


B.A.A. NEWS



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October 2013

Coppice planting

See page 13 for latest update

Fishing the tidal Severn

See page 8 for how it used to be done

Road closure at Knowle Sands

The main road from Bridgenorth to Highley is to close for 15 weeks from the 15th October to allow work to be carried out by Severn Trent Water on a new sewerage pumping station.

The road will shut just south of the Swan Inn. Depending on the exact location of the closure this may block access to Knowle Sands upstream car park from the Bridgnorth direction. It will also impact access to Knowle Sands downstream car park, Eardington Brook Section, Hampton Loade B Section and Stanley if travelling from that direction.

'Watch out there's a bailiff about!'

New partners in crime

The BAA have recently forged closer ties with Angling Trust's Fisheries Enforcement officer Dilip Sarkar and the Environment Agency in an effort to tackle fish theft and illegal angling on the River Avon and River Severn. Superintendent Bailiff Kevin Pearson says that by working in partnership and sharing information we have a better chance of catching non-members and poachers than if we try to do it alone with our own group of volunteers. It's early days but we hope that this working relationship will help us to tackle the problems that cause members concern over the next 12 months.

Never seen a bailiff?

Did you know that this summer between June and August, BAA bailiffs visited our waters 769 times, checking 2961 anglers and removing 225 non-members. You never know when you'll meet one!



Executive update



Cleeve Prior track

The owner of the track has agreed to undertake remedial work on behalf of the BAA.

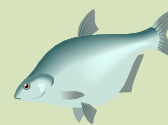
Concerns over damage to fish

In the September edition of the BAA News we published an email from BAA member Mal Starling registering his concerns over damage to fish at Coppice Lake which he believed was caused by inappropriate tackle and handling.

It was agreed to survey members for their observations in order to assess the extent of the problem and to enable us to decide what action is required. A pro forma document has been designed to collect the required information. It is planned that this will be used by our bailiffs and be available to members on the website. We will keep you updated on what the survey tells us.



Fishing news



A couple of nice fish



Hi, thought this may be of interest, a nice perch, 2lb 5oz on ledgered meat from Coppice on 5th September. A bit lucky with this one, just about to pull the rod in and pack up for the day when it took the bait, my third good perch from there in a week. Also a reasonable bream from Park Farm, Evesham a few days earlier. I didn't weigh it but would guess at 3lb 4oz to 3lb 8oz thereabouts from fish caught in the past. Have had nice bream from this venue before and believe there are plenty much bigger.

Apologies for poor quality pics, not always easy to get in focus, grab a flapping fish and set your 12 sec timer on the camera, getting a bit dark too.

Cheers, Graham Beck

River Severn roach



Hi

My name is Dale Nicholas, I'm 14 years of age. On my first trip to the River Severn as a BAA member I caught this roach with 2 red maggots trotting a waggler.

Fishing news record

for last 6 months

| fish/catcher | lb | oz | location | method | date caught | BAA News edition |
|--------------|----|----|----------|--------|-------------|------------------|
|--------------|----|----|----------|--------|-------------|------------------|

Barbel

River Severn

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|---|-----------------|------------------|------------|-----------|
| Gaz from Wigan | 12 | 6 | Middle Severn | | 28/07/2012 | July 2013 |
| John Morgan | 8 | 2 | Holt Fleet weir | | 05/07/2013 | Aug 2013 |
| Darren Lynton | 8 | 2 | Holt Fleet weir | | 05/07/2013 | Aug 2013 |
| Matthew Roberts | 7 | | Danery | Ledgered maggots | 03/07/2013 | Aug 2013 |

River Avon

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|---|---------------|------------------------------|------------|----------|
| Mark Farmar | 13 | 8 | | Hemp & Garlic cheesy pellets | 12/03/2013 | Aug 2013 |
| Alan Newstead | 10 | 2 | Fladbury Weir | | | Aug 2013 |

River Teme

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|---|------------|------------------------------|------------|----------|
| Colin Salmon | 11 | 0 | | | 15/07/2013 | Aug 2013 |
| Tony Barnett | 8 | 3 | Cotheridge | Luncheon meat rolling ledger | 22/06/2013 | Aug 2013 |

