



THE WELSH DEE TRUST

The River Dee

A new look at a well-known section of the River Dee in Chester
1.8 miles 40 minutes Easy



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Welsh Dee Trust works tirelessly across the entire River Dee catchment, from the hills of Snowdonia to the Dee Estuary, to restore a thriving, clean river for both people and wildlife

Starting from the Old Dee Bridge, head down the steps on the southern riverbank, following the path along the river's edge. The bridge, largely rebuilt in 1387, was originally constructed during the Roman occupation.



1 Chester Weir was constructed in 1093 to power water mills. Salmon can be seen leaping the weir during spawning season (Nov-Jan), although many don't make it or exhaust themselves trying. The fish-pass on the southern side of the river helps fish over the weir to the river above.



2 The trees lining this side of the river are important sources of food and shelter for invertebrates and birds. When trees are cut and left in the water as seen here, the branches create shelter for aquatic invertebrates and fish. The hard banks opposite have much less space for wildlife to thrive.



3 Sediment is naturally deposited on the inside of a river bend, where water moves more slowly. Along this bank you can see how fine silt has built up making the water shallow and an ideal place for birds and mammals to access the water. Look out for footprints showing what's been there.

4 Chester (or Earl's Eye) Meadows are part of the river's natural floodplain, although embankments were built in the 1800s to reduce flooding.



5 The Meadows were gifted to the citizens of Chester in 1929. The water meadows have scattered scrub from long forgotten hedgerows, the perfect place for warblers and other songbirds to nest.

6 The low input grassland of the Meadows is full of wildflowers giving bright displays all summer, as well as plenty of nectar and seed.

Learn more about Welsh Dee Trust, or get involved with our work to protect and restore the river

www.welshdeetrust.com



Green Recovery Challenge Fund



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