

River Chess 'Smarter Water Catchments' Project

How to get involved

Throughout 2022/23, we are on the lookout for bright ideas! Let us know if you can help to restore the River Chess – there will be funding available through our grant schemes. If you have answers to any of the questions, or just want to get involved please contact us on chessCS@chilternsaonb.org

Managing Flow

- Help us waste less water and save our streams
- Visit Affinity Water's website: <https://saveourstreams.co.uk/>
 - Order free water saving devices, video chat with an expert
 - Take easy challenges, see your water use stats
- Outside the catchment, regional plans/consultation on the future of water supply- have a say here: <https://wrse.uk.engagementhq.com/about-our-consultation>

Water Quality

- Help us answer key questions. For example, where/how does sediment enter the river? Does it change over time?
- River monitoring- Riverfly, SmartRivers, Modular River Survey, water quality and flow monitoring. Would you be interested in learning more and joining us? We will co-ordinate training/activities for new volunteers over the next few months.

Wildlife Corridors

- Baseline/developing strategies. Your knowledge can help build on this work!
- Identifying key locations for opportunities and prioritising.
- Species reintroduction, expanding range, future resilience. How/where/what? You can help!

Invasive Species

- Help fill the gaps in invasive non-native species distribution
- Himalayan Balsam on the edge of the catchment. Contact us to help wipe it out!
- If you would like to volunteer to eradicate Japanese Knotweed, contact us (we will be training/supporting volunteer groups). If you are a landowner seeking help/advice to control of Japanese Knotweed, please contact abeechey@chilternsaonb.org

Working together and Involving People

- Widen Involvement: 'Your Chess Valley, Your Water, Your Environment.'; improve understanding of the Chess and its complexities; action, to improve it; and information to explain, why and what we are doing.
- 'Let a Thousand Flowers Bloom' or at least 20 local projects, up- and down- the Chess, this year and fifty projects, the year after.
- Work with, and through, farmers, landowners, and businesses: make the change stick!

Working in partnership

