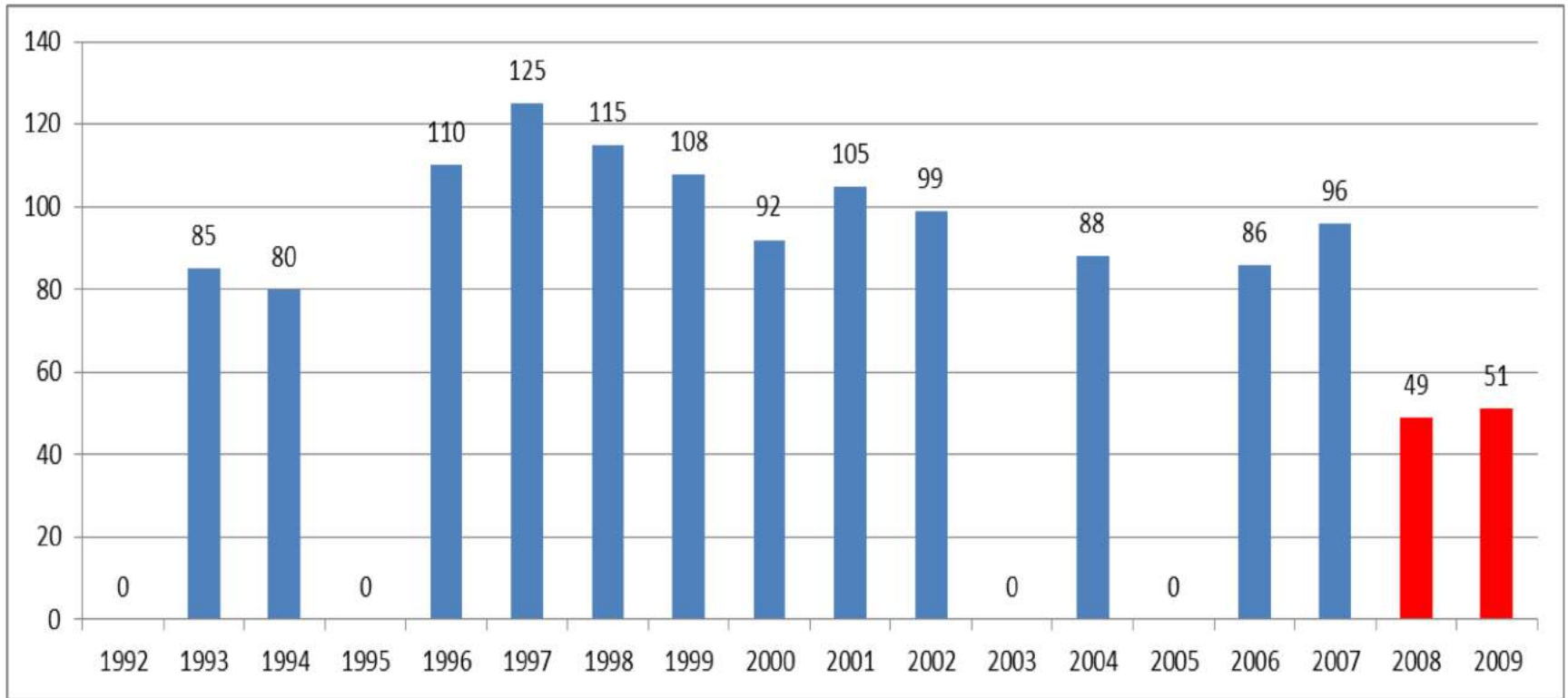
1 - July 2007 - Summer Floods

2 – Otters “arrived”

24th Oct 2007!

- 5x Otters spotted
- Venue 1 - (1.5 miles)
- 1 x Dog otter, + 2 x adult presumed females.
- Venue 2 (0.5 miles)
- 2 x Adults
- 5 In one day ! Natural Evolution? A Miracle?

