

Wading Warning on The Somerset Frome



Photo taken on beat 15 'Riffle Pool' looking downstream to the bend where beat 16 'Sand Bar' begins.

In the foreground of the photo you can see weed beds and solid gravel but approximately where the **RED LINE** is the riverbed **drops off vertically** to perhaps five (5) feet depth at this time of year. The water stays deep around the bend until it becomes shallow again at the cattle drinking spot.

This is a textbook example of why a wading staff is vital when wading The Frome if you can't see the riverbed clearly and are unfamiliar with the deeper sections. Some areas are very deep all year round such as at beat 4 'High Bank' which is never less than 2.4 Metres (8 ft) deep in the centre of the big eddy pool and The Flume pool –which is 5 Metres (16 ft) deep. Even at beat 9 Pomeroy Pool (Pomeroy Wood stretch) large, random slabs of granite can make you lose your balance very quickly.

WADING SAFETY

- Wear an inflatable buoyancy aid.
- Wear a tight-fitting belt with chest waders to slow the intake of water if you fall over.
- The flow of river water above knee height can cause you to lose balance very easily.
- Use a wading staff to probe ahead (as above) and to provide additional stability if the bed is uneven.
- Shuffle forward slowly rather than step to keep your feet on the riverbed.
- Avoid logs & tree branches because they usually conceal a mass of underwater snags.
- Keep your mobile phone in a waterproof pouch.
- Wade in pairs so someone is on hand if you get into difficulties.

If you know of other deep sections in The Frome which we can warn members about, please let me know.

Roger

