

FISHING BREAKS

TIME IS PRECIOUS • USE IT FISHING





INTRODUCTION



I grew up surrounded by chalkstreams and 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 that were eager to take a well-chosen fly when the hatch was on.

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 so arrogant as to tag them 'the best fishing money can buy' – every angler has a different benchmark for that, but these rivers are undeniably unique for all the very best of reasons.

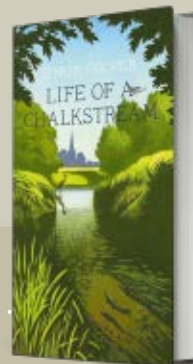
It is now more than 30 years since I started Fishing Breaks and it remains an enormous pleasure to share with you the thrill of fly fishing on these beautiful chalkstreams.

I do hope you have the chance to fish with us some time very soon.



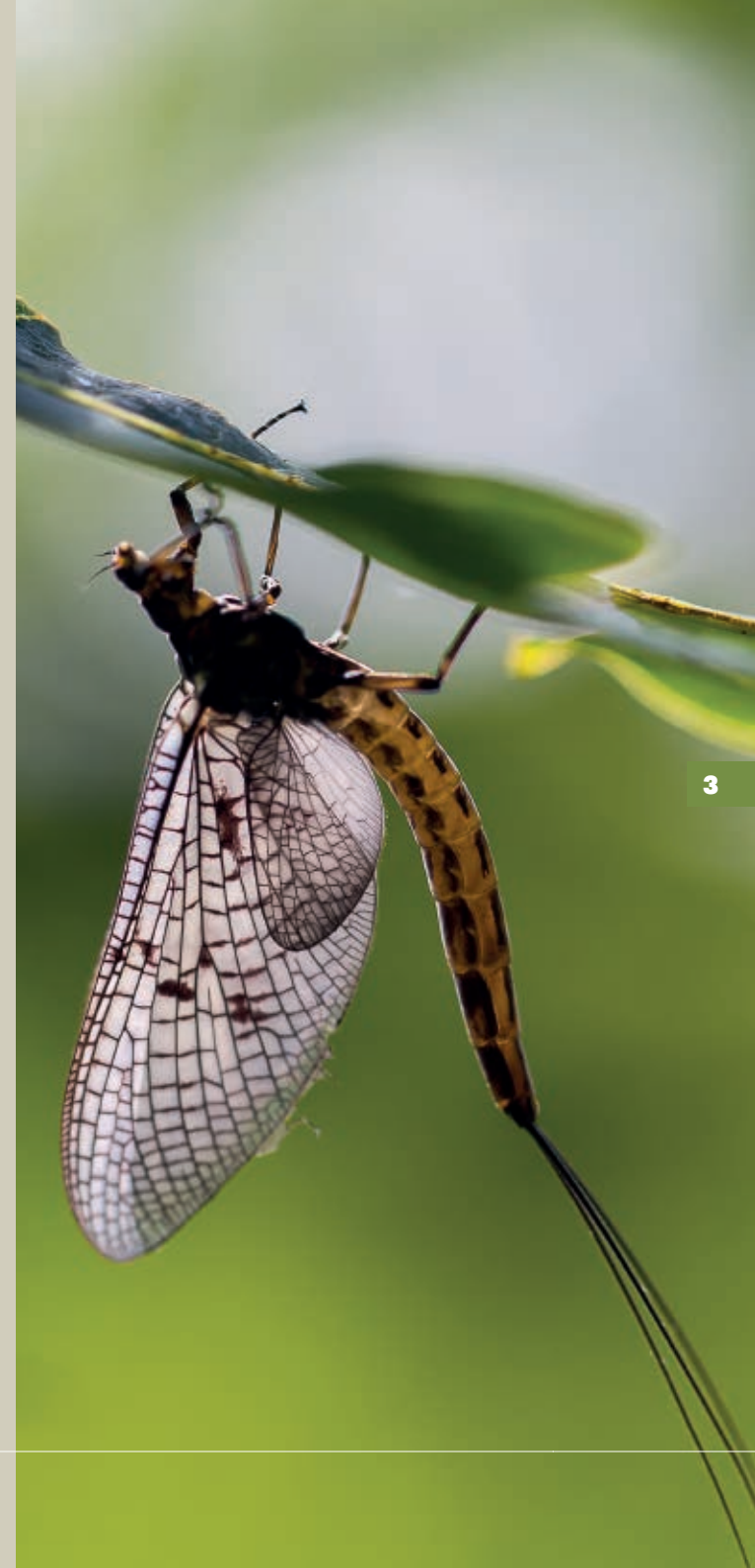
Simon Cooper

Simon Cooper, Founder and Managing Director
Nether Wallop Mill, Hampshire



READ MY BOOK

LIFE OF A CHALKSTREAM





THE CHALKSTREAMS

England boasts 98% of all the chalkstreams that exist on our planet. It is the birthplace of modern-day fly fishing, which means that you have the pick of some of the best and most famous trout rivers in the world.

