



# Otter Survey of the Birmingham Canal System

In 2017, the first official survey of otters in the Birmingham canals was a great success.

**This year we are repeating the survey, and we need your help!**

After a serious decline in the 1950s, otter numbers appear to be recovering and while you might not realise it, canals are a really good place for otters to live.

Last year's survey showed promising signs, indicating there may be 5 or more individual otters using canals in the area.

We need to go out and survey the same areas again to see if they are still using the same places.



Photo credit: Derek Crawley

We have a lot of canal to cover so we're looking for as many volunteers as possible. Anyone can get involved!

## What is involved?

The survey is very easy. You will walk along a short (a few km) section of canal, recording any otter signs on a survey sheet that we will provide.

You will need to do this on **Saturday AND Sunday morning**, on the **3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>** or **10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> February** (or both weekends if you have time!)

Don't worry if you don't have any experience, we are running information sessions in January to teach you everything you will need to know!



## Why should I volunteer?

- Actively help to conserve this amazing species
- Learn new skills
- Meet new people
- Enjoy the great canals we have in Birmingham

## How do I find out more?

Contact Hannah Bristow (survey coordinator) at [hbristow96@gmail.com](mailto:hbristow96@gmail.com), and come along to our main training session – **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2-4 pm** at Wildside Activity Centre (Hordern Road, Wolverhampton, WV6 0HA)

If you can't make that day, we will also run a couple of training sessions in late January at the University of Birmingham, date/time TBC