The 2 day event included involvement in a pilot study being conducted by

Victoria Priestley at Imperial College London. Somerset surveyors collected

examining the samples for traces of otter DNA that have been shed into

the water in the form of skin cells, hair, saliva, spraint, urine, mucous or

gametes. This environmental DNA (eDNA) can be used to detect species

species. DEFRA have approved the technique for great-crested newt

can be an option in the otter survey toolkit.

of the sites and water levels.

Use this link to find out more:

presence and as such, is an efficient survey and monitoring tool for elusive

surveys and Victoria's research aims to optimise the method so that eDNA

15 sites over at least 5 catchment areas were selected and water samples

collected on both the Saturday and Sunday together with full descriptions

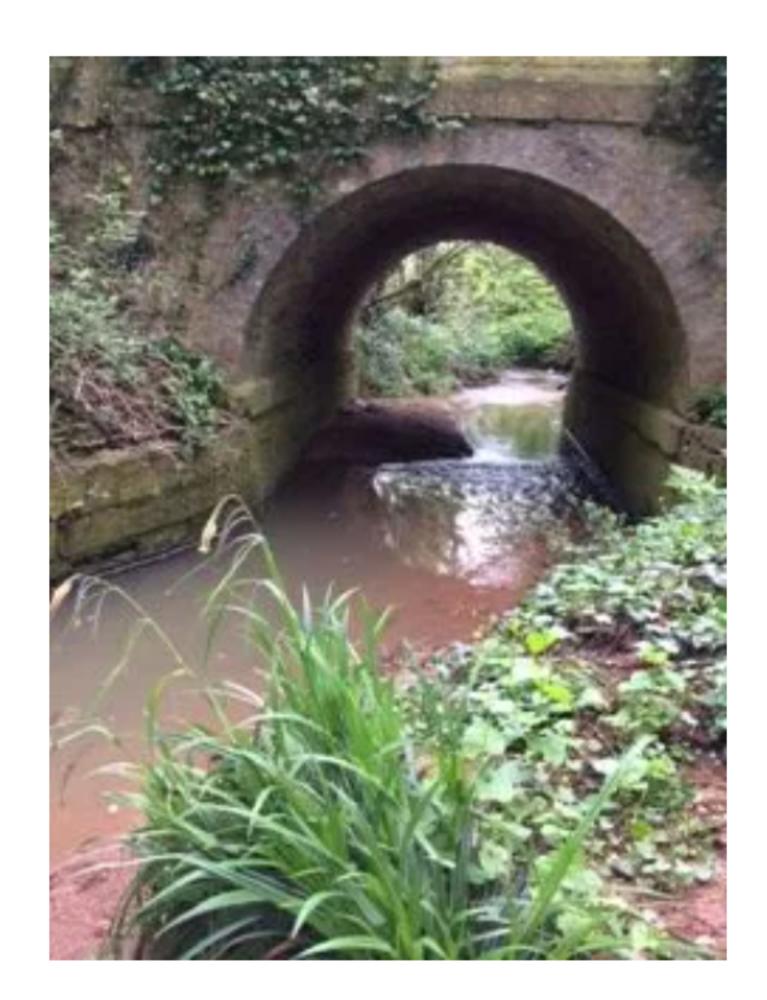
https://www.imperial.ac.uk/news/176114/sampling-species-dna-trails-

water samples from several sites during the survey. Victoria will be



Environmental DNA study (eDNA) –

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