If you had to sketch in your mind the place for the perfect day's fishing I suspect an English chalkstream might come very close. The crystal-clear water gives you a bird's eye view into the amazing natural world of the river. In the dappled shade lazy trout gently rise to the surface to sip insects. Water voles, kingfishers and otters go about their business, hardly giving you a second glance. Soon you will find yourself immersed in the beautiful landscape of the water meadows; miles and centuries away from the cares of everyday life.

In broad terms the trout season runs from April to October. The prime months are May to July, which includes the famous Mayfly hatch when the fish go on a feeding frenzy, greedily gulping the huge insects that flutter over the water. This takes place from around mid May to mid June and is sometimes confusingly called Duffers' Fortnight.



FISHING

DAY RODS

Book by the day for one person or more.

GROUPS

Most locations are suitable for small groups.

FISHING GUIDE

An optional extra – guides provide advice, instruction, tackle and local transportation.

FISH CAMP

Stay overnight beside the river to catch the last rise of dusk and the first of dawn.

FACT FILE

- Trout season runs from April to October
- Fishing in seven counties
- Beats on over 15 rivers
- All privately owned waters
- Available for individuals and upwards





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NETHER WALLOP MILL

Nestling at the head of the Test valley, beside the burbling Wallop Brook, the fly fishing school at Nether Wallop Mill was created by the legendary fly fisher Dermot Wilson in 1968 and thousands of anglers have since cast a line and caught their first fish here. As far as I know it remains the only place in the UK solely dedicated to fly fishing tuition and I am proud to have followed in Dermot's tradition for the past 25 years.

The Mill has every facility for a wonderful day spent fishing and relaxing by the water: a welcoming thatched, oak fishing lodge, a lake stocked with rainbow, blue, brown and tiger trout, and a full range of all the very latest tackle. All tackle and flies are provided.

The village of Nether Wallop is in Hampshire, 9 miles to the west of Winchester and just 15 miles from the M3. There is a direct train from London Waterloo to Andover (9 miles from the village) that takes 63 minutes. We are open every day of the season for individuals or small groups.



EVENTS

FOUNDATION COURSE

Join a small group to set you up for your first 'solo' trip.

PRIVATE TUITION

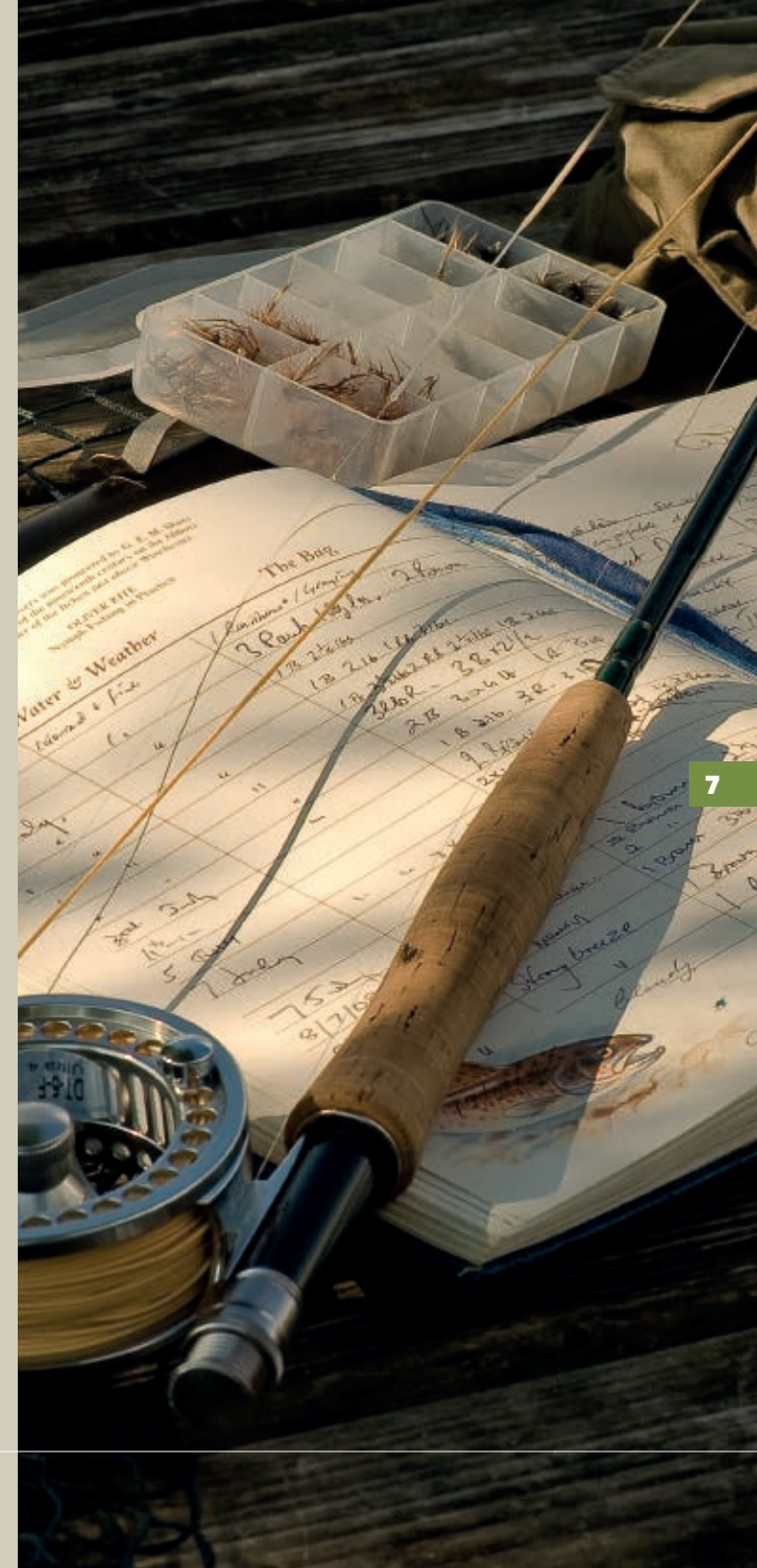
There's no better way to learn than with your own instructor at your side.