Bream

Pools

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|---|----|---------|---------------|------------|-----------|
| John Snape | 7 | | Mythe | Luncheon meat | 04/06/2013 | Aug 2013 |
| Kevin Smith | 3 | 13 | Coppice | | 28/04/2013 | May 2013 |
| Kevin Smith | 3 | 5 | Coppice | | 15/08/2013 | Sept 2013 |
| Kevin Smith | 3 | 3 | Coppice | | 15/08/2013 | Sept 2013 |

Common Carp

River Salwarpe

Pools

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|----------------|--|------------|-----------|
| Jim Clarke | 19 | | Coppice | | | July 2013 |
| Kevin Smith | 16 | 7 | Coppice | | 09/08/2013 | Sept 2013 |
| Andy Marsh | 16 | 4 | Nordley Pool 2 | PVA bag with pellets, hair rigged cheesy hemp/garlic pellet tight in margins | 27/05/2013 | June 2013 |
| Kevin Smith | 15 | 10 | Coppice | | 09/08/2013 | Sept 2013 |
| Kevin Smith | 13 | 15 | Coppice | | 01/08/2013 | Sept 2013 |
| Kevin Smith & Son | 13 | 15 | Coppice | | 15/08/2013 | Sept 2013 |
| Kevin Smith | 13 | 10 | Coppice | | 09/08/2013 | Sept 2013 |
| Andy Marsh | 13 | 1 | Nordley Pool 2 | | 20/05/2013 | June 2013 |
| Kevin Smith | 12 | 15 | Coppice | | 01/08/2013 | Sept 2013 |
| Andy Marsh | 12 | 4 | Nordley Pool 2 | | 20/05/2013 | June 2013 |

Mirror Carp

Pools

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|----------------|--|------------|-----------|
| Scott Lote | 18 | | Coppice | Mainline cell topped with pop up corn covered in korda goo | 08/06/2013 | July 2013 |
| Andy Lea | 17 | 13 | Coppice | Single dumbbell with no free offerings | 22/04/2013 | May 2013 |
| Kevin Smith | 15 | 13 | Coppice | | 28/04/2013 | May 2013 |
| Kevin Smith | 14 | 4 | Coppice | | 01/08/2013 | Sept 2013 |
| Kevin Smith | 13 | | Coppice | | 27/04/2013 | May 2013 |
| Andy Marsh | 11 | 8 | Nordley Pool 2 | | 20/05/2013 | June 2013 |
| Kevin Smith & Son | 11 | | Nordley Pool 2 | Taken off top on pop-up | 01/06/2013 | July 2013 |
| Andy Marsh | 9 | 14 | Nordley Pool 2 | PVA bag with pellets, hair rigged cheesy hemp/garlic pellet tight in margins | 27/05/2013 | June 2013 |
| Andy Marsh | 9 | 12 | Nordley Pool 2 | | 20/05/2013 | June 2013 |
| Kevin Smith & Son | 8 | 6 | Nordley Pool 2 | | 01/06/2013 | July 2013 |

Chub

River Avon

| | | | | | | |
|------------|---|----|----------|---------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Adam King | 6 | 10 | Pershore | Double caster 16 hook | 20/06/2013 | Sept 2013 |
| Gary Watts | 2 | 8 | Pershore | Gary's first chub of the season | 16/06/2013 | July 2013 |

River Severn

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|---|----|-----------------|--|------------|----------|
| John Morgan | 4 | 11 | Holt Fleet weir | | 05/07/2013 | Aug 2013 |
| Darren Lynton | 4 | 4 | Holt Fleet weir | | 05/07/2013 | Aug 2013 |

River Teme

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|---|------------|------------------------|------------|----------|
| Tony Barnett | 5 | 2 | Cotheridge | Free lined cheese | 22/06/2013 | Aug 2013 |
| Tony Barnett | 4 | 8 | Cotheridge | Ledgered luncheon meat | 16/06/2013 | Aug 2013 |

Perch

Pools

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|---|---|---------|---------------|------------|----------|
| Graham Beck | 2 | 5 | Coppice | Ledgered meat | 05/09/2013 | Oct 2013 |
|-------------|---|---|---------|---------------|------------|----------|

Tench

River Avon

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|----|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|
| Albert Baker | 4 | 13 | Pensham 2 | Red maggot | 26/08/2013 | Sept 2013 |
| Albert Baker | 4 | 3 | Pensham 2 | Red maggot | 26/08/2013 | Sept 2013 |

Zander

River Avon

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|---|-------------|----------------------|------------|----------|
| Tony Barnett | 6 | 0 | Barton Weir | Ledger luncheon meat | 29/06/2013 | Aug 2013 |
|--------------|---|---|-------------|----------------------|------------|----------|



Nature views

Autumn arrives at Wasperton



Leaves turning gold on the far bank

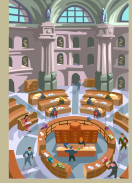


Hawthorne berries



Archive extracts

Midland Angler



Below are extracts from the September and October 1959 editions, the forerunner to the BAA News.

