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**Gillingham & District Angling Association**

**River Stour, North Dorset**



9 Miles of Upper River Stour, starting at Gillingham, flowing down to Marnhull offering a wide selection of course fish.



# River Stour

If you are a hardy river angler that likes to target specimen chub and roach then this is the venue for you. Your approach to the river depends on the fish you are after, a roving approach works well on the river where you can usually catch a chub or two before moving on to your next swim. Travel light for this and be prepared to cover some distance as some swims are a fair distance apart.

Traditional bread flake approach can sometimes score on here, but over the past few years a finer approach with stick float fished maggot or caster is the best approach. Other baits can also work on here on their days such as worm, bread punch, corn, hemp and meat, with groundbait also working well at times.

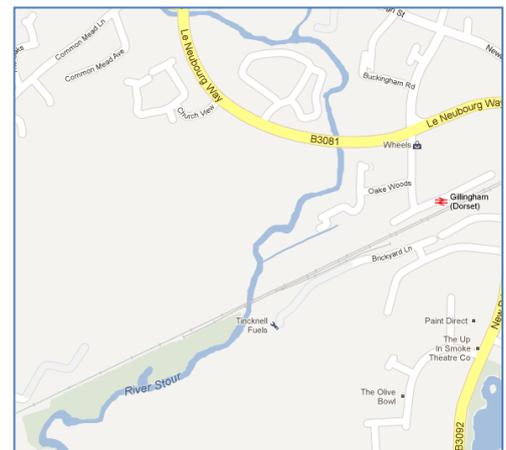


The river is split into various sections as below:

## Chantry:

The first section of river is Chantry, this starts at rivers meet behind Waitrose in Gillingham's town centre, this is where peg 1 can be found. Some of the swims along this section are also suitable for disabled anglers, with hard gravel platforms and patch for ease of use. This section is the narrowest, but is home to plenty of chub, roach, bream and a few carp.

Parking for this section downstream to the railway bridge is within the town library car park.



## Common Mead Lane Section:

This section of the river is rarely match fished due to limited parking and relatively few swims along the section, but can produce some good fish.

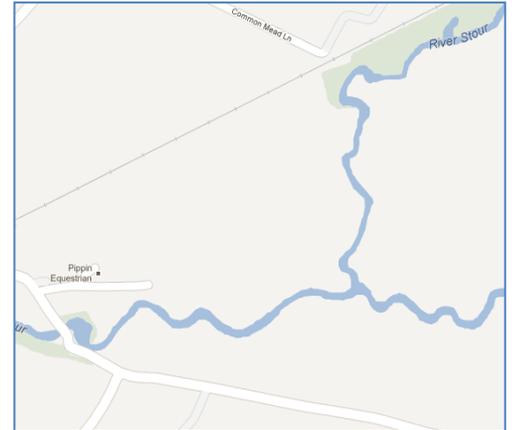
A roving approach with float fished maggot or ledger fished bread flake is best along this section where you can catch some decent chub, roach and grayling.

Parking for this section is either at the town library car park or the bottom of brickfields ind est next to Tinncknell Fuels.



### **Eccliffe (Above) :**

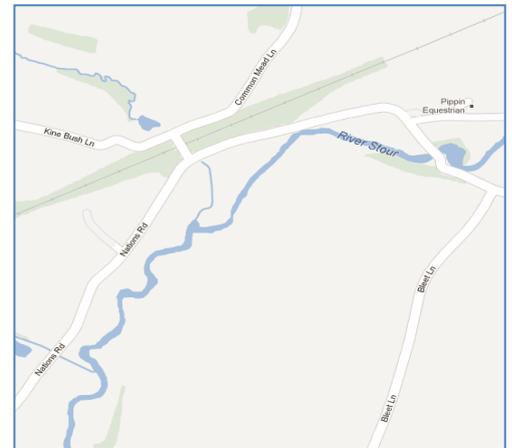
This small section is from Eccliffe Mill to the waters meet at the bottom of common mead lane section. Again this section is rarely match fished due to only having a few fishable swims, but there are some great looking pegs to fish if you get the opportunity. These pegs can be very snaggy but can also hold a good head of chub, roach and perch. This section also has the weir pool and bridge peg to fish, both of which can be very good pegs on their day. The bridge peg is better fished from the high bank between the trees as opposed to from the island. Parking for this section is on the mill bridge.



