

A person is fishing in a chalkstream, surrounded by lush greenery and trees. The scene is set in a rural landscape with a dense forest in the background and a cloudy sky. The water is calm, reflecting the surrounding greenery. The person is wearing a hat and a jacket, and is holding a fishing rod. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and scenic.

FISHING BREAKS

THE VERY BEST CHALKSTREAM FISHING IN ENGLAND

time is precious. use it fishing

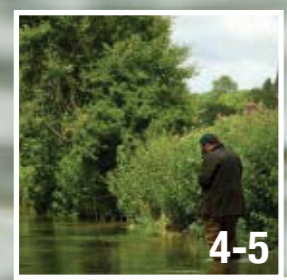
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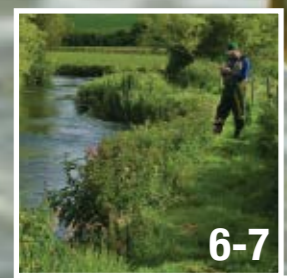
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Introduction

Dear Fly Fisher,
I grew up on the chalkstreams and all my formative fishing years were spent on the River Meon, a tiny stream in the east of Hampshire. As my angling horizons expanded it came as something of a shock to discover that not all rivers were gin clear, full of fish you could see and eager to take a well chosen fly when the hatch was on.

In the twenty years since I started Fishing Breaks it has been my pleasure to fish across the length and breadth of England. However, being able to share with you the enormous thrill of fly fishing on some of the most beautiful chalkstreams you will ever feast your eyes upon remains for me the reason for being in this business.

The more I have travelled and the more I have fished the more I have come to realise how very special our English chalkstreams are. I would not be as arrogant as to tag them as 'the best fishing money can buy' as every angler has a different benchmark as to how they judge such things, but the chalkstreams are undeniably unique for all the very best of reasons.

I really do hope you have the chance to fish with us sometime very soon.

Best wishes,

Simon Cooper

SIMON COOPER
FOUNDER & MANAGING DIRECTOR

“Without question Fishing Breaks is the leader in your field. We have fished with you now four times and have never felt the need to look elsewhere. I think that's what is called happy repeat business.”

**FISHING BREAKS, THE MILL, HEATHMAN STREET
NETHER WALLOP, STOCKBRIDGE, HAMPSHIRE SO20 8EW
TEL. 01264 781988 info@fishingbreaks.co.uk www.fishingbreaks.co.uk**



COVER: RIVER ITCHEN, HAMPSHIRE

River Test & the South

The Hampshire chalkstreams are the epicentre of fly fishing. It is on these exact rivers that angling pioneers like F.M Halford and G.E.M Skues honed their skills to invent modern day fly fishing.

It is truly no exaggeration to say that when you fish rivers such as the Test or Itchen you are following in the footsteps of those very angling pioneers. Glance at one of the sepia photographs from the Victorian era when they made their discoveries to see a river and countryside that is immediately recognisable as the places you are fishing today. But history aside the chalkstreams are not just about being famous for being famous, but for being in a single word, beautiful. Nowhere on the planet will

the angler experience water of such clarity, fly hatches of such variety and fish on the fin waiting, framed against the bright gravel river bed, ready to take a well cast fly.

Hampshire is blessed with hundreds of miles of chalkstreams, some major names like the River Test, others barely known brooks but none the worse for being obscure. At Fishing Breaks we have them all, bringing to the visiting angler a wealth of choice and fishing opportunities.



RIVER TEST, WHITCHURCH FULLING MILL, HAMPSHIRE

“ **Every section is maintained to perfection and the beat scores 10/10 on every point: ambience, maintenance and stocking.** *The best beat I've fished on the Test in nearly 20 years.* ”

- RIVER TEST 1
- RIVER DEVER 2
- RIVER ANTON 3
- WALLOP BROOK 4
- RIVER DUN 5
- RIVER ITCHEN 6
- RIVER MEON 7



Wessex & Dorset

Moving to the west away from the famed rivers of Hampshire, the counties of Wiltshire and Dorset open up a whole new world for the adventurous fly fisher.

The grand old man of this region is of course the River Avon, immortalised by Frank Sawyer the most famous river keeper who ever lived and the inventor of the Pheasant Tail Nymph. The Avon starts as a tiny stream, gathering size as it flows across Salisbury Plain almost in sight of Stonehenge. As it passes beside the towering spire of Salisbury Cathedral famous tributaries such as the Wylde join the main river until it eventually joins the sea some sixty miles from the source.

Across into Dorset and Thomas Hardy country the pace of life slows, which is reflected in rivers like the Allen, Frome and Piddle. To think Dorset rivers is to think less of manicured banks and grand fishing huts. Here the cow parsley, purple loosestrife and clusters on golden mimulus grow wild on the banks releasing clouds of damsel fly as you make your way upstream.