1992 - 2009



OTTERS COULD WIPE OUT OUR RIVER BARBEL

March 17, 2009

The next decade could spell the end of the country's barbel unless a solution to the rapidly growing otter problem is found, experts have warned this week.

Calls have come for meetings and discussion groups between angling and nature organisations as Angling Times unearthed evidence of yet more venues that are being wiped out by the country's biggest mammalian predator, including the upper River Thames and several of its tributaries.

Some anglers, including AT columnist Martin Bowler, have even suggested that otters are having the same impact on specimen river fish as cormorants had on roach. The otter threat has come to prominence in recent years with the decimation of the former British record barbel stretch of the Great Ouse at Adam's Mill, and the killing of several known double-figure fish on the Wensum.

"It's Armageddon. The Ouse has gone, the Wensum and the Thames are next, and the Loddon and Kennet will follow," warned Martin.

"Nobody is taking this seriously enough. On the rivers I target, I can find a fish carcass within five minutes of looking. Otters are on the increase and they're getting much bolder. A friend of Terry Lampard's recently had a tug of war with one after it grabbed his keep sack containing a 7lb Stour chub," he added.

Also leading the calls for talks is respected Thames big-fish angler John Everard. John has stopped fishing for barbel on the Upper Thames and its tributaries, such as the Windrush and the Cherwell, because it's now pointless.

"We need an open debate between angling organisations and conservation groups interested in otters on how bringing back one species is having a detrimental effect on another," insisted John.

"Anglers are conservationists. We want to see otters become re-established, but a workable solution must be found. Barbel are particularly vulnerable to otters during the spawning season when they make for easy pickings," he said.

But Barbel Society chairman Steve Pope warns that anglers must tread very carefully on the subject of otters.

"The public perception of angling is currently one of our strong points but if we give out the wrong impression, anglers could quickly become public enemy number one.