CHALKSTREAM FISHING

One and two day courses to outwit our wily, native brown trout with dry fly and nymph.

FACT FILE

- Season runs April 1 to October 31
- Qualified instructors
- Tackle and licence provided
- No special clothing required
- Fish to take home
- Non-fishing guests welcome
- Excellent facilities





CHILDREN & FAMILY

People start fishing in all sorts of places and for all sorts of reasons but it is a family connection that is overwhelmingly the reason most of us held a fly rod for the first time.

Sometimes it was at the behest of a kindly grandparent, other times a passionate parent, or perhaps even a sibling. But in the end it doesn't matter who provides the incentive, the important thing is that a lifetime passion begins on that first day on the water.

At Nether Wallop Mill our fly fishing is all about sparking that passion. We teach because we enjoy every aspect of our sport. Yes, you'll learn how to cast and catch the most wonderful trout, but you'll also have fun trying your hand at tying a fly and looking into the world beneath the water.



EVENTS

ADULT AND CHILD DAY

Ideal for an adult plus one child of 8–15 years. Runs all season.

FAMILY DAY

Bring all the family – even the dog! Runs all season.

KIDS SUMMER CAMP

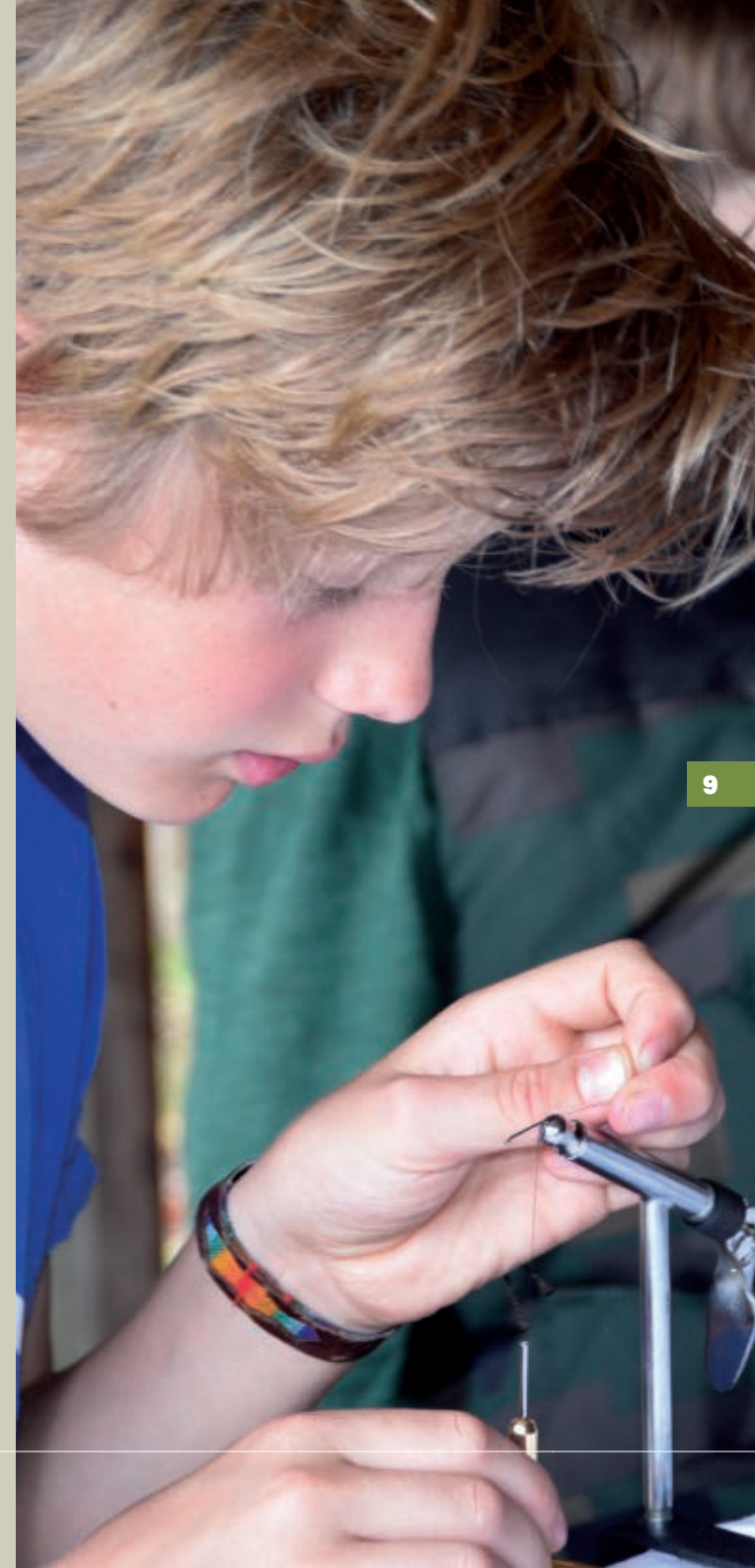
One to three day fish camps for 8–15 years. Run in July and October.

FATHER'S DAY

Special offers and events over this June weekend.

FACT FILE

- Season runs from 1 April to 31 October
- No previous experience required
- Fully qualified and CRB checked instructors
- Full supervision
- Exclusive use of Nether Wallop Mill
- Equipment and licence provided
- No special clothing required
- Fish to take home
- Friends and relatives welcome





FISHING GUIDES

Chalkstream fishing is not difficult but it is probably different to anything you may have experienced elsewhere. A guide is therefore a very useful complement to any fishing trip: they provide advice, tackle, flies and local transportation.

