

# Fishery Plan for the River Wallington, Hants.



July 2010,  
by  
Roy Adams AFMO

# Contents

- Description of water
- Stocking levels
- Current Status
- Identified problems
- Long term plan
- Requirements for successful instigation of plan
- Conclusion

## Description of water

The River Wallington is a pretty, yet majestic and mainly slow moving river that quietly runs its way through beautiful and unspoilt countryside, much of it farmland. It is very unspoilt and in truth, has never been managed properly due to the size of the task involved.

A small band of men to manage nearly 5 miles of double-banked river is not a fair ratio of workforce to work tasks. This was the main reason why as a Club we allowed members to clear bankside vegetation, and leave it tidily on the bank.

The water level varies greatly and can run from a trickle to a very powerful flow, which can damage the banks changing the river slightly from one year to another.

The river holds many species, and can produce a good mixed bag especially for the angler who is willing to do a bit of walking or clearance work.

The variation of depth of water is massive and can be a foot of water and then it drops off to 4 or even 5 ft. Indeed, it can be found even deeper than this in places. And as said before, this variation of depth changes massively after rain.

## Stocking levels

The River Wallington has a very good head of fish in most sizes and in many species. The stocks consist mainly of chub, roach, carp, perch, dace and trout.

In fact, we as a Club stocked the chub as mere chublets back in the 90's, and these have done very well with many now in the 3lb to 4lb range being caught. Gudgeon and minnows can be a bit of a problem on some days due to their numbers, but it's a problem that can be overcome with a little thought.

The stock can be found in various locations for weeks and then after heavy rainfall, it becomes a completely different river once again and the fish may be in different locations and more widespread.

Recent surveys by the EA have shown the Wallington benefits from a good mixed bag of fish of all species and sizes. However as said before, these findings can be found as small pockets in a quite widespread section of the river.

I personally would like to identify the stretches that would provide the correct cover, depth and environment, for a future small stocking of barbel could be considered and closely monitored. This would then provide the only barbel fishing within the PDAS.

## Current Status

At present the River Wallington gives the Clubs members a reasonable days fishing which can vary depending on weather conditions and water flow. It is one of two rivers that we manage as a Club with the River Hamble being the other.

The riverbanks have not been managed and pruned to allow fishing along all stretches as much as is possible due to the size of the task involved, so a small band of willing volunteers do an excellent job of maintaining the more popular and favourite stretches.

Access is a problem on a lot of stretches due to the river flowing through tenant farmers land, and them not always being favourable of us having access on their land.

This has meant that a lot of the river has been neglected or unfished, and overgrown.

There is always a small risk of pollution into the river from either farmland or from the roads after rain. This needs to be closely monitored as fish stocks will be lost or greatly reduced.

Parking is limited which leads to some stretches being more popular than others.

Access to the river for work parties, materials and disabled members can be a massive problem.

## Identified problems

- Too much bankside to manage for one Pond Warden and his group of bailiffs.
- Insufficient workforce to carry out the work and maintenance of the river.
- Poor access to certain stretches of river for fishing and work parties, which can lead to large neglected stretches of river.
- Poor access and facilities for disabled anglers who want river fishing.
- Poor access to decent car parking areas to allow fishing to new and possibly unfished areas of the river.
- Poaching can be a problem in the close season.
- A small chance of pollution as mentioned earlier.

## Long-term plan

The long-term plan for the River Wallington is to continue the fine work that has been carried out, but to increase the rate of bankside being managed.

This could be done by the appointment of a second Pond Warden, the engagement of another group of bailiffs.

The two Pond Wardens will have to work together and communicate regularly as the work carried out by one can greatly affect the other.

They could easily work together on larger projects such as fallen trees creating blockages etc.

Continue to increase the clearance of bankside vegetation and swims being created.

Consideration be given to a future stocking of small barbel and assess their progress for future fishery management reasons.

Negotiations to take place with Southwick Estates concerning the building of disabled access and facilities at Southwick Pool. If successful, we will build access ramps and swim facilities to allow disabled members to enjoy river fishing within the Club waters.

## Requirements for successful instigation of plan

- The appointment of a second Pond Warden and another group of bailiffs.
- Negotiations to take place with farmers and the Estates Manager with a view to increasing access to more of the river.
- Identification of more car parking being available to Club Members. Many of the farmers are approachable and may allow Club members to park on their land.
- Continue with negotiations concerning the building of disabled facilities at Southwick Pool.
- Continuation of the clearance of bankside vegetation and swims being created to allow more fishing being available.
- A small stocking of barbel to be sourced and stocked with advice from the EA.
- Continue to support the work party's requirements such as tools etc.

## Conclusion

The River Wallington can be a very popular river for many members of the Club who enjoy a walk and the delight of catching many species of fish in picturesque and unspoilt surroundings. This can only be improved if the above is adhered to and the appointment of a second Pond Warden.

The appointment of a second Pond Warden will assist the present Pond Warden, and reduce his workload. This water is possibly one of the largest water and bankside management challenges due to the length of the river and the distance between access points.

The above recommendations will see much more of the river being opened up, and the creation of a better environment for the fish stocks. It will also allow more fishing areas and swims to be created.

This environment may prove beneficial to more species such as barbel whereas a future stocking could take place. This stocking would prove very popular with the membership, as we do not have any access to any barbel fishing at present within the Club.

I will finish off by giving recognition to the present Pond Warden and bailiffs who have done some sterling work on the river and keeping it open for fishing for members to enjoy.