

PETWORTH & BOGNOR ANGLING CLUB



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Following the announcement of a further lockdown on January 5th, a lot has gone on. Firstly, fishing was not allowed and this was published by the Angling Trust and also on our social media platforms. At the same time the Angling Trust launched an appeal to the government and to everyone's surprise, the response was almost immediate; fishing was allowed again, albeit with changes. We have tried to keep you updated but have possibly not been able to update you at the pace that some of you seem to be demanding. We check and double check our communications to make sure they are as clear and concise as possible and this does take a bit of time. For instance the latest guidance from the Angling Trust was only published on 8th January.

LATEST COVID SITUATION

The two big questions are:

Can I fish? Yes, provided you have a water that you can legitimately travel to and you are allowed to fish.

How far can I travel? This is the most difficult question, we cannot give you a distance in miles, even though various numbers have been bandied around - ignore these.

The best advice we can give you is:

Angling is considered to be a permitted daily exercise.

Only local travel is permitted for the purpose of daily exercise as set out in the [Government's travel guidance](#)

This specifies the 'local area' – *ie. town, village or part of the city in which you live*. However, there is a recognition that there will be a need to travel for outdoor exercise. *This should be done locally wherever possible, but you can travel a short distance within your area to do so if necessary (for example, to access an open space).*

Anglers will need to apply commonsense and judgement in defining their local area rather than fixating on parish boundaries. A lake or river in a neighbouring parish may well be closer than one on the other side of the same town.

In short, you should only be fishing your nearest available local water. Unfortunately if you have no local waters then you must not fish.

Times

There are no limits on the time that can be spent on outdoor exercise but you can only go once a day.

Night Fishing

There is strictly no night fishing. All river sections are subject to the Coultershaw on/off times published in the handbook. All still waters are subject to fishing sunrise to sunset only, using the times published in the handbook, using the times for the Sunday prior to the date you fish.

For example, if you are fishing on Tuesday 19th. January, then Sunday 17th. January times apply.

If you fish until sunset you should pack up and leave the water as quickly as possible.

We would ask all anglers to remember that at the moment fishing is a privilege rather than a right. Please think very hard about your travel plans and remember that abuse of this privilege could mean that it is taken away,

Finally, it is still the case that you absolutely cannot leave home to fish if you have Coronavirus symptoms or are self-isolating.