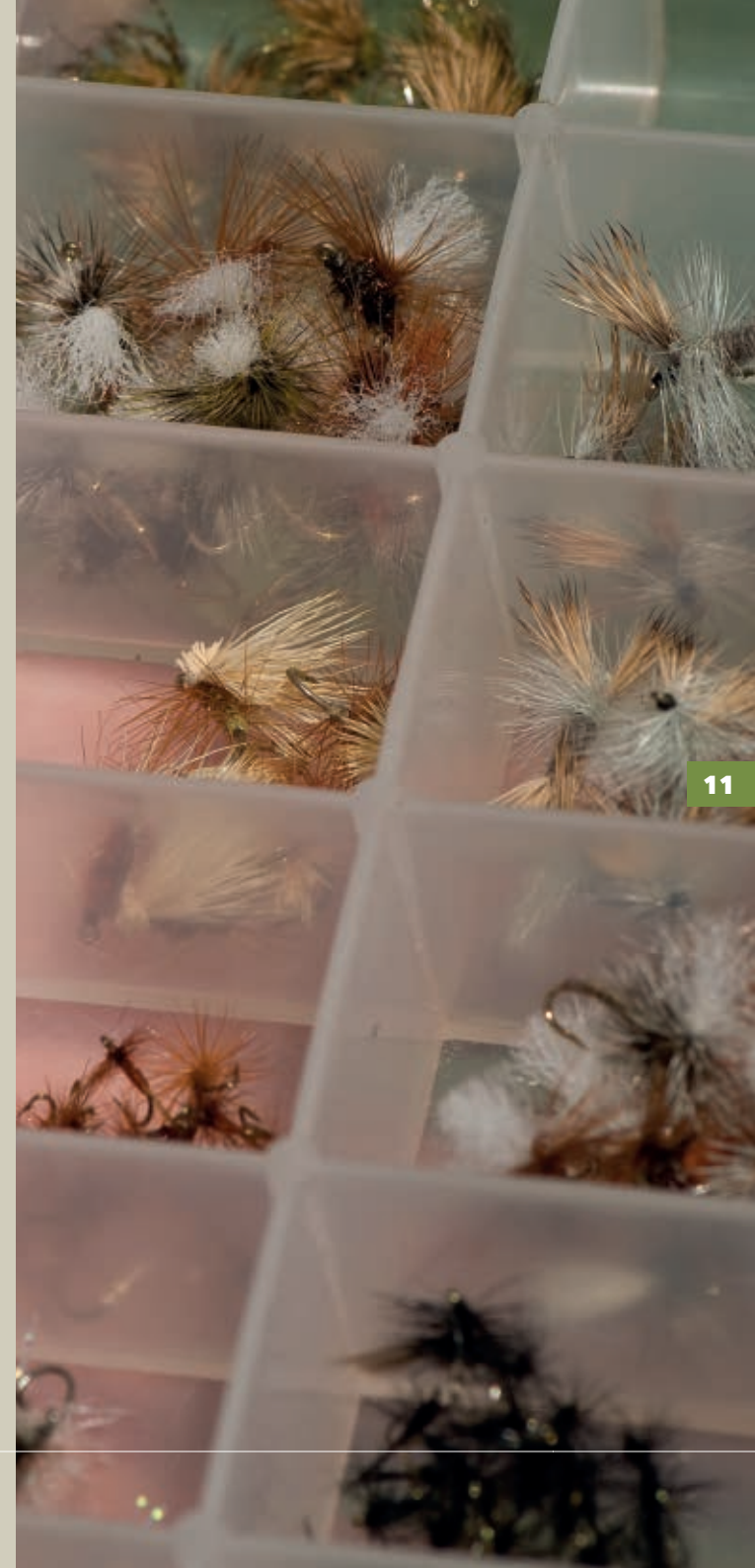
If you are not familiar with the term it is best to look upon a proper guide as a blend of knowledgeable gillie, qualified instructor, amiable fishing companion, source of local knowledge, chauffeur and portable tackle shop all rolled into one – or at least that is what our guides aim to be. Our guides are true chalkstream experts, with a strong background in fly fishing tuition; indeed they all have nationally recognised qualifications.

But more than that our guides are engaging and informative companions on the riverbank, blending information, hints and anecdotes to help you get the most out of your day. They will know the best local pub for lunch, transport you from hotel to river if required and carry a full stock of flies, tippet material and chalkstream outfits.

Sharing a guide amongst your party is absolutely fine.

FACT FILE

- Tackle and flies provided
- Local transportation
- Typical day 9.30am to 6pm or as arranged
- All rivers covered
- Guides are qualified instructors



GIFT VOUCHERS & LODGINGS



GIFT VOUCHERS

Gift vouchers are the perfect way to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, Christmas or special occasion. Personalised, in an embossed folder and mounted with a fly to use on the day itself, they are valid for two years and accepted across the entire Fishing Breaks range.

FISH CAMP

This is our version of glamping – fish camping. Two days beside a chalkstream where you can fish and camp to your heart's content. We lay on the fishing and the site (beats in Hampshire, Wiltshire and Dorset); the rest is up to you.

WHERE TO STAY

The quaint inn or small country house hotel is a perfect getaway from busy lives and after a successful day on the river all will seem right with the world with your feet up. Fishing Breaks offers comprehensive advice on the best places to stay in the local area.

FISHING LODGINGS

Wake up to the sound of the river. The chance to fish every minute of every day or simply enjoy being there. We have beautiful lodges for the perfect get-away-from-it-all vacation.

CORPORATE DAYS

The River Test is the iconic chalkstream, famed the world over for fantastic dry fly fishing. A day beside the gin-clear waters in the beautiful Hampshire countryside is the perfect antidote to work.





HOW TO BOOK

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Call: 01264 781988

Email: info@fishingbreaks.co.uk

Online: www.fishingbreaks.co.uk

Address: Fishing Breaks, The Mill,
Heathman Street, Nether Wallop,
Hampshire SO20 8EW



Thank you to Chalkstream Fly, Bo Hermansen, Jack Perks, Ken Takata and Steve Webber for the photography. Steve Hayes for the design.
And our models both fish and human





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