

1 PONDS & CHALK STREAMS



WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT WATLINGTON'S STREAMS?

Chalk streams are a globally rare habitat, confined to north west Europe and to the UK in particular. Chalk streams are a characteristic and attractive feature of the Chilterns landscape here in Watlington. The Watlington section of the Chalgrove Brook is the only place in the whole of the Thames river catchment which supports brown trout.

There are just over 200 chalk streams in England



In June 2017 all the brown trout in the brook within Watlington were killed by a toxic pollutant that appears to have entered a surface water drain.

More than 85% of all the chalk streams in the world, are found in England.

WHY ARE WATLINGTON'S PONDS FULL OF WATER SOME YEARS AND DRY IN OTHERS?

This is because Watlington's watercourses are chalk-fed. When it rains rainwater filters through the Chiltern Hills until it collects in a layer called an aquifer. When the water levels in the aquifer reach land surface water emerges from springs like the Willow Pond. This process can take months and years. The Willow Pond can be full when there is a drought and empty when it is wet.



LOCAL ACTIONS

In Watlington we have some Yellow Fish stickers on some surface water drains. These highlight the importance of having only rain water going down the drains. Anything that washes from the pavements and roads including waste from washing cars ends up in the brook. You can also 'Follow the Fish' trail set up for the Green Plan Art Trail.

Watercress used to be grown in the ponds and streams in Watlington.

Support Green Plan actions!



Donate here

WHAT YOU CAN DO!

Be aware of the surface water drains near your home and ensure nothing from your home goes down them.

Think about where you wash your car. If you can't clean your car without the products running into a drain it is best to use a car wash.

Join the Watlington Environment Group and volunteer for work parties to improve the stream.

GREEN PLAN ART TRAIL

CREATED / SUPPORTED BY:



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE GREEN PLAN GO TO:

www.watlingtonclimateaction.org.uk/green-plans