- RIVER FROME 1
- RIVER AVON 2
- RIVER ALLEN 3
- RIVER NADDER 4
- RIVER WYLYE 5



RIVER FROME, WRACKLEFORD, DORSET

“ **A mild day** not too sunny and not too overcast, a good pub lunch and we left the water as we found it, crystal clear and more fish than we have seen for a year or two. **Excellent** and four very happy chappies. Now looking forward to the next! ”

Derbyshire & Yorkshire

The chalkstreams are often thought of as strictly southern rivers but the geological seam that runs down the eastern side of England before cutting under the Chilterns to head south west, starts its journey in Yorkshire.

The Eastern Wolds have quite literally dozens of chalkstreams, some so small and obscure that they barely have a name. Some however are right up in the premier league, most notably of all the Driffield Beck. This is the northern river that nearly all the angling greats made their way to having heard the tales of the exceptionally pellucid, or translucently clear, water. None came away disappointed, favourably comparing the Beck to Hampshire's River Itchen.

Down and across into Derbyshire the steep valleys that come off the crags and tors in the Peak District National Park feed the limestone rivers, the most notable of which are the Dove and Wye. The River Dove can trace its angling history back over five centuries to the late 1600's when Izaak Walton wrote of it in The Compleat Angler when he fished with his collaborator, Charles Cotton. The association is marked by the fantastical Fishing Temple on the banks of the river to which only our fishermen have access.

DRIFFIELD BECK 1
RIVER DOVE 2

DRIFFIELD BECK, MULBERRY WHIN, YORKSHIRE

“
THE location was superb, well maintained and above all peaceful... one of the best days fishing I've ever had. Thank you.
”





Fishing Guides

There is truly no better addition to a fishing trip than a really great Fishing Guide and at Fishing Breaks we pride ourselves on having a team of the very best.

What makes a great Guide is one of those entertaining debates to have in the pub when fishing is over, but it is fair to say most agree that it is more than just being a good fisherman. A Guide must be a welcoming host, pleasant companion and knowledgeable about not only the fishing but everything that happens on the river. And within all that every Guide must instinctively know when to offer advice or stand back.

All our Guides are qualified instructors, so equally happy to help out with an annoying casting 'tick' or take a novice under their wing. The Guides carry a complete complement of fishing outfits, flies, tippet material, nets and just about anything else you might need, all included in the daily rate.

“
Friendly, helpful guides make a HUGE difference. ALL WAS perfect.
 ”

Fishing School

Learning to fish, wherever or however you do it, may sometimes be one of those life defining moments. The time when you discover a passion that stays as something you do as often or as rarely as you choose, but you will forever more think of yourself as an angler.

Nether Wallop Mill, nestling beside the burbling Wallop Brook at the head of the Test valley, is the ideal place to try your hand at fly fishing. As with learning all new skills there are some basics and humdrum routines to be drilled but the overriding aim is to equip you with enough knowledge at the end of the day to say, without fear or favour, "I can do that and do it well".

The school set up at The Mill has everything required for the perfect

introduction to fly fishing; a well stocked trout lake, a small stream with wild brown trout, a thatched fishing lodge and all the latest kit. However, most importantly you will find our team of qualified instructors patient, helpful and with unfailing good humour as they guide you through each day.

Nether Wallop Mill is open April to October for Foundation Courses, Private Tuition, Family Days and Small Groups.

“ **ALAN MIDDLETON**
(the instructor) was *fantastic*. Thanks Alan, *what a teacher!* ”





Corporate Days |

A day fishing will always be the surprising hit in the corporate entertaining year. For guests who fish it is a great way to indulge a passion. For those who don't it is a great way to try it out. Be prepared for reciprocal invites in years to come as your guests copy your idea!

Fishing Lodges |

The Edwardians invented the great sporting house party, though it did become a byword for draughty houses and tepid bathwater. Fortunately today the houses, cottages and lodges have every modern convenience with an array of sporting opportunities. Available all year for salmon and trout fishing, shooting and stalking.



Overseas Destinations |

Never before has anyone with the 'have rod - will travel' attitude had such a huge array of destinations and species from which to choose. Across the globe there are still vast, unexplored tracts of our planet offering unique access for the adventurous fisherman. Through our overseas partners Roxtons, Fishing Breaks are able to offer full service trips to the best saltwater and freshwater destinations.



Places to Stay |

The quaint inn or small country house hotel are still the perfect antidote to busy lives. After a successful day on the river all will seem right with the world with your feet up in front of a blazing fire and a glass in hand. Fishing Breaks offers comprehensive advice on where best to stay.

Destinations

Gift Vouchers

Gift vouchers are the perfect way to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, Christmas or special occasion. Personalised, valid for two years and good for the entire Fishing Breaks range they may be ordered on-line or by phone.



“ This place is a jewel. I will be there again. The fish are there to be seen, the greeting you get with an explanation of where and how to fish the river was refreshingly good, as are the facilities. ”

TIME is
precious.
USE IT
FISHING

**FISHING BREAKS
THE MILL
HEATHMAN STREET
NETHER WALLOP
STOCKBRIDGE
HAMPSHIRE SO20 8EW
TEL. 01264 781988**

**info@fishingbreaks.co.uk
www.fishingbreaks.co.uk**

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www.cragoeandcamera.co.uk www.harangenmedia.com www.kentakataphotography.com

