

How can you keep your river healthy and clean?

In a series of articles Norfolk Rivers Trust will provide advice to help maintain the health of our globally rare chalk streams and lowland rivers in Norfolk. In times of drought and hot weather it is especially important because of the wildlife our rivers support. Endangered white clawed crayfish, brown trout, eels, and water voles are just a few of the iconic species at risk in Norfolk and you can do your bit to help protect them.

Water users: if you use the rivers and streams to dog walk, kayak, fish or even swim in, you could be spreading invasive species which are estimated to cost the British economy £1.7 billion a year. Our native crayfish, the white clawed crayfish are close to extinction due to a crayfish plague carried on invasive crayfish, angling nets and water sports equipment. Apart from this, there are animals and plants which are highly invasive and extremely damaging to our rivers and wildlife. The animals and their eggs latch on to dog fur, wellington boots and nets, and plant roots or seeds can be carried on paddle boards, fishing nets and any other equipment. For this reason, it is absolutely essential that after every trip to the river or lake you follow the Check. Clean. Dry procedure. Check your equipment for any obvious animals. Clean your equipment with hot soapy water. Dry your equipment for at least 48 hours before entering another watercourse.

If you are a landowner with riparian land and would like to talk to us about restoration and rewilding please do get in touch with us at Norfolk Rivers Trust. We offer a wide range of services including surveys, restoration and management advice. Email [info@norfolkriverstrust.org](mailto:info@norfolkriverstrust.org)