

## Walk Highlights

**Otters** live on the Itchen and other nearby stretches of water. They tend to be active at night, when they hunt the waters for eel and other fish. During the day they lie up in sheltered 'holts', such as under tree roots near the river. Thanks to conservation efforts, otter populations on the Itchen have recovered since the 1950s, when habitat loss and persecution caused drastic declines in numbers across the UK and Europe.



An Itchen Otter © Darin Smith

South of Kiln Lane, the **Itchen Navigation and the River Itchen flow side by side** with just a narrow bank separating the two channels. The Wildlife Trust has carried out wildlife friendly engineering works to prevent this vulnerable bank from collapsing. Now, plants along the edge of the rivers will protect the bank from erosion and provide a home for water vole and other wildlife.



The Navigation and the river flowing side by side © Polly Whyte

**Otterbourne Park Wood** is an ancient woodland managed by the Woodland Trust. It is home to many old oak, ash, maple and alder trees and boasts a wonderful display of ground flora in the spring. Ancient woodlands are over 400 years old and contain rare plants and lichens which are not found in younger woodlands.



Otterbourne Park Wood © Polly Whyte

The Itchen Navigation Heritage Trail Project is a Heritage Lottery Fund project managed by the Wildlife Trust, preserving an internationally important chalk river system for future generations. Find out more about the Itchen Navigation at: [www.itchennavigation.org.uk](http://www.itchennavigation.org.uk)



Hampshire & Isle of Wight  
Wildlife Trust  
*Protecting wildlife. Inspiring people.*

### Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

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## OTTER TRAIL Otterbourne

**Distance:**  
3.5 miles / 5.5km  
**Walking time:**  
2 hours  
**Terrain:** flat

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