### **Eccliffe (Below) :**

This section runs from below the mill bridge to the top of Harpits. This is a long section of river with various depths, bends and features. There are 2 pegs between the stone bridge and the mill bridge, both of which are excellent dace and roach pegs. The pegs below the stone bridge can also hold lots of dace, roach, chub and the occasional big perch. Maggot and Stick float approach works well all through this section.

Parking for this section is by the stone bridge. Be aware, there can be some long walks in matches.

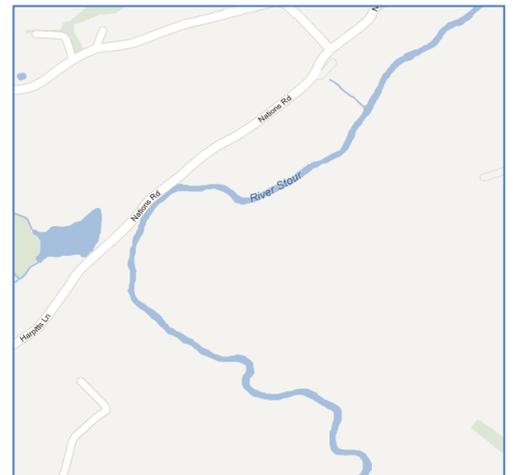


### **Harpitts:**

Rarely match fished now but used to be one of the most consistent sections on the river. As with Eccliffe, this sections is relatively shallow so best suited to a stick float approach. Can throw up some good bags of dace, roach and chub, but location is the key to a good days sport.

Can be fairly weedy during certain times of the year, but don't be afraid to fish in between the banks of weed as this is frequently where the fish are.

Parking for this section is by Harpitts bridge and again be prepared for some long walks during matches so travel light.



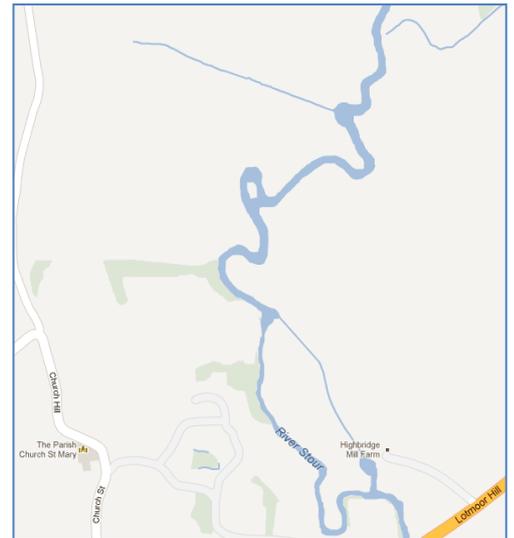
### **Deep Water/Highbridge Mill:**

Some of the deepest water on our river but has little flow making it ideal for the pole or tip approach.

These swims can throw up some good bags of fish but can also be very hard due to the lack of flow and depth of water.

Balling it in with groundbait on the pole can often work in the early pegs but the closer you get to the mill, the shallower it gets, making it more suited to the stick float. The pegs running into highbridge loop, the loop itself and the mill pool can provide some of the best fishing on the river on the right day.

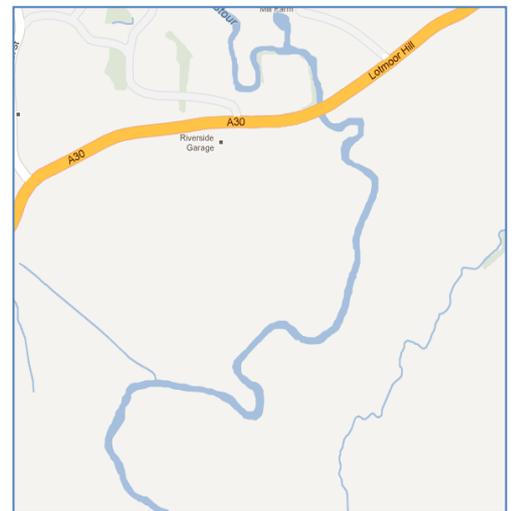
Parking for this section is at highbridge mill itself, park your car sensibly, if you are not sure ask one of the farmers at the mill.