Fishing The Tidal Severn

The Severn below Tewkesbury is a changed river. It is faster, tidal, and twice a day around the time of the full moon it flows backwards for a time.

B. G. NIXON

gives some advice on how to fish it.



LEDGERING for bottom feeding fish is a pleasant game, one which is regularly indulged in by thousands of anglers each week-end during the season. Results on most waters, even those containing only a moderate head of fish, are usually good and the novice can enjoy a reasonable measure of success.

On the Severn below Tewkesbury, a favourite week-end haunt of Midland anglers, very good results are obtained consistently, with some occasional outstanding ones. However, there are some obstacles which apply to ledgering in the fast water characteristic of this lower part of the river.

The literature relating to ledgering in still waters and rivers of sluggish flow is extensive and the ground here has been thoroughly covered. But fast water ledgering on wide rivers seems to have been somewhat neglected. Perhaps this is because some of the problems involved seem to be insoluble. Diagram (1) shows the basic trouble. If you ledger in the lower Severn you must face the fact that no matter whether you cast upstream, down, or across, your tackle is going to take up one of the positions shown, and that the current will put a great belly in the line between you and the bait.

The size of lead weight used will of course have something to do with the final position taken up by the tackle. On this part of the river you will need a heavy weight (at least 1½ ozs.) to maintain an upstream or across position. If you use a weight which is too light your bait will be rolled willy nilly downstream until it comes to rest in the shallows near the bank down river from you.

The use of the heavier lead generally prohibits the use of sporting tackle and the most effective compromise seems to be a weight of about ¾ oz. This will usually roll over the bottom until it falls into a depression or hole in the river bed which will bring it to rest. This condition of course is just what we require as the fish will also be in these holes out of the full force of the current.

Assuming then that you are going to allow your lead to roll, then use a shape which will do so easily. An Arlesey bomb type of weight will serve very well. There is, however, a popular and cheap way of making weights which is used locally. Obtain a thin sheet of scrap lead. Cut a strip about one inch wide and roll it up in the fashion of a Swiss roll around a thin knitting needle or

something similar. Then withdraw the needle and you have your weight.

The important thing is that the lead must roll without putting a kink in the line. This precludes the coffin type, which on occasion will roll in fast water and which in any case puts a terrific kink in the line when wound in.

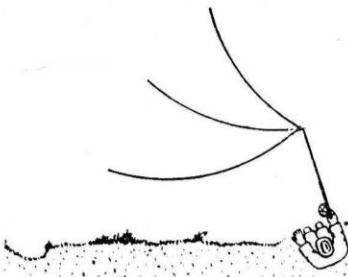
The chosen weight should be prevented from sliding down to the hook by two stop shots. I advise two because to cast the long distances usually required a considerable velocity has to be imparted to the weight. If you are only using one stop shot, the slightest jerk during casting will cause the ledger lead to shoot down the line to the hook. You may snap the line at your hook and you will probably lose your bait. If neither of these occur you will still have the mortifying experience of seeing weight and bait flying through the air as close as blood brothers. Two shots will considerably reduce the chances of this happening.

If, however, you are an expert and can execute a smooth controlled swing at every cast you will get away with only one shot and I, for one, shall salute your prowess!

The weight is normally stopped at about 12 inches from the hook.

Using this distance, the bait probably waves up and down just over the bottom in the strong current. No doubt the small movement attracts the fish who will be waiting for tit-bits coming downstream. If a longer length is used, there is a possibility that the bait will be lifted so far off the bottom that it will be of no interest to rooting fish. Indeed if they are concentrating on the bottom it may be waving about far enough over their heads to be out of their line of vision.

Baits are many and varied, but the best results seem to be obtained using bread. Worms and gentles are used at times with some success. I have even seen a pike of about 2 lb. taken at Wainlodes on a ledgered bunch of maggots. With these baits, however, you will have to contend with the nuisance of undersized eels. Remember, however, when using bread, that it will have to stand up to a strong washing action when on the hook, apart from the rolling over the



bottom which occurs immediately after casting. Paste is probably the best answer, although firmly pressed flake will serve very well.

