

Our River Dour

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We all benefit by living near water. We have the lakes in Bushey Ruff, Russell Gardens and Kearsney Abbey and, of course, the harbour. All are linked by the River Dour, a very rare chalk stream. There are only about two hundred in the world (making it rarer than pandas!), so the Dour in Dover is really important for people and wildlife. It is fed by ground water from aquifers in Dover and Folkestone.

Chalk streams have clear water and stay at constant temperature. They host a variety of flora and fauna. The River Dour has good wildlife: brown trout, kingfishers, egrets, caddis fly, dragon fly, damsel fly and more.

As an urban stream, the Dour cleans the air and helps our mental and emotional health and wellbeing. But the river is at risk from climate change, pollution, litter and development that drains the aquifers.

So, we all have responsibilities to care for the Dour.

- Save water and only use what you need.
- Pick up litter along the river.
- Only flush pee, poo and toilet paper; never wet wipes or facial tissues (they contain plastics).
- Never flush domestic fat or oil; solidified fat goes in the food bin and oil to the council tip.
- Do not use the river to dispose of garden or other waste. Grass cuttings can be particularly harmful to water quality.
- Avoid using weedkiller, fertiliser or pesticides near the river (or anywhere).

- Water should not be taken from the Dour.
- Ensure that your domestic appliances are plumbed in correctly and not discharging into the river. (This may occur following kitchen or bathroom renovation.) Southern Water has an illegal connections team.

Report pollution incidents to the Environment Agency 0800 807060.

Fishing by anyone over the age of twelve requires a rod license from the Environment Agency. Fish caught should be returned to the river.

No fishing is permitted from 15th March to 15th June as it is the close season. Between November and April 1st no one should enter the water, not even litter pickers.

There are other specific responsibilities for riparian owners – anyone who owns land or property next to the river.

If we all act responsibly then everyone can continue to enjoy the Dour and all it brings to our town.



River Dour - The Urban Chalk Stream