### **Highbridge (Below the Ship Inn):**

This is where the main 'Match' water starts, basically running from the bridge at West Stour at Riverside Garage on the A30 down to the bottom of our water at Factory Farm. These pegs hold a good head of fish all through the season and frequently produce good bags of chub, bream, roach, perch and dace. Various approaches work on this section, which depend on with river conditions and time of year. Float fished maggot tends to work best but don't ignore using some groundbait, this can work really well at times.

Parking for this section is either at Riverside Garage in front of the cafe or in the ship Inn car park. Please park with consideration of others.



### **Stour Provost (Above):**

This is without doubt our best looking section of river which includes the infamous 'Lucky Dip' and 'Steps' pegs. Starting at the weir at the bottom of highbridge which can produce some good bags of chub and big perch, running through to 'Lucky Dip' which can produce some big bags of roach and bream, down through Rectory Straight which usually hoods lots of small roach, into the 'Steps' and finally into the Mill at Stour Provost. These pegs can all hold chub, big roach as well as some big carp.

Parking for this section is at Stour Provost, please park at the bottom of Mill Lane, last turning on the left (SP8 5RX). Please park with consideration of others.

Access to the river is through the small white gate, through the Mill House Garden and over the bridge.

Please respect this privilege that we have.



### **Trill Bridge:**

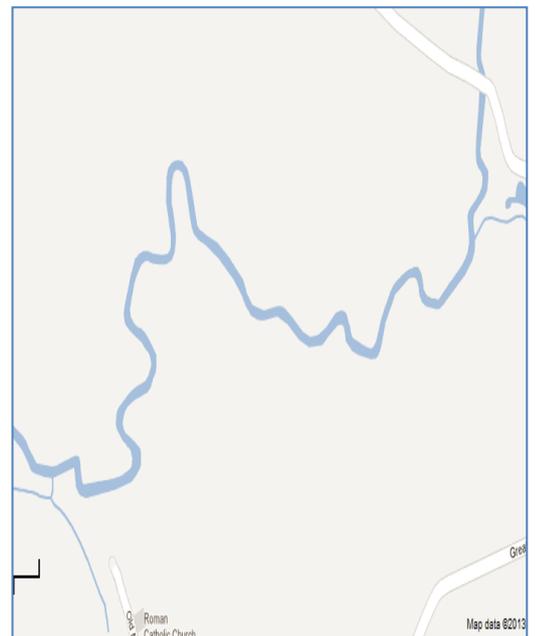
This section has a few noted pegs all of which can produce big bags of chub on their day, but the pegs are well spaced out meaning long walks in matches. Some of the noted pegs are the 'Bridge peg', 'the cut', 'blackthorns' and 'the willows', they tend to be chub or bust, although they can sometimes throw up bags of Chub, roach and dace. Parking for this section is at Trill Bridge itself. Parking is tight here so park wisely. To get to Trill Bridge follow the directions for White Post Lakes and Trill Bridge is the first bridge you cross once you have passed the lakes entrance.



### **Catholic:**

This is probably our most prolific section of river to produce chub consistently through the season. Usually carrying a bit of pace to run the stick float through which is how most of the chub get caught. The chub average around 2lb so no need to fish too heavy, this way you'll still catch the roach and dace that tend to hang here. Maggot, caster or bread punch can produce on their day, but don't be frightened to chuck out a lump of bread, this can still produce a bite when all else fails.

Access to this section is either from Mill Lane as above or park at St. Mary's Catholic School, Old Mill Lane, Marnhull (DT10 1JX). Park in the school car park, turn right and walk down the bottom of the lane, through the small pathway, over a stile and over the bridge. Again, please park with consideration of others and respect this privilege that we have.



### **Tin shed to Factory Farm:**

Our lower reaches of club water but a section that consistently produces good mixed bags of fish. Has produced chub to over 5lb in matches and regularly produces bags of chub to over 2lb.

Parking for this section is from either from Catholic, a long but flat walk or from Manor Farmhouse on Fivehead Hill (SP8 5RR). If you drive through the entrance signposted 'Barnhaus', go into the yard and drive past the out buildings so they are on your right hand side. Turn right once you have past the buildings and bere to the left onto a concrete track. Drive down to the bottom of the track and park here.