It is of course preferable that you should know the composition of the river bed. In the shallow runs of some rivers there may be so many boulders, or the bottom may be so rocky and uneven, that ledgering results in a fantastic loss of tackle. Below Tewkesbury, however, the Severn is wide and deep with a pretty good bottom in most places. The barges use a dredged channel out in the centre and that is where your bait must lie if you want the bigger fish. The large bream particularly do not come often into the shallows.

Weed is no problem. There is so little of it in the lower reaches of the

river that one rather wonders where the fish obtain their food. Apart from the fishermen's offerings, that is.

When the baited tackle is cast into the centre of the channel, the lead will sink rapidly to the bottom and then commence to roll. Hold the rod well up and from the behaviour of the line you will be able to tell what is happening to the bait. When it comes to rest a steady pressure, due to the water acting upon the line, will act on the rod tip. Lower the rod until it is almost horizontal, sit well back from the water's edge, and arrange the rod so that looking from above it is approximately 120 deg. to the line.

Many people rest the rod in a high, forked stick with the butt resting on the ground. This is not a good method. Although the bites are registered in an exciting manner you will miss far more than you should through the strike not reaching the fish. Let the rod be nearly horizontal and hold it in one hand, grasping the line in the other. Don't just put the rod in the rest and sit back hoping you will be able to reach it in time. You will miss a lot of fish if you do.

Bites will come in several ways. First, there is the real out and out, when your rod tip will suddenly bend right over and the line in your fingers will tug viciously. This of course is answered by an immediate strike.

Another type will result in a sudden loss of tension in the line. The rod tip will actually move back as the pull is released. This, too, should be answered by an immediate strike. I think the reason for this release of tension is probably that, as the fish takes the bait, it moves the lead which must be lying in only a shallow depression, or perhaps caught behind a stone. The weight comes free and immediately starts to roll, releasing the load on the line. When you connect with this sort of bite you will generally find it to have been caused by a good fish.

Often bites will consist of continuous nibbling, never really developing into anything positive. It is generally useless to strike at these. They are mostly caused by

smaller fish and a strike will almost always be wasted. This type of bite CAN be caused by the bigger chaps, but these seldom allow it to develop into anything positive.

Whatever type of bite you have, when you do strike you must strike lightning-fast and **hard**. The swift but gentle turn of the wrist normally used in answering to a flickering roach float are of no use here. If your tackle is sound, you cannot break as the belly in the line acts as a very efficient shock absorber, even when the hook is immovably anchored.

Bring the rod back as viciously as you can over the maximum travel available. Sweep the rod to the rear, maintaining its almost horizontal position, at the same time pulling on the line with the other hand. By using this method every fraction of movement is used to pull the hook towards you. You have not wasted half your strike in merely lifting a quantity of your line out of the water.

It is also an advantage and gains a few inches if you keep the hand pulling on the line close to the body whilst the rod moves away from it.

The use of all these extra refinements may seem to be the result of over-fussiness but they will often be the difference between success and failure. Remember, you have the effect of that enormous line drag to overcome and every inch you gain will be of benefit to you.

After hooking your fish, don't be surprised if the fight it puts up in the initial stages is very poor. In the case of bream, never very hectic at the best of times, nothing seems to happen immediately after striking and the fish does not do anything until you have it half-way to the bank. Surprisingly, the same thing happens, although to a lesser extent, when chub and roach are hooked.

I think the reason must be that until the belly in the line is taken out, the combination of forces acting upon the line as it is reeled in causes the fish to be pulled downstream. The flow of water behind the gills, together with the pull on the line, probably half chokes the fish temporarily.

(To be continued)

B. G. NIXON concludes his advice on . . .

Fishing The Tidal Severn

THE question of whether to ground bait or not when fishing the tidal reaches of the Severn below Tewkesbury has always been a moot point. I personally do not think it very useful. The difficulties of ensuring that the groundbait hits the bottom near your hook at 30 yards range or more in a fast flowing, deep stream are very great. Once it reaches the bottom the fast current will break it up and carry it rapidly away, and your bait, if you allow it to roll as has previously been suggested, will seldom come to rest twice in the same place. But don't worry; if the fish are there you will catch them without groundbait.

Several other factors will affect your fishing—particularly the tides.

