

2025 PACKAGE & ITINERARY



THE ENGLISH CHALKSTREAMS

JOIN SWEETWATER TRAVEL AND HOST GUIDE MARK BOLTON AS WE TOUR THE HEART OF ENGLAND
AND FISH THE MOST FAMOUS CHALKSTREAMS IN THE WORLD



JOIN US TO FISH THE MOST FAMOUS TROUT STREAMS IN THE WORLD

TRIP OVERVIEW

Of the 210 chalkstreams in the world, 160 of them flow in the beautiful English countryside. The most famous of these, flow from the southern chalk stone hills, (downs) through the counties of Hampshire and Wiltshire, with legendary names like the Test and Itchen. Rivers, that have become the accepted birthplace of modern day fly fishing.

For 2025, Sweetwater Travel has put together an exclusive opportunity to fish these hallowed waters in the footsteps of early fly fishing pioneers Izaak Walton and F.M. Halford. We've packaged elegant accommodation, historical attractions and the very best of English dry fly fishing together, for a memorable, nostalgic journey set amongst the beautiful, unchanged countryside of old England.

Mark Bolton, our head guide in Livingston Montana, was born in England and has compiled some of the very best "beats" on four renowned streams. Mark's knowledge of his home country and guiding expertise will ensure an enjoyable and relaxed experience for all levels of anglers as well as soaking up some of the history, customs and charm that England has to offer.

The chalkstreams of southern England cover a relatively small geographic area, starting just an hours drive west



from the capital, London. Ancient historic landmarks such as Stonehenge and the beautiful Roman city of Bath are just short drives from our accommodations and visits can easily be incorporated into your stay.

NON FISHING GUEST ITINERARY

We have a very informal guest itinerary available for spouses or clients who choose to fish a little less or not at all, and instead want to take the opportunity to explore the areas rich cultural history. Most of our fishing activities take place in between the cities of Winchester and Salisbury, which are easily accessible for day trips and are equally steeped in a variety of interesting attractions. We can easily arrange transport and accommodate most requests. It's a perfect opportunity to experience some of the countries most fascinating culture and history.

One of the many pleasures of this destination is driving around rural England—through movie-set 16th- and 17th-century towns with names like "Itchen Abbas", "Nether Wallop", and "Tolpuddle", with their Norman churches and ancient ale-scented pubs, their thatched-roof cottages covered in honeysuckle and climbing roses, their

crumbling stone ruins and narrow cobbled streets. Old England experienced at it's finest, in all of it's early summer glory.

TRAVEL LOGISTICS

Our package begins with our first nights accommodation at The Grosvenor Hotel, a recently renovated, boutique country hotel in the heart of Stockbridge.

Stockbridge is approximately 1.5 hour west of the capital, London. The most convenient way of getting from Heathrow airport directly to Stockbridge and the Grosvenor, is by private taxi. These arrangements can be made for you by your host.

Guests should plan on leaving the US on Saturdays, which, with the approximately 7 hour time difference, places your arrival sometime during Sunday morning.

The first day of the package is Sunday, which is a non fishing day, allowing guest free time to recover from travel, prior to fishing Monday. (Arrival days may vary dependant on package week chosen)

Travel during the week from accommodations to fishing and dinning destinations will be provided by your host and guides.

ENGLISH CHALKSTREAM PACKAGE & ITINERARY:

We offer one luxury package for a very limited number of clients, due to the exclusivity of the water fished and the unique combination of hosted dinners and four star accommodation provided.

