

# Upper Clatford

time is precious. use it fishing



# WELCOME TO UPPER CLATFORD

*Dear Angler,*

*Welcome to Upper Clatford! By now I hope you are settled and are relaxed, ready to fish. Most days you will have been met by the owner Colin Killick, but if not please start in your own time. Here is a summary of the fishing and what to expect; have a lovely day.*

## THE RIVER ANTON

The River Anton is one of the upper tributaries of the River Test the others being the Bourne Rivulet, River Dever and Pillhill Brook.

It rises in Penton Mewsey, to the north west of Andover, less than 3 miles as the crow flies from where you are sitting. As the river flows it is more like six miles as the Anton travels east through Charlton and then south through Andover town itself, through the Rooksbury Mill Wildlife Reserve (some of you might recall this as a good trout fishery and fish farm some 15 years ago) until it passes under the A303 to where you are now.



It is this short journey from the spring head that ensures the clarity, temperature and quality of the water – it is no exaggeration to say that the water you see in front of you bubbled out of the ground only a few hours ago. From here the Anton continues on its way through the Clatford villages, with the typically whitewashed brick and flint cottages topped with thatch until the river joins the River Test just south of Chibolton.

## THE FISHING

This is a brief synopsis that I hope will give you a better idea of what to expect, where to go, the best tactics and so on. As you will have gathered this is a single beat, reserved for just you and your companion.

The fishing is double bank the entire way, so you will not see anyone on the opposite side. That said it is a conscious decision by the owner to only maintain and fish from one of the banks, the left hand side as you face upstream. On small streams such as this it is a really good way to do things as it protects and encourages the fly life and wildlife that are able to thrive with little interference from us.

Our downstream boundary is just a few yards below the footbridge you arrived over, so effectively the fishing starts at the hut. This first section is as wide as you will get today and fairly shallow. Casting is not always easy with the trees behind you but the shade is useful on a sunny day.



As you move upstream the river turns to the left and there is a good section that leads up to the weir; for all the obvious reasons the pool is a good holding place. Beyond the weir the trees end and the river turns to the right. The casting is easier though the proximity of the barbed wire

fence to the bank is a little constricting.



Across the beat you will find there is a good population of small wild brown trout, plenty of grayling and some stocked fish. Generally I default to a dry fly; the fish are easy to spot and on the look out for surface food. However, when the fish are

taking nymphs this is a prime beat for sight nymph fishing, so don't be shy at giving it a try when conditions demand. Watch out for that chink of light as Frank Sawyer called it; that moment when a trout opens and closes its mouth. Regardless of where you think your nymph might be at that moment strike – trout are better at spotting your nymph than you ever will be.





The final section of the beat is a good place to wade as there are bushes on both banks. You will see a wooden handrail into the river that shows you where the wading section starts with the beat ending at the road bridge on the appropriately named Watery Lane.



## Places to Eat

We have not had good reports of the pubs in the immediate vicinity, so you may be best advised to head a few miles.

- **Poplar Farm (2 miles)** Old Salisbury Rd, Abbots Ann, Andover SP11 7NJ  
Open all day. 01264 710424.
- **The Mayfly Inn (4 miles)** Fullerton Road, Winchester SO20 6AX  
Open all day. 01264 860283.
- **Andover** (1 miles) – busy town with plenty of pubs and restaurants

## Local stores

- **Clatfords Village Store (1/2 mile)** Village Street, Goodworth Clatford, Andover SP11 7RE

## Places to visit

- **Danebury Ring** – great walk and view. Free. 3 miles.
- **Highclere Castle** – tour the real Downton Abbey and grounds. 17 miles.
- **Stonehenge** – iconic prehistoric standing stone circle. 18 miles.

I will be sending you an email in a few days time so if you have a spare minute to give us some feedback from your visit it would be really appreciated.

I hope that you have a great day with us at Upper Clatford and that we see you another day.