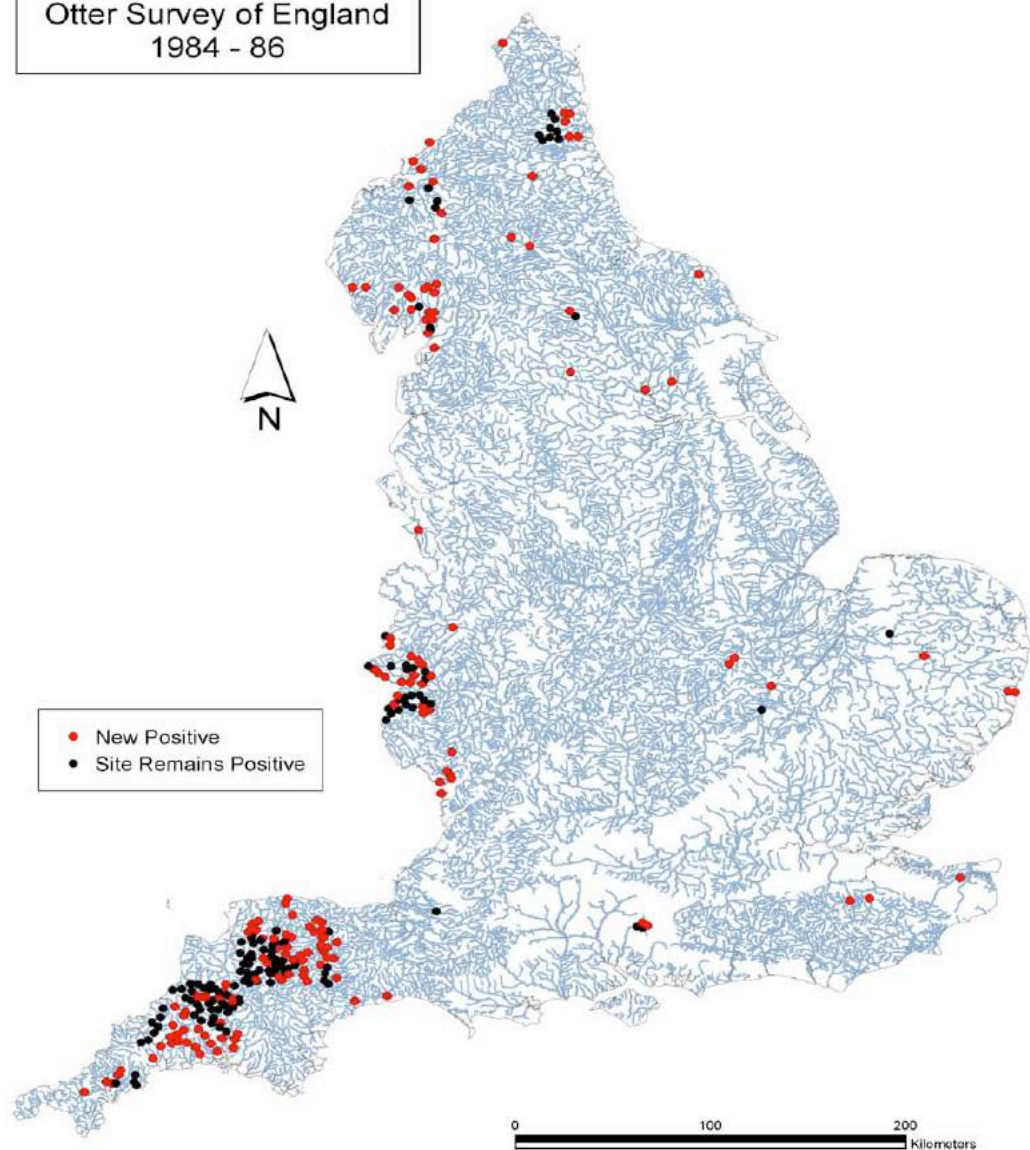
Summary of results for each catchment

Bristol Avon (104)

Main survey	1977-79	1984-86	1991-94	2000-02	2009-10
Positive sites/total	0/15	0/15	0/15	1/15	10/15

