

Celebrating 25 years working with the Chiltern Chalk Streams Project

In September 2022, we celebrated the 25th 'birthday' of the Chiltern Chalk Streams Project, a scheme that aims to conserve and enhance all major chalk streams in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty ('AONB'), and to encourage enjoyment and understanding of them. The partnership includes statutory agencies, local authorities and voluntary bodies, and Affinity Water is a regular contributor to its important work, by raising awareness of chalk streams, reducing abstraction, restoring rivers and managing invasive non-native species. Chalk streams are a globally threatened habitat and the Chilterns has nine. At the celebrations, the organisation also launched its new report on the state of the Chilterns chalk streams, highlighting the pressures on these beautiful and fragile habitats.

In March 2023, we strengthened our partnership working with Chiltern Chalk Streams Project, providing the group with additional funding to help us to conserve and enhance chalk streams in the Chilterns AONB and to encourage enjoyment and understanding of the area. The focus will be on creating public value through river restoration and conservation work, education on water use and raising awareness, sharing expertise and advocacy among common stakeholders.

UNSDGs

Our alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals



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The severity of the 2019 drought brought the plight of the Chilterns chalk streams to a wider audience. We achieved a fresh mandate and received renewed investment from Affinity Water, Thames Water and the Chilterns Conservation Board, to enable the Project to grow and increase its impact both locally and strategically. With chalk streams facing unprecedented pressures, the Project is now well placed to play its part in their recovery."

Allen Beechey

Project Manager for the
Chilterns Chalk Streams Project