

Wider Wylde Strategy – April 2021 Update

Wiltshire's River Wylde is a globally rare type of river habitat known as a 'chalk stream'. With over 80% of the world's chalk streams found in southern England alone, Wessex Rivers Trust and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust are leading on the delivery of the Wider Wylde Strategy, a series of projects to protect and enhance the health of the Wylde for the future.

Over the last few months, we've reached out to a number of land managers in the catchment to survey and assess opportunities to enhance the habitat of the river and its banksides. 'River walk' events are planned for spring and summer to share the outcomes of our surveys and best practice on how to manage the river in a way that benefits nature, and therefore people.

What's planned for 2021?

The way we manage our land and rivers in the upper reaches of the catchment can determine the health of the river downstream. Whilst the headwaters of our chalk streams are a vitally important part of our river catchments, they are often overlooked.

As restrictions associated with the pandemic begin to ease over spring and summer, we're keen to engage with the local communities in the headwaters of the Wylde, including Warminster. By finding out what local's interests, concerns and aspirations are for the river, we want to work together to help enhance the health of the river.

This summer we'll also be reaching out to the local schools in the Wylde catchment. Our river dipping sessions give children the chance to see what lies beneath the surface of our rivers and spark their interest in nature.

If you are fortunate enough to manage a stretch of the Wylde, or one of its tributaries, you may find our [Garden Meet's Rivers Edge](#) and [River Management Techniques](#) guidance documents handy.

And if you'd like to find out more about the Wider Wylde Strategy, and how you can get involved, please contact us at info@wessexrt.org.uk