Twice a day around the time of the full and new moons you are likely to see the river between Tewkesbury and Gloucester flowing backwards for a short period. At the times of the highest spring tides the reverse flow is quite as fast as it is in the normal direction and the water is very thick with a great deal of mud held in suspension. During this period, which seldom lasts for more than an hour, the fishing is right off.

Barge traffic too has an effect, although just how much has not yet been properly assessed. Sometimes, after the passage of a vessel, the fish which up until then have been feeding freely will cease for ten minutes or so. At times, when a barge interrupts a quiet spell, your bait barely has time

to settle again before your tip is twitching. In any case you must pull your tackle from the water whilst barges are passing. It is not unknown for a vessel to carry on with its propeller festooned with terminal tackle!

Floods are another factor which have to be contended with at times. Ledgering in the deep seldom pays a profit when the river is in flood. You will have to put up with a tremendous amount of rubbish coming down, varying from trees to dead sheep, and the fish at these times generally tend to come out of the main channel and into the slacks and side streams. Under flood conditions you will find it more profitable to search these places.

Under normal conditions, early morning is without doubt the best time for this type of fishing. Then the big bream are on the move and if you can get in amongst a shoal you will have rare fun. At this time too, all other fish are feeding and you will be kept in a constant fever of excitement. If your rod tip does not start twitching almost as soon as you have cast out, you are in a poor spot and will probably have to move to find a shoal. Later on, as the sun rises higher, the tempo eases and the big fish showing interest are fewer. However you will still have enough to keep you busy.

Evening, surprisingly enough, does not appear to be a very good time. In my experience, one is maddened by a succession of niggling little bites that rarely develop into a real rod bender. Exciting it is true, but at the end of the evening you will probably be tearing your hair out and only have perhaps one four ounce roach or chub for your pains.

One day I'm going to find out where most of the big ones go at this time of day. I'll let you know when I do!

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by 'TAG' BARNES

The Kingfisher —'Splendour of the brooks'



"THE secret splendour of the brooks"—that was how Tennyson described the Kingfisher. And it is indeed a red letter day when one sees this gaily coloured bird displaying its plumage of brilliant blues greens and reds set off with a white throat and black beak.

More often than not the Kingfisher is only seen in flight, looking like a bright blue meteor as it hustles down the centre of a river or across a lake, but sometimes they can be observed perching on a low branch over a patch of shallow water. This is their usual position when looking

for the small fish on which they feed.

They catch their prey by diving head first into the water, and if their aim is straight they grasp the fish across its middle and return to the perch. There they either beat their prize a few times or throw it into the air and catch it before swallowing it head first. They work hard for their food, and from my observations they make many dives that produce nothing.

An interesting thing about Kingfishers is that, like the robins, they are 'territorial' birds. A certain length of water is taken over and any strange Kingfisher entering the 'boundaries' is immediately attacked and chased off.

Their nests are usually smelly affairs composed of regurgitated fish bones situated at the end of a burrow some three feet into the bank. Often a disused rat hole is taken over for this purpose.

During my schooldays I made a hobby of egg-collecting and I remember well the difficulty I had when trying to extract the egg of a Kingfisher from the end of its burrow. I finally overcame the problem by digging down to the nest from the top of the river bank as one would

dig out a ferret.

The eggs, numbering six to ten, are glossy white and are to be found in early summer. They take about a fortnight to incubate and the young are hatched naked with comparatively short bills that do not attain their full length until some time after the bird is fully fledged.

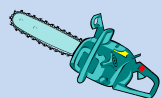
From the anglers' point of view they do very little harm on a fishery, but they can become a menace on a fish hatchery. Mr. D. F. Leny, of the Surrey Trout Farm tells me that he lost 400 tiny red (imported) goldfish one summer to a family of Kingfishers.

Apparently ponds are too large to cover with fine mesh netting, and if large-mesh nets are used the birds simply dive in and out at will. Fish breeders have to keep a continual look-out and discourage the birds as soon as they are seen.

Kingfishers are friendly creatures and, although it has never happened to me, will sometimes perch on the rod of an angler sitting quietly by the waterside. If it should happen to you, keep as still as you can and make the most of it, for rarely will you be privileged to see a prettier and more colourful picture.

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Fisheries report



Tuesday 3rd September

Coppice Lake; to reduce bank erosion we planted reeds along the edge of the lake, from the corner by the car park to about halfway along the dam bank. More detail and pictures of this work is available in the item 'COIR ROLLS FOR COPPICE' on the BAA website in News Reports.