7 nights / 5 days guided fishing - Single Occupancy: \$7,500.00* per person Double Occupancy (guests sharing one bed): \$7,000.00* per person Non Fishing Guest/Double Occupancy: \$3000.00* per person	2025 Rates: Week 1: May 11th - May 18th Week 2: May 18th - May 25th Week 3: May 25th - June 1st Week 4: June 1st - June 8th
*Rate is based on current exchange rate GBP to US Dollar, September 2024, rates may vary slightly according to exchange rate at time of trip. *Rate does not include 6 nights dinner. *Rate does not include guide day gratuities. *Exact beat and fishing schedule varies depending on weather and other factors	

ACCOMMODATION		DAILY FISHING/OTHER ACTIVITIES	DINNER OPTIONS
SUNDAY	The Grosvenor: Guests arrive at The Grosvenor, situated in the market town of Stockbridge. Lunch and afternoon tea are available.	No fishing scheduled: Guests can explore Stockbridge or the nearby historic city of Winchester, 20 minutes away.	Dinner option: Dinner is available at The Grosvenor. We will also have a local option, “The Mayfly” a quality gastro pub on the banks of the river Test. Transport provided.
MONDAY	The Grosvenor: Breakfast served between 7-00am & 9-00am Guides arrive and pick up clients approx 9-00am	The River Test: Clients fish in pairs on one of the river Test’s premier beats. Our beats are some of the most exclusive private water available* Lunch: Streamside packed or local Inn due to weather	Dinner option: “The Wykeham Arms”, set in a 1755 coaching Inn, this traditional, town-centre pub is a 5-minute walk from Winchester Cathedral. Transport provided.
TUESDAY	The Grosvenor: Breakfast served between 7-00am & 9-00am Guides arrive and pick up clients approx 9-00am	The River Itchen: Clients fish in pairs on one of the river Itchen’s most premier beats. Our beats are some of the most exclusive private water available* Lunch: Streamside packed or local Inn due to weather	Dinner option: “The Greyhound”, Excellent gastro pub on the banks of The River Test, in the village of Stockbridge, the heart of the local fly fishing community. Transport provided.
WEDNESDAY	The Grosvenor: Breakfast served between 7-00am & 9-00am Guides arrive and pick up clients approx 9-00am	The River Test: Clients fish in pairs on one of the river Test’s premier beats. Our beats are some of the most exclusive private water available* Lunch: Streamside packed or local Inn due to weather	Dinner option: “The Grosvenor Hotel”. An excellent dinning experience right within the hotel in a private dinning room . Dinner speaker program
THURSDAY	The Grosvenor: Breakfast served between 7-00am & 9-00am The Beckford Arms: Arrival in late afternoon for dinner & check-In	No fishing scheduled. Rest day. Guests are encouraged to explore the region. Optional excursion to the Roman city of Bath, transportation included. Host on hand.	Dinner option: ” Grosvenor Inn” A beautiful traditional English pub, located in the quaint village of Hindon, an ancient sheep drovers gathering place. Quality locally sourced menu.
FRIDAY	The Beckford Arms: Breakfast served between 7-00am & 9-00am Guides arrive and pick up clients approx 9-00am	The River Frome: Clients fish in pairs on some of the seven different beats available. Host on hand. Lunch: Streamside packed or local Inn due to weather	Dinner option: “The Beckford Arms”, is a traditional yet stylish country pub with a locally sourced gourmet food on the edge of the stunning rolling parkland of the Fonthill Estate in south Wiltshire
SATURDAY	The Beckford Arms: Breakfast served between 7-00am & 9-00am Guides arrive and pick up clients approx 9-00am	The River Nadder: Clients fish in pairs on the “Compton Chamberlayne Estate”. Host on hand. Lunch: Streamside packed or local Inn due to weather	Dinner option: “The Beckford Arms”, is a traditional yet stylish country pub with a locally sourced gourmet food on the edge of the stunning rolling parkland of the Fonthill Estate in south Wiltshire

THE GROSVENOR HOTEL



Our first four nights of accommodation are reserved at The Grosvenor Hotel, a recently restored 4 star hotel at the center of the lovely English Market town of Stockbridge.

Stockbridge is the heart of Chalkstream fly fishing, geographically positioned close to many of the finest “beats” on both the river Test and Itchen.

The river Test itself runs through Stockbridge, with two excellent “fly” shops available to the angler. Our recommendation is the quaint, independently owned, “Robjents”, stocked to the brim with everything one needs for a day on

the chalkstreams. The town is small but boasts a quality collection of excellent restaurants, pubs, cafes and independent shops for the visitor, all with a quintessential English flavor.