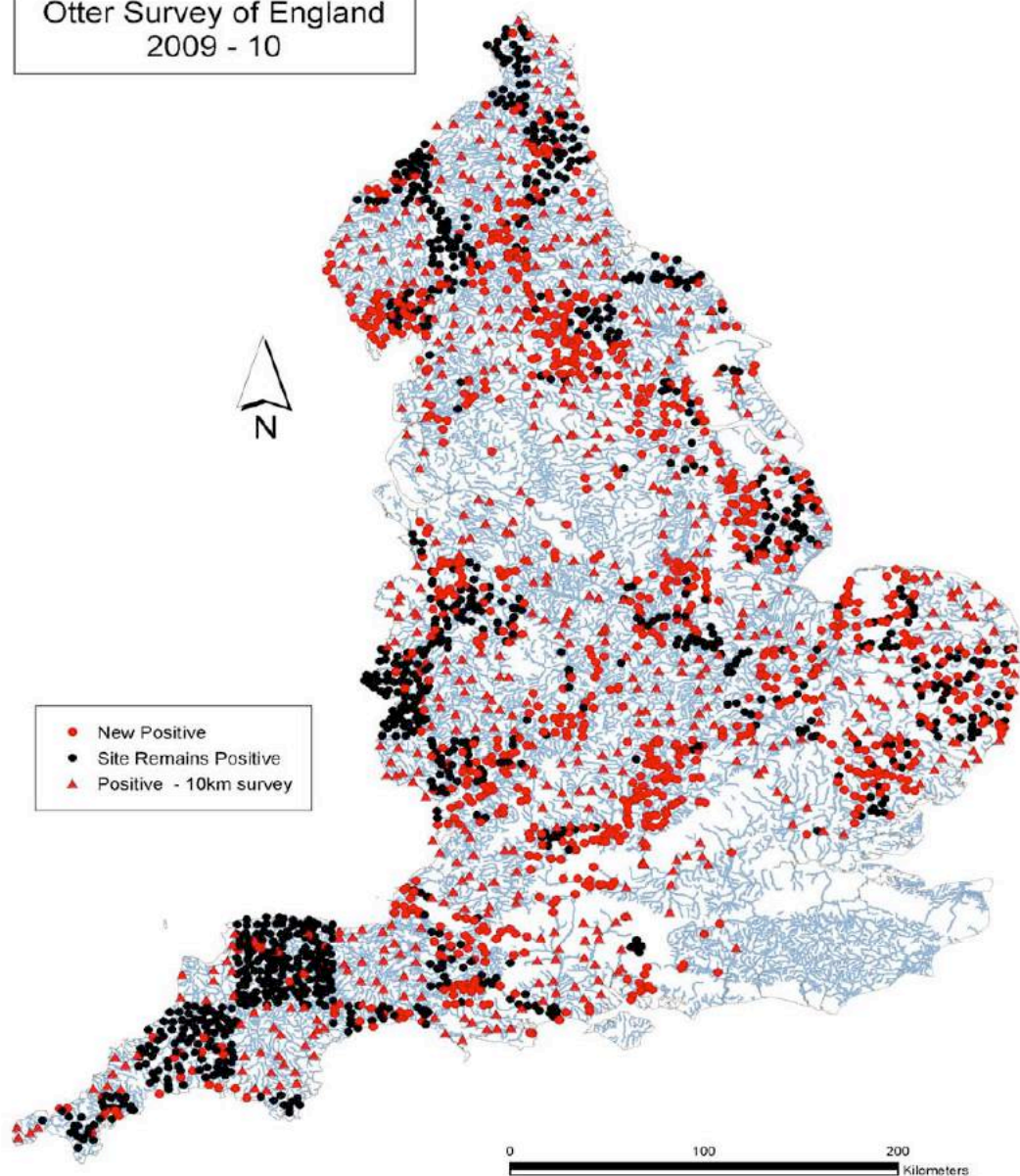
There has been a significant increase in positive sites in this catchment. In addition the alternate squares spot-checks show that otters are now widespread. No otter signs were found on the estuary or in Bristol itself but there have been reliable reports of otters within the city limits (J. Field *pers. comm.*).

Otter Survey of England
1984 - 86



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Otter Survey of England
2009 - 10



