

CHALK RIVER WILDLIFE



White Clawed Crayfish

Classified as endangered on the IUCN red list, white clawed crayfish love chalk rivers. Rocks and crevices provide shelter as they hunt for invertebrates whilst the calcium rich water helps with the growth of their exoskeleton.



Mayfly

Mayflies are freshwater indicator species and their presence or absence can inform us about the health of our rivers. The fine gravel on chalk riverbeds is an excellent location for mayfly nymphs to burrow.



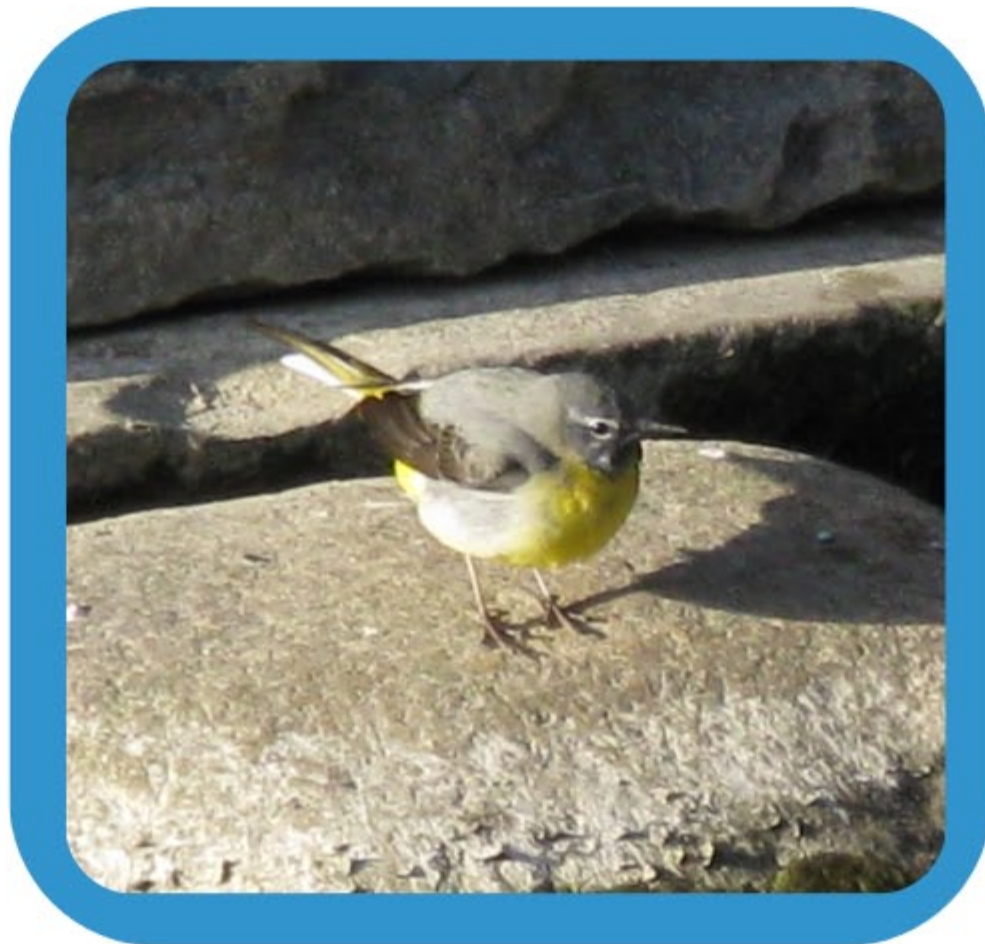
Water vole

Water voles prefer slow moving rivers and streams where there is good vegetation cover on banks. The Lower Stour Marshes are a stronghold for water voles, particularly amongst the network of drainage ditches.



Brown Trout

Clean gravel beds found in chalk rivers are excellent locations for brown trout spawning as silt-free conditions ensure eggs are well oxygenated. The abundance of invertebrate life also provides plenty of food for brown trout.



Grey Wagtail

Grey wagtails prefer faster flowing chalk rivers and can often be spotted in urban areas. Walls and steps into rivers provide perches for grey wagtails to watch for prey which includes mayflies and midges. They can also feed on smaller aquatic invertebrates on the river bed.



Banded Demoiselle

Banded damselflies are one of the largest damselflies in the UK and are often found near slower moving parts of chalk rivers. These damselflies are fierce predators and take smaller flying invertebrates off of the river's surface or bankside vegetation.

Visit the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership website for tips and tricks on how we can all protect our chalk river habitats and wildlife!

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