

CHALK RIVER WILDLIFE



Kingfisher

Kingfishers are unmistakable birds with their blue and orange plumage. They fly rapidly, low over the water often calling as they go. The crystal clear waters of chalk rivers create ideal conditions for kingfishers to search for their prey.



Otter

A secretive mammal, otters are rarely seen but their field signs such as footprints, spraints and feeding remains are indicators of their presence. Fish are the bulk of an otter's prey but they have been known to feed on water birds too.



Caddisflies

Both cased and caseless caddisfly larvae can be found living in chalk rivers. Cased caddisfly create a silk from their mouths which they use to stick materials such as stones and leaves together to form their cases. They are experts in camouflage!



European Eel

Freshwater rivers play a crucial part in the European eel's life cycle as this is where they spend the majority of their life. Eels feed on fish, molluscs and crustaceans and have been seen to leave rivers to feed on slugs and snails on nearby fields!



Water Crowfoot

With beautiful white buttercup-like flowers, water crowfoot adds a splash of colour to the river's surface during the summer. Under the surface its leaves, stems & roots create a fantastic habitat for many river invertebrates.



Beaver

In the 16th Century, beavers were hunted to extinction but over the last 20 years through reintroduction projects beavers have made their return across the UK. The huge diversity of vegetation found in chalk rivers provides plenty of food for these herbivores.

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

www.kentishstour.org.uk

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