

I do believe that we anglers often stick to waters we know well and have had good results from in the past. I know I am and for years no one could drag me away from the River Nene and when the old close season came around the fishing tackle was cleaned off and put away until the 16th June came round again. I did fly fish but my first love was always the river. How things have changed with the advent of stillwaters and with the abolition of the close season on lakes several years ago now the majority of anglers I know fish all year round.

The really big change though is that stillwaters have improved dramatically and now provide just about everyone with a days sport where the float is almost guaranteed to go under.

All types of waters have sprung up in recent years but as I said earlier many anglers tend to stick to the one they know best but that's a shame as we have a multitude of waters in our area well worth a closer look.

I recently drove over to one of the new breed of fisheries at Whaplode Drove called Sinclair's Fishery and I have to say that I was pleasantly surprised. It's a lovely little fishery set well out in the fens, but sheltered from the wind by huge hedge rows and trees. It was a miserable day yet there were five or six anglers on the fishery and all reported excellent catches.

There are two lakes on the complex, the large pool looks an ideal water for small club matches, while the small pool would suit the pleasure angler. The pegs are a little on the tight side but according to a couple of regulars from Eye that fish the waters the lakes are never overly busy. On the small pool a pole approach works well with meat, pellet and sweetcorn all good baits, with dog biscuit better in the evening where carp to 15lb plus have been taken close to the small islands.

On the main lake most baits should see you into fish, worm, maggot, meat and corn are all must have baits and with lots of fish likely to be taken close to the surface, make sure you have a few floating baits with you.

Like all the waters in the area its barbless hooks only and no real need for the larger sizes either. Keepnets are not allowed but I understand they are if a reasonable amount of pegs are pre booked or if it's a club booking. For this year night fishing is going to be allowed. Refreshments are always available at the lodge and I can assure you, you will be made most welcome by Andrew Sinclair the owner of the fishery.

Rules are very relaxed, most baits are allowed including boilies in moderation fishing is from dawn till dusk, unless you are night fishing of course. I think its great value at £5 a day (£10 for a night session) and with the new Peterborough to Spalding road now open it's just a few minutes from

Peterborough city centre, 25 minutes at the most. I say give it a try you will not be disappointed.

Pear Tree Hill Road  
Whaplode Drove  
Spalding  
Lincolnshire  
PE12 0SL  
01406 540362

Another water in the same area is North View Fishery at Gedney Hill, it's a much bigger complex than the near by Sinclair's and does cater for club matches most weekends through the summer months. Night fishing is allowed and they have recently introduced accommodation on site in the form of log cabins. There are even areas set aside for caravans. As well as club matches and pleasure anglers this fishery also caters for the more enthusiastic specimen anglers and with fish well over twenty pounds often recorded you can understand why the fishery is so popular. The big lake is often quite busy through spring and summer but with a couple off smaller pools now available this fishery is really set to make its mark amongst the host of other waters within a 25 mile radius of Peterborough. The fish here do respond well to feeder tactics although boilies will be used to tempt the really big fish. Pellet and paste on the pole works well and I know of lots of anglers that did very well last year through the warmer months on a pellet waggler.

Northview Lakes  
North Road  
Gedney Hill  
Spalding  
Lincolnshire  
Pe12 0NS  
Tel/Fax: 01406 330979  
Email: [Clair@northviewlakes.co.uk](mailto:Clair@northviewlakes.co.uk)  
Day Fishing: £6 Per person  
Night Fishing: £10 Per Night (Includes Caravan Pitch Rental)  
All Caravan Pitches Are Concrete standing and Feature Electricity Hook-Ups



Townsend Lakes

Over the past couple of years I have made an effort to try out a few unfamiliar waters in the area, there are an odd one or two that was not to my liking but Townsend Lakes at Upwell certainly was, and still is. There is a slight down side to it though and that's the problem they have there with the state of the roads, paths and banks when it gets really wet. Thankfully though that's not been too often over the past couple of years. But of course that's nit picking really as what we are all interested in really is the fishing and you will be hard pressed to find a water that is as heavily stocked as the productive Cuckoo Pool. This small shaped pool holds a tremendous head of small fish with the added spice of carp to around the 4lb match. 200lb plus weights have been taken, with 80 to 100lb regularly needed through spring and summer to win matches. I particularly like this water as it ensures everyone gets bites from start to finish of the day, red maggot, casters, worm, meat and of course pellet all work well with lots of fish to be had at the end of your rod tip. Water levels have been very low over the past six months with the platforms standing well above the water but hopefully with plenty of rain they will soon be back to normal. The Kingfisher pool is also stocked with carp, they run much bigger in this one, fish to double figures are regularly taken. However there is also a good head of skimmers and roach with 40lb plus of silvers always on the cards. Finally the Woodpecker Pool is the one most of the pleasure anglers seem to head for, a sure sign there are a lot of fish to be had. The on site tackle shop should be able to find your last minute requirements and they also have a small selection of refreshments too.

Like most waters red maggot works well along with pellet, luncheon meat and sweetcorn, top tip tackle wise is not to fish with big hooks, keep it small and you will get lots of bites on all three pools.

There are a few restrictions, particularly on the Cuckoo Canal Pool

These being

- 1) No groundbait not even in feeders or for dusting.
- 2) No meat of any kind
- 3) No paste of any kind not even bread.
- 4) No bread
- 5) Fishery only feed pellets that are available for £1 a bag in the shop.
- 6) You can use any hook pellets on the hook only and not thrown in for feed.
- 7) Remember size 14 maximum hook and all fish to be netted.

Kingfisher Lodge, 72A Townsend Road,  
Upwell, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire,  
PE14 9HJ.

Telephone : (01945) 774008 anytime up to 8pm 7 days

Yet another fishery that has grown in stature in recent years is Rookery Waters at Pidley. I fished it recently just after the cold spell of weather and I have to say that I was very impressed. The small fish in the Jay Lake were fighting fit and ready to feed on red maggot, small pellet and sweetcorn. It's yet another fishery that is relaxed about rules. Those that are in place are sensible and look after the fish and the fishery without hindering the fishermen. Jay Lake is a cracking snake shaped pool. Ideal for club matches, indeed I did fish quite a few last year and saw weights into three figures on really good days. Bigger fish are to be had on the Magpie Pool, with a pellet and paste approach well worth a try, particularly in the margins. There are lots of fish to be had on the long pole line with pellet, but on this pool the carp run close to double figures so no light lines and small hook lengths. For those that are after a few really big fish then perhaps the Rook Pool is the one for you, it is not fished quite as much as the others but holds a good head of double figure carp. A pellet waggler can and indeed does work really well on this one along with a feeder approach. Fish the margins later in the day with pellet or big pieces of luncheon meat for an exciting end to the day!

Day tickets are £6 and £4 for juniors, fishing is from 7am till 7pm. Please make sure you have read the rules before fishing and like all our waters in the area its barbless hooks unless stated.

### Directions

From Huntingdon take the A141 towards March, then turn right on to B1040 towards Pidley. After passing Pidley Church turn left into Fen Road next to village pond

Rookery Waters is 2.5 miles down Fen Road and is signed along Fen Road

Rookery Waters

Rookery Farms

Fen Rd

Pidley, Cambs

PE28 3DF

01487 822980

07765 400697