



Otter are a protected species and one of the six animals protected by the park's Biodiversity Action Plan

As a 'top predator' the Otter is naturally scarce and also highly sensitive to the health of the whole ecosystem that supports it. In the Lee Valley the Otter is an important indicator species of rivers and streams.

As recently as the 1950s they were widespread, however, a significant decline in numbers took place in the 1960s and 1970s. Otter finally became extinct in the area around the mid-1970s. In the early 1990s six Otter were re-introduced to the valley at key locations. From this small reintroduction a viable population now exists and is monitored by the park.

Adopting this iconic species could help with the following specific actions or projects for this species:

- River clean ups
- Building a new Otter holt (artificial breeding den)
- Habitat works to improve rivers and streams for Otter

The key actions for this species your support could go towards are:

- Understanding the current distribution of Otter in the Lee Valley.
- Maintaining and expanding the current distribution and abundance of Otter in the Lee Valley
- Facilitating the recolonisation of previously occupied sites
- Raising awareness of Otter, their protected status and best practice conservation management