

Fly-fishing Workshops on The Dour

A Step Towards Sustainable Fishing

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In the summer of 2024 Dover had the privilege of hosting a series of fly-fishing workshops on the Dour, one of the world's rare chalk streams. Part of the "Dour to Downs" project and funded by Kent Downs National Landscape, these workshops were organized by the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (WCCP) to promote sustainable fishing practices and raise awareness of the river's unique ecology. Renowned angler Charles Jardine and local expert Brian Szukala were key figures, sharing their knowledge and passion for preserving the Dour.

Participants not only learned fly-fishing techniques but also took part in river fly surveys and river dipping, gaining a hands-

on understanding of the aquatic life that depends on the river. The brown trout in the Dour are genetically unique, making them particularly vulnerable to harmful fishing practices, such as improper fish handling or the use of barbed hooks. Over 26 participants attended the workshops, learning everything from the river's ecology to responsible fish-handling techniques. One participant was so inspired that they returned to volunteer in a river clean-up, further supporting conservation efforts.

These workshops are a positive step toward ensuring the Dour remains a thriving habitat for future generations of trout and wildlife.



Fly-Fishing Workshop



Fish Handling



Casting Lesson Pencester Gardens



River Dour at Pencester Gardens