

## 1: Watercourse Management, Biodiversity & Water quality

This project will look at the tensions between managing watercourses for effective land and flood management, whilst maximising biodiversity and water quality.

The West Wolds catchment is fed exclusively by chalk streams and, as such, any routine work in the catchment, as well as any aspirations to improve the environment, need to be informed by the multi-agency 'Chalkshire' project:

<http://waterwayspartnership.co.uk/past-programmes/leader-2007-2013/funded-projects/waterways-partnership/chalkshire/>

Chalkshire considers the areas where chalk literally underpins and influences the ways in which we live, work and interact with the landscape.

Alongside the implications of geology on the landscape and water-scape, riparian rights and responsibilities apply to all landowners adjacent to watercourses of any kind. These rights and responsibilities need to be considered in relation to the many qualities, benefits and issues faced by chalk streams and associated watercourses and land use. More information on riparian rights and responsibilities can be found here:

[https://www.westwoldsslowtheflow.org.uk/documents/4\\_Useful\\_Info/Riparian\\_Responsibility\\_ERYC\\_2021-03.pdf](https://www.westwoldsslowtheflow.org.uk/documents/4_Useful_Info/Riparian_Responsibility_ERYC_2021-03.pdf)

Importantly, riparian owners need to appreciate that they are part of a wider system - what they do affects people, wildlife and water management upstream and downstream, just as what their neighbours do affects them.

The aim of this strategic project will be to contribute to guidance which finds a balance between these competing interests, using the experience and skills of the WWSTF partners, including landowners and farmers.