The Grosvenor is home to the most prestigious and oldest fly fishing club in the world, The Houghton club, founded in 1822 and just a stones throw away from the world famous, river Test. We dine at the Grosvenor as well as the excellent “Greyhound on the Test”, a classic gastro pub with locally sourced ingredients.



THE BECKFORD ARMS



Our second location moves us a little further west to the Beckford Arms. This charming English Inn stands in Fonthill Gifford, opposite the distinctive stone arch that leads to the old Fonthill Estate, founded by the eccentric William Beckford in the late 18th century and now owned by Lord Margadale.

Many renovated and modernized inns pay scant attention to their overnight guests, giving over their entire public areas to diners. Not so the Beckford Arms, which has both a spacious and popular public bar and an equally



spacious and immediately welcoming sitting room, with sofas, fireplace and tables piled with books.

Dining areas include an elegant private dining room (gleaming antiques and silver), animated bar, pretty conservatory and garden.

Head Chef Nigel Everett produces just the right food for the surroundings: excellent pub grub that ranges from sophisticated dishes such as salmon with spiced fennel and clam broth, samphire and romanescos, to classics such as Ploughman's and fish & chips.



THE RIVER TEST

THE RIVER TEST

The iconic river Test, arguably the most famous trout river in the world. A river that's hosted kings and queens from around the globe and yet still remains today as relevant in many angling minds as it did hundreds of years past.

Our beats:

It was on the River Test that Fredrick Halford effectively 'invented' modern day dry fly fishing in the late 1800's. You can truly say that when you tread the riverbanks of the River Test you are following in the footsteps of fishing legends.

We have exclusive access to some of the most historic and excellent fishing beats the River Test has to offer.

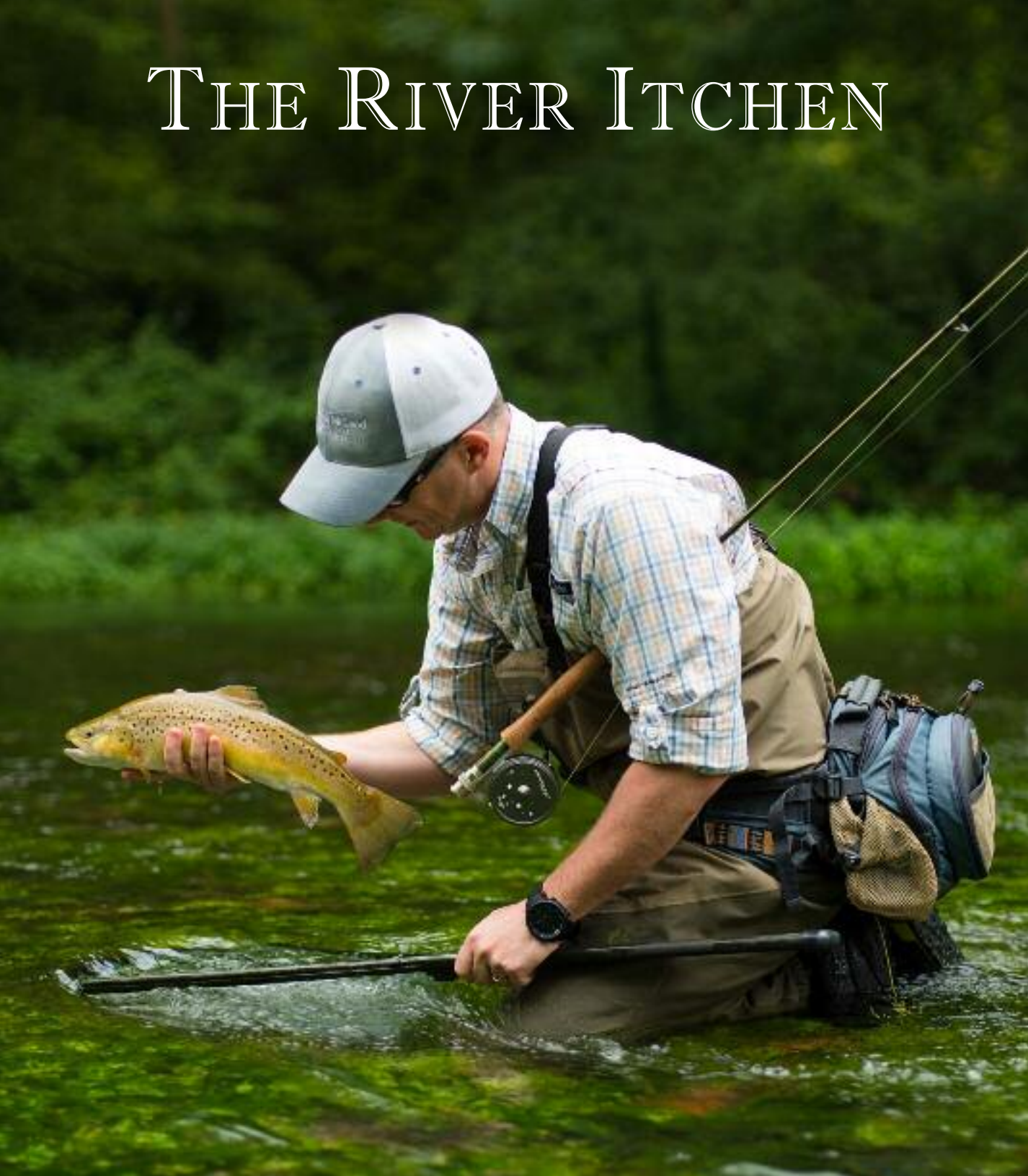
The Bullington manor beat:

