

**River Char**

**Help us to clean,  
revive and restore the  
River Char**

# The River Char..

Seven rivers flowing hundreds of miles to the sea.

For most of its journey to the sea, the River Char flows through the parishes of Wootton Fitzpaine and Whitchurch Canoniorum.

But look again...

In fact it's seven rivers: the Gwyle, Wootton Stream, Charbrook, Card's Mill Brook, Middle Brook, Marshwood Brook and Monkton Wyld Stream. And although it's only 10.4 miles from start (Lewesdon) to finish (Charmouth Beach), the whole river system includes hundreds of miles of water. Its brooks, drains and ditches reach into every farm and field in the valley.

**The river is the lifeblood of the valley.**

In recent years there have been concerns about flooding, water quality, fish numbers and run-off. SO Char Valley Parish Council is working with Dorset AONB and Dorset Wildlife Trust to survey the health of the river. They will identify problems and draw up an improvement plan for the whole river.

Phase 1 is happening now. You can read more about it on our website, see a short film made by Dorset AONB about the project and help with the survey.

## Dorset AONB need our help with the survey!

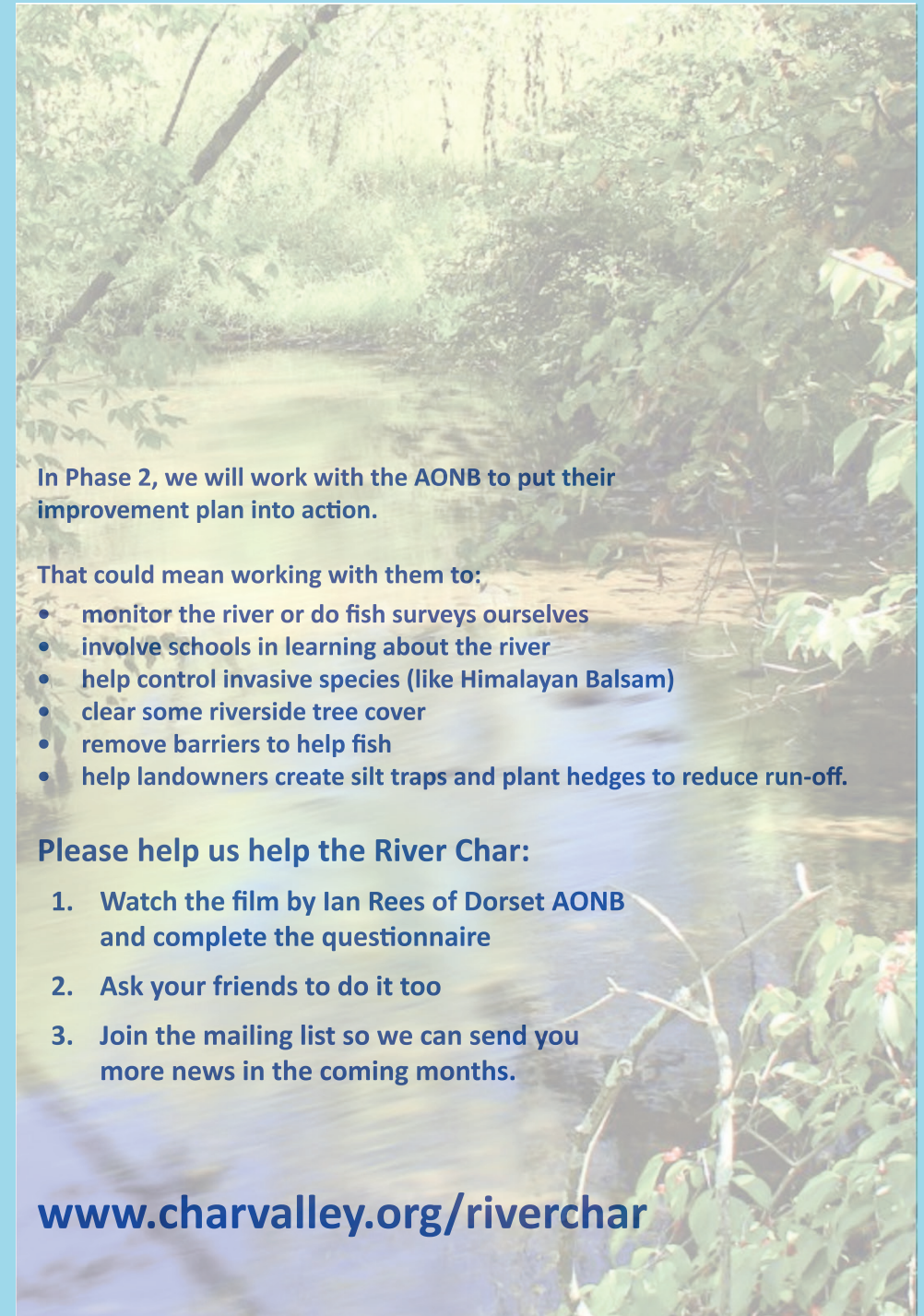
Please go to our website to complete a short online questionnaire for local residents. (Or complete and return the enclosed printed version if you prefer.)

Help us restore the river to health:

- Please watch the short film and complete the questionnaire
- Please tell friends about it
- Please sign up for news about the project as it develops

[www.charvalley.org/riverchar](http://www.charvalley.org/riverchar)

Map image: John Blanchard



In Phase 2, we will work with the AONB to put their improvement plan into action.

That could mean working with them to:

- monitor the river or do fish surveys ourselves
- involve schools in learning about the river
- help control invasive species (like Himalayan Balsam)
- clear some riverside tree cover
- remove barriers to help fish
- help landowners create silt traps and plant hedges to reduce run-off.

Please help us help the River Char:

1. Watch the film by Ian Rees of Dorset AONB and complete the questionnaire
2. Ask your friends to do it too
3. Join the mailing list so we can send you more news in the coming months.

[www.charvalley.org/riverchar](http://www.charvalley.org/riverchar)