Tight Lines!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'S' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Simon Cooper**  
**Fishing Breaks Founder & Managing Director**



## Emergency

The approximate postal address is:

Norman Court Lane  
Upper Clatford  
Andover  
SP11 7HA

**Doctors surgery**  
Charlton Hill Surgery  
Charlton Road  
Andover  
SP10 3JY

01264 337979

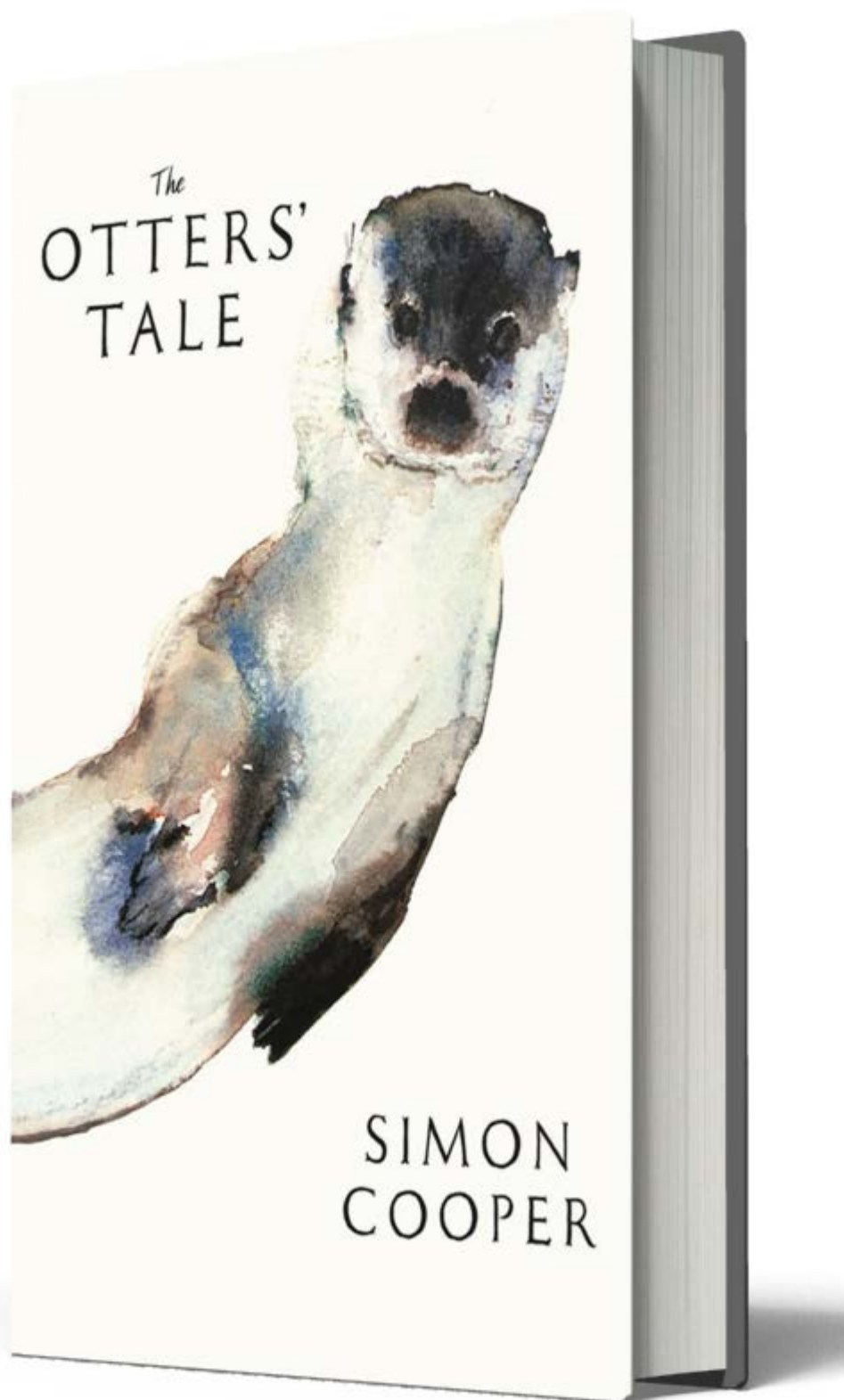
Out of Hours                      111 or 999

**Local hospital**  
Andover War Memorial Hospital  
Charlton Road  
Andover  
SP10 3LB

01264 358811

**Chemist**  
Asda Pharmacy  
Anton Mill Road  
Andover  
SP10 2RW

01264 367620



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