You will rarely find a more beautiful spot than these beats on the Upper Test, where the 4½ miles of unspoiled chalkstream fishing is always crystal clear.

Alternating over two days each angler will have the opportunity to fish two different beats on the river Test.



THE RIVER ITCHEN



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At every twist and turn of the historic River Itchen, the county of Hampshire and fishing come together. Sir Izaak Walton, who penned 'The Compleat Angler' in the seventeenth century, has a place in the history of the county. His tomb is in the Silkstead Chapel of Winchester Cathedral, a chapel dedicated to anglers and worth a visit for the special stained glass window.

The Shawford Park beat:

This hidden gem flows through the grounds of the magnificent Shawford Park House that dates back to the fifteenth century. Shawford is a good example of one of the premier beats you will have access to fish. There are two sections, both of which you will have opportunities to fish.

Quing Ya Xi beat:

Formerly known as Kingfisher Lodge, Quing Ya Xi, roughly translates as 'tranquil water', from the original Mandarin, this is a truly delightful and spectacular fishery. Set on a private estate, this section of the Itchen, holds many large, fussy brown trout, of trophy size.



THE RIVER FROME

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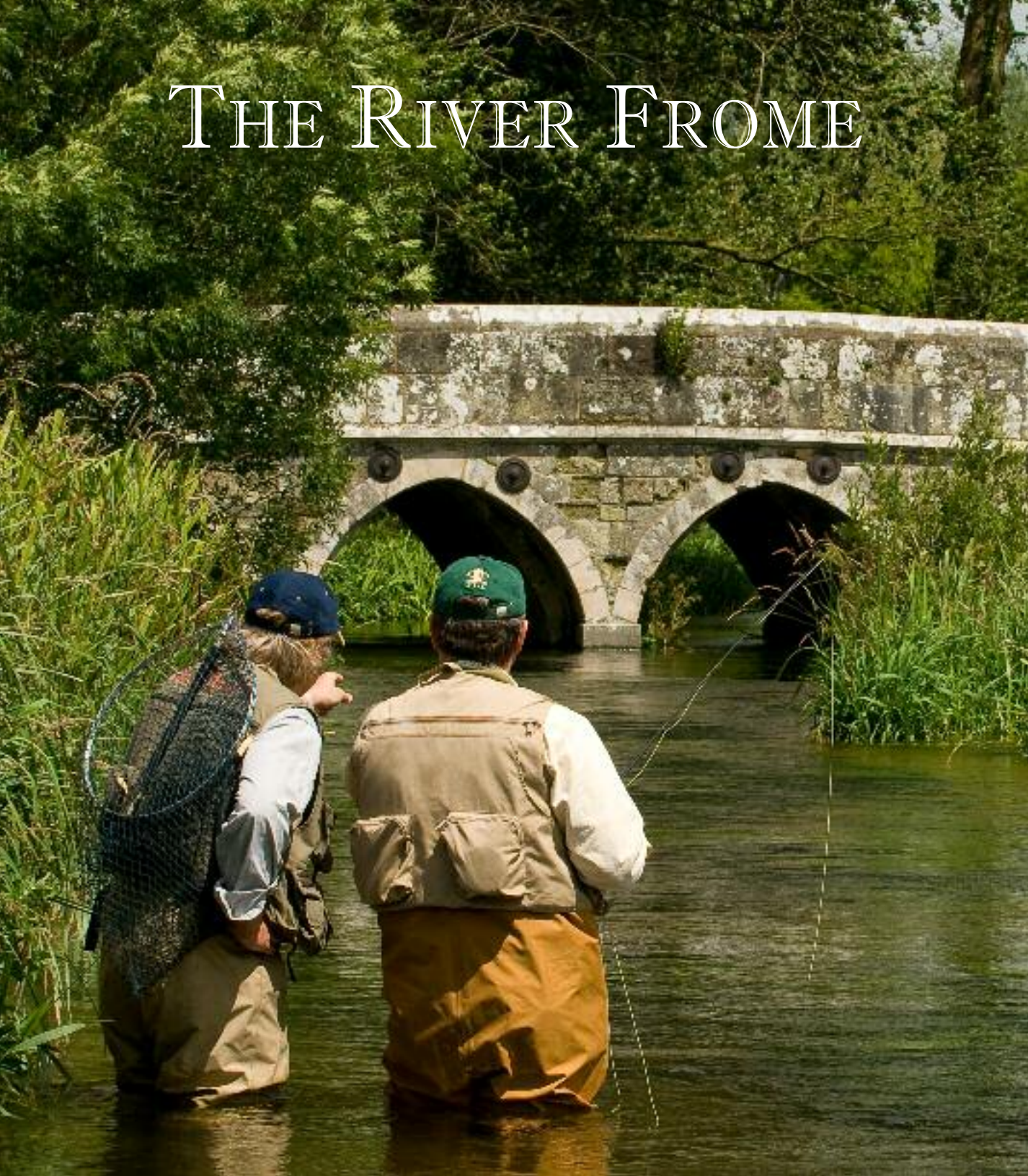
Thomas Hardy made Dorset his own where the rivers of the county interweave through the pages of his Wessex novels, with Tess of the D'Urbervilles buried on the banks of the River Frome.

