

## FARMING DIARY MARCH 2014

Last Spring we were approached by Westcountry Rivers Trust with information on River Improvement Projects for the Little Dart. They were looking for farmers and landowners to fence their riverbanks, supported by grant assistance, put in river crossings where livestock need to cross, remove dead wood from the water and cut back overhanging branches.



By fencing the riverbanks we are reducing the level of erosion and protecting wildlife habitats; clearing the wood has let more sunlight into the river allowing more plant life to thrive; and the river crossings have meant the cows are confined to one place, creating less disturbance to the river bed.

You've probably noticed too that despite heavy rain this Winter, the river hasn't flooded to its usual level, which is possibly due to the improved river flow.

Whilst working by the river we spotted a kingfisher, heron, water voles and fish.