

CALLING ALL CHANNEL SWIMMERS!

►► The process of becoming a Channel swimmer is about far more than putting one arm in front of the other, it's an intensive process that affects every bit of the contender's life, and moves them into an elite sociological group. The effects of this process are the subject of a new study by sociology lecturer and keen swimmer, Karen Throsby.

A Channel veteran herself, Throsby has set up a website dedicated to her search

for people to take part in the study. "The aims of the research are not only to generate a detailed account of the specific process of becoming a Channel swimmer, but also to ask what those experiences can tell us more generally about open water swimming and its growing popularity," she told *H₂Open*.

To complete this research she is looking for others who have completed the Channel, as well as "boat pilots, coaches, family members, official observers, beach volunteers...basically, anyone

involved in Channel swimming. As well as observing and training with swimming communities both in the UK and overseas, I am conducting interviews and studying a wide range of published and unpublished accounts, blogs and websites and media reporting," she said.

You can learn more about the project, and find out how you can participate in it, at warwick.ac.uk/go/channelswimmer



Karen Throsby in training for her Channel swim. Can you help her collect data?