Friday 5th September

River Avon Chadbury; strimmed back vegetation.

Wednesday 11th September

River Teme Stanford Bridge and Cotheridge: At Stanford Bridge we cut back the summer vegetation, dug out pegs where required and trimmed trees. In the upstream meadow the path along the top of the river bank has been lost in places due to flood erosion, so be careful.



After completing the work at Stanford Bridge we took the opportunity to visit Cotheridge. The footbridge that crosses the gully by the car park giving access to our upstream fishery has been removed by Worcester County Council.



We are awaiting information from WCC on when the footbridge will be rebuilt.

Friday 13th September

River Salwarpe Claines; Vegetation strimmed and trees cut back to provide access to 30 fishable pegs on the Severn and Salwarpe.

Tuesday 17th September

Uckinghall; strimmed back vegetation.

Wednesday 18th September

River Severn Grimley meadows 5, 6 and 7; our attempt to do this fishery earlier in the summer was cancelled due to forecast heavy rain which did not materialise, so we returned. We strimmed vegetation and cut back trees to provide a number of fishable pegs. It's a long walk from the car park, but the opinion of the team was that the pegs at the downstream end of this fishery looked very inviting.

**Wednesday 25th September**

Coppice Lake; after we planted the coir rolls on the 3rd September we returned to trim back the wooden stakes holding the rolls in place.

Before



After



Some members of the Fisheries Team (Mike, Annie and Glyn) also visited Nordley to collect a variety of water plants from Pool 5. Soil was added to the roots of these plants and held in place with Hessian sheets. These plants were then planted between the coir rolls and the bank and at other places around the lake to add additional plants to those already in the rolls.



Due to erosion undercutting the dam bank, trees were cut back. The purpose of this is to reduce the risk of them falling and tearing a hole in the bank, resulting in a major loss of water and fish.

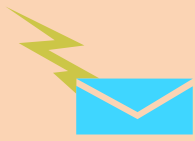


The ongoing plan for Coppice Lake is; depending on the success of the coir rolls, install more of them along other parts of the bank suffering from erosion. We are also considering planting lilies in the shallow corner of the lake (left corner far side when viewed from car park). The purpose of this is to introduce more oxygen producing plant life, provide cover for the fish and improve the appearance of the lake.

Friday 27th September

River Severn Blackstone; we visited this fishery just before the start of the season to cut back vegetation and dig out the pegs after last years floods. Due to the amount of work we did not manage to complete all the pegs in the downstream meadow and trim the edges of the access track, so we returned. All the pegs in the downstream meadow have been strimmed, dug out and trees cut back. We have also given the vegetation alongside the access track a good haircut and trimmed overhanging branches.





Readers' letters



If you have any items, thoughts, issues you want to air in the BAA news, please email it to baajnw@btinternet.com titled for attn of BAA News Editor.

When sending in a comment can you please let us know if you don't want your name included?

The Editor will act as moderator for items to be included.

FAO News editor

After a recent visit to the Brook Section stretch of the river Severn, I feel I should write to you to let other members know the state of the access path, which I believe is also part of the Severn way walk.

From the Eardington car park, to the bridge there is a fallen tree across the path which you have to climb over, as either side of it is long tall overgrown vegetation.

Once you have crossed the bridge, the path way in several areas has collapsed, and again there are a couple of fallen trees, its very overgrown, along this narrow sloping pathway, this would make it difficult for match anglers to access the top end of the stretch, carrying all there match gear, and virtually impossible to use a trolley. My son and I went only carrying the bare minimum of one rod, rod rest, landing net, and bait bag, and still struggled to get up into the 2nd and 3rd meadows. Once up there we counted approx. 7-8 fishable pegs, during our assault course adventure.

I am aware the BAA do a great job on their fisheries, but felt I should let other anglers know the situation on this section of water, as it is booked for matches on a regular basis.

On a happier note we did catch four Barbel between 4lb 9oz and 7lb and a Chub all on pellet, a switch to the maggot / hemp feeder saw us catch loads of Dace, Perch, and Roach

Anthony Jukes

Wednesbury

Ed; the fallen tree across the path from the car park has been cleared, we have repaired the path downstream from the bridge the best we could and cleared the vegetation and fallen trees.

