

Chilterns Chalk Streams Project

Education Programmes



Key Stage 1 and 2

Outdoor Visits

Stream Safari

Discover more about your local river and what makes chalk streams so special. See what lives there and find out how these creatures are adapted to survival, including wildlife detective walk and stream dipping activity.

This can be combined with a follow-up workshop at school.

Workshops at school

Chalk stream presentation (40 mins)

Find out about your local river with this interactive talk from our education officer. This is useful as a starting point for your river topic or as a recap at the end! Includes information about why chalk streams are special, chalk stream wildlife and human impacts. Can be delivered before a river safari trip or a stand alone visit.

Save our streams (KS2)

How do people have an impact on local rivers and what can we do to protect this habitat for the future? Complete an exciting “escape room” type quiz and a visual “build a river” activity to find out.

Where do I live? (Early years and KS1)

Younger children can find out all about the wonderful chalk stream wildlife in this fun but educational session. We can imagine we are at the river by using your school grounds to create homes for our soft toy chalk stream animals and with a sensory story “Nature’s theatre”.

Indoor Safari

We’ll bring the invertebrates to you. A chance to learn about river life, and how it is adapted to survive. This session can be tailored to your topic, and may include classification and using keys, food chains and webs or lifecycles as required.

Willow wonders

Fancy something crafty? Using natural willow make trout or dragonfly decorations for your classroom! This activity is designed to follow on from previous workshops/ talks and requires extra classroom assistant help!

Whole Term's Project

Trout in the Classroom

In this term-long project pupils get the opportunity to observe the lifecycle of the brown trout at close quarters. We will install a tank and provide you with eggs. Then you can enjoy learning about their life cycle, before releasing the trout into your local river.

Please note this project runs between Christmas and Easter only and is subject to funding/ staff resources.

Secondary Schools

Chalk stream presentation

Inspire your students to look after their local environment with this informative talk with our education officer. Includes information about why chalk streams are special, chalk stream wildlife and how humans are impacting them. This can be delivered as an assembly or a talk to eco committee/ class.

Riverfly Monitoring for schools

The 'Riverfly for Schools' programme is an opportunity for students to contribute to the monitoring of their local rivers and establishing how healthy they are. This is done by collecting data from both biotic and abiotic variables within the river. This will give students a chance to get to know their local river, participate in a national citizen science initiative and gain data collection/ fieldwork skills.

Citizen science taster day

Find out about the work of the Chiltern chalk stream citizen scientists. From spotting mud to water voles this could inspire your students to look after their local river in the future. They will also get a chance to have a go at a few of the fieldwork techniques. This is held at Latimer, River Chess.

Thanks to funding from Thames Water and Affinity Water all sessions are **free** to schools within the local area. Activities can also be adapted for uniformed groups, community groups and home educators.

For more information, or to discuss a bespoke programme please contact Ceri at cgroves@chilternsaonb.org