For sheer variety the fishing at the Wrackleford estate is hard to better with eight beats that have bank wading options, plus a good blend of wild fish supplemented by a healthy balance of stocking.

In recent years the Estate has greatly improved the fishing, with easier access, banks that are groomed without being manicured and huts for the fishermen.

Seven of the beats are on the main River Frome, but the eighth is on the tributary the Sydling Brook, ideal for anyone who likes stealth and accurate casting.

Less than 12 miles from the famed English Channel coastline of southern England and flowing through a classic country estate, sections of which were once the hunting grounds of England's troubled king Henry VIII. This river is a direct conduit to England's storied history.



THE RIVER NADDER

THE RIVER NADDER

Wiltshire has an amazing chalkstream heritage. It was the home of Frank Sawyer, inventor of the Pheasant Tail Nymph and has the most extraordinary variety of streams – the Nadder and Wylye are the best-kept secrets in dry fly circles.

Generally regarded as the finest stretch of the Nadder, the beats here – seven in all – are part of the Compton Chamberlayne Estate, which winds through lovely, sheep-grazed water meadows.

This is a county that welcomes visitors with its world famous landmarks: Salisbury Cathedral on the water meadows of the River Avon and the ancient druid Stonehenge.

Once again connect with history as you cast for rising brown trout on the very same water that so many famous anglers have done for centuries. Experience the rivers that inspired poets, writers and artists from an era so productive and unique it will probably never be repeated.