Hi

After the letter in September's new about damaged fish at Coppice Lake a few of which I myself have caught, I was recently looking through fishing videos on YouTube & came across this <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bpi9N3pQsHw>. The uploader has quite a few videos from Coppice & I was distraught that there is no unhooking mat evident in any of the videos & how he just dumps a double figure fish back into the pool in what appears to be summer, when as a frequent visitor to the pool I know the margins can be

as little as 6 inches deep, can you please make it a minimum requirement that all anglers to use unhooking mats when fishing at any BAA venue.

Regards

Andy

Ed; thanks for the information. The letter in the September edition you refer to was discussed at the September BAA Executive Meeting, see the Executive Update section. As a result we are planning to collect information from our members via a form on the website and our bailiffs so that we can ascertain what the problems are, where they occur and the resulting action we need to take.

Shaun Halliwell

REWARD OFFERED

Two weeks ago whilst fishing at Holt Fleet the unthinkable happened and a large fish pulled my rod and reel into the weir. I told the lock keeper but had no hope of getting it back. However yesterday I returned to the lock and as I was setting up a BAA member was leaving and said another member had pulled out a rod and reel that afternoon, Sunday 8th, I'd missed him by an hour!

It was a Shimano reel aero with 10lb line on, attached to a Specimen Barbel rod 11ft 1.75 test curve with a Drennan cage feeder attached. The guy the fisherman was a regular at Holt Fleet so I was hoping you could possibly post a message on the news reports i.e. REWARD OFFERED. I'll go back and try to put a note in the lockkeeper's window too on the off chance he returns soon. The rod has great sentimental value and the reel was newly purchased I'll happily give a cash reward for their return. I know it's a long shot but I'm putting my faith in BAA members being an honest and friendly bunch. I'm on min wage and struggling at mo' so having to fish with an old stick 'n piece of string, well nearly. Thanks for listening and a cautionary tale for all, never leave your rod unattended!

Ed; hope you get your tackle returned. The same thing happened to me last year when fishing the Wye. I left my rod for a minute to get some bait only to turn around and see the rod being pulled across the river, I don't know if it was a fish or flood debris as the river had been rising all day.

I arrived at Cotheridge on Monday to find a butt section to a Club Pro Specimen 360/250 Rod on the ground in the car park area. It's in very good condition is anyone looking for it?

Ed; if the item is yours, please contact BAA HQ.

Angling Trust

Media Release

Thursday 19 September 2013



Fracking safeguards not fit for purpose says Angling Trust

Anglers are the latest group to express concern over the likely impacts of the controversial fracking technique used to extract underground supplies of shale gas. Fracking uses large amounts of water and presents a risk of contamination of ground and surface water. In many parts of the UK, rivers are already either over-abstracted or are failing to meet good ecological status, and many groundwater supplies are over-exploited. There are also concerns over the lack of robust regulation governing fracking and the need for the Environment Agency to become the lead regulator rather than the Health & Safety Executive as at present.

The Angling Trust has been consulting its sister organisations in the USA where fracking has been a live issue for some while. In a position paper published this week the Trust concludes:

"Fracking may be able to contribute to the UK's energy needs at some point in the future but the Angling Trust, along with other organisations such as RSPB and WWF, contends that until the current environmental regulatory regime is made fit for purpose and that the questions over water supply are resolved then fracking should not be allowed to proceed."

Key Points

Key Points from the Trust's paper include:

• Water Abstraction

Fracking requires large amounts of water to pump into the ground with a mixture of sand and chemicals in order to frack the rocks to release gas. Estimates from Trout Unlimited in America place this anywhere between 300,000 to 3.6 million gallons per well. The Angling Trust seeks assurances from government that fracking will not be permitted unless sustainable supplies of water are developed, such as new reservoirs, to avoid taking water from already-depleted rivers and ground waters.

• Water Pollution

Fracking has the potential to pollute both ground and surface waters either by the integrity of the well being breached, inappropriate treatment, disposal of the returning fluid or leaks of the fluid when transported away from site. Such operations should be licensed in accordance with the European Waste Directive and the Environment Agency's permitting process for discharge to ground water.

• Regulation

The Environment Agency should now be the lead regulator instead of the Health & Safety Executive and the industry must be made aware that it will have to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (which requires that there should be no deterioration of any water bodies) and the Ground Water Directive & Mining Waste Directive. Each site must be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment with the government amending the Town & Country Planning Act accordingly.

