

# The River Chess: A truly special river



Chalk Streams are a globally rare, confined to England and North West Europe, and are priority habitats in the UK. They are also a defining feature of the Chilterns landscape.

Chalk Streams like the Chess are noted for their lush vegetated margins, clean gravel bed and crystal clear, oxygenated waters. Plants like the white flowered, water crowfoot grow abundantly in the fast flow and fish such as brown trout lay their eggs in the gravels of the river bed. The river supports an abundance of insect life from the green drake mayfly to the truly spectacular banded demoiselle. Bird species such as heron, kingfisher and water rail abound and the river is an important wintering ground for sandpiper, jack snipe, teal and gadwall.

The Chess also supports one of the last two natural populations of water vole in Buckinghamshire and is home to the secretive water shrew.