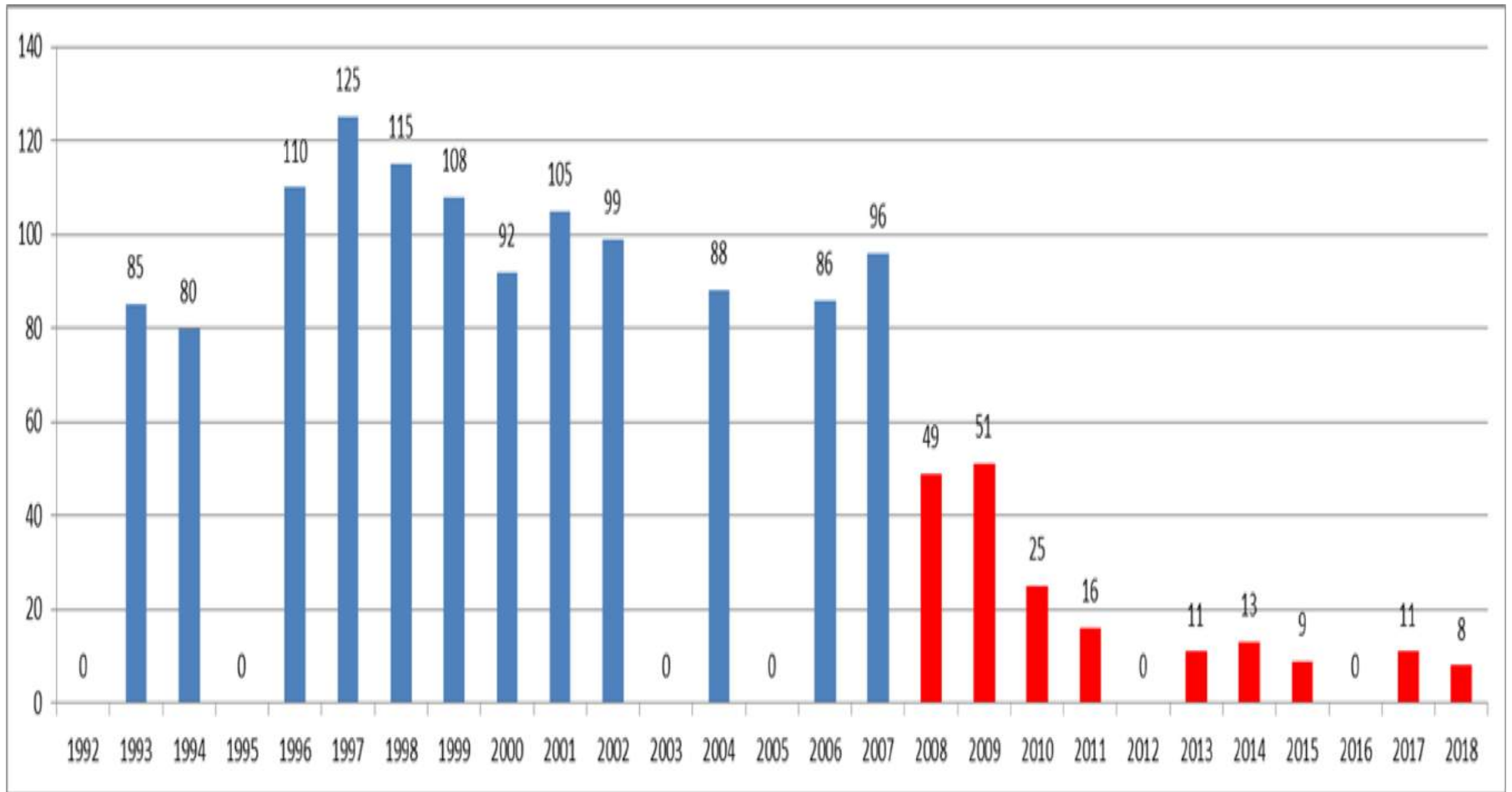
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- ▲ Positive - 10km survey

14th Dec 2009 - 1st “ottered fish”

- 14th Dec 2009 to 14th March 2010– 8 Dead barbel found. Plus carp and pike.
- 6 over 10lb+ (15lb 2oz largest).



1992 - 2018



Self Funded, Private Barbel Re-Stocking

- Nov 2010 - 168 x 10" Barbel purchased. £1850.
- Section 30 to stock into "control stretch", 1.5 miles length, good habitat.
- Historically, only 6 known barbel present.
- Results:

6 x Cormorants arrived and stayed throughout the cold 2010 winter.

4 x Otters in residence
(2 x Adults + 2 x Cubs)

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- No. of original six barbel, as of Apr 2018 = 1

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4 x Otters in residence
(2 x Adults + 2 x Cubs)

- No. of original six barbel, as of Apr 2018 = 1
- No. of “168 stocked” barbel seen or caught from 2010 to 2018 = 0

Summary

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- The original stock, already reduced by the 2007 floods, were easy targets in cold winters of 2009 & 2010, plus the barbel had little or no natural awareness of the threat posed by otters, resulting in a 125 to 8 (96%) reduction in barbel stock.

Summary

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- Natural spawning and holding areas are now silting up in many places.

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- The original stock, already reduced by the 2007 floods, were easy targets in cold winters of 2009 & 2010, plus the barbel had little or no natural awareness of the threat posed by otters, resulting in a 125 to 8 (96%) reduction in barbel stock.
- Natural spawning and holding areas are now silting up in many places.
- I am counting more otters on the river than barbel.