Angling Trust Chief Executive Mark Lloyd said:

"We are gravely concerned about any further pressure on already threatened water resources at a time when many rivers run dry in the summer. There is also a real risk of pollution of surface and ground water that will need tough regulation. The Angling Trust will be submitting our concerns to the government and making sure anglers' voices are heard on this issue. Fish Legal solicitors are ready to fight for compensation for any of its member clubs and fisheries that might be affected."

National Campaigns Coordinator Martin Salter added:

"We are particularly concerned that the control and monitoring of this new industry will 'slip through the

gaps' between regulators due to it not being adequately aligned to present environmental protection legislation. The Angling Trust is also seeking assurance from government that companies licensed to carry out fracking operations must guarantee their ability to finance remediation in the event of any contamination of ground water. The current system is simply not fit for purpose and it would be irresponsible to allow fracking to proceed until effective controls are in place."

Angling Trust

Media Release



Wednesday 18 September 2013

Government backs angling and wildlife concerns and scuppers Severn Barrage plans

Angling and environmental groups have given an enthusiastic welcome to the announcement today from the Government that leaves plans by the Hafren Power consortium to build a barrage across the Severn Estuary effectively 'dead in the water'

In a response to a damning report by the House of Commons Energy and Climate Change Select Committee the government has endorsed almost all the committee's criticisms of the barrage plans ending any prospect of Hafren Power being able to sponsor a parliamentary bill aimed at securing approval for an 18kms concrete barrage across the Severn Estuary. The project would have caused huge damage to migratory fish runs in the Severn, Wye and Usk catchments and adversely affected marine species in the Bristol Channel.

The Severn Estuary is one of the largest estuaries in Europe and is of international importance for its wildlife and is a unique landscape. Its saltmarshes and mudflats are used by 69,000 birds each winter, its waters support over 100 fish species and vast numbers of invertebrates, and the estuary is a vital migration route for fish including salmon and eels. In 2010 a Government study into the feasibility of building a barrage across the Severn confirmed that the impacts of a conventional 'high head' barrage could be catastrophic, including the local extinction of some species of fish and an increase in flood risk over an area of 370 square kilometres containing 45,000 residential properties.

The Angling Trust has been working closely with the other main environmental and fisheries groups in highlighting the very real threats posed by building a massive concrete barrage across the Severn estuary complete with over 1,000 'fish-mincing turbines' operating 24 hours a day. The coalition included the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), RSPB, World Wildlife Fund for Nature, Wildlife Trusts, Wye & Usk Foundation, Marine Conservation Society, Severn Rivers Trust, Salmon & Trout Association, National Trust and the Campaign to Protect Rural England. In January Angling Trust's Martin Salter gave evidence to the Energy and Climate Change Committee highlighting the threats to fish passage which was included in the final report.

Angling Trust Campaigns Chief Martin Salter said:

"This is a great result for angling and for everyone who cares about our rivers and estuaries. With 25% of the entire salmonid fish habitat for England and Wales dependent on the Severn Estuary there is little doubt that any barrage proposal would be in breach of the European Habitats Directive which requires protected environments and species to be provided with a compensatory habitat. Now it may just have been possible to re-create suitable habitat for wading birds somewhere else but never in a thousand years were Hafren Power going to be able to create another salmon or sea trout river. That's why the Angling Trust has fought so hard to press this arguments home and why we are able to claim, at least in part, that 'It was the fish what won it!' Let this be a warning to those who think they can simply tear up the hard won

protections that we have in place."

Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive of the Angling Trust & Fish Legal added:

"Angling, wildlife and environmental groups have been united in their call for the Severn Barrage concept to be abandoned, calling instead for a renewed focus on environmentally sound and commercially viable way to harness a variety of sources of power in the Bristol Channel. We now welcome the Government's recognition that the proposals put forward by Hafren Power were utterly inadequate. The Select Committee Inquiry clearly exposed the numerous unsubstantiated claims regarding the supposed economic and environmental benefits for the barrage and the massive threats to migratory fish and birds inherent in a scheme of this size."

Charles Walker MP, Vice-Chair, APPG Angling, said:

"On behalf of the All Party angling Group in Parliament I want to thank the Angling Trust and the other environmental groups for bringing all the problems with the proposed Severn Barrage to our attention. The potential effects on the biodiversity, fish and birdlife and the local economy have been striking. It is no wonder that this form of power generation has been considered and dismissed by other countries - from Canada and France to South Korea. Hopefully now the barrage is dead in the water the UK government can forge ahead with its support for sustainable energy generation that is genuinely wildlife and fish friendly"