

## WILLINGTON LAKE

Covering over 12 acres, this gravel pit is our largest stillwater and since acquiring the fishing rights in 1985, SDAA has transformed this virgin lake into an excellent mixed fishery. Willington Lake is a classic gravel pit with its clear waters and prolific weed growth providing an abundance of natural food to help the fish reach specimen proportions. Depths vary considerably with some areas going down to 14 feet (*see below for depth map*). The lake is part of a County Wildlife Site that attracts a range of birds and mammals, and with no public rights of way across the land you can enjoy both the fishing and local wildlife in relative peace and quiet.

The lake has produced specimen carp to mid-40's in the past, and currently holds specimens to over 30lb. Since 2008 over 130 top quality carp have been stocked in small batches to ensure the long term future of the carp fishing. 76 C4s from VS Fisheries (7.5-14lb) and 57 C3s from AJS Fisheries (6-10lb) have been stocked. With a plentiful supply of natural food, these new carp have been steadily putting on the weight and many have pushed through the 20lb barrier, with some now over 30lb (*see details of recent carp stockings below*). It is best to remain mobile as locating the carp is the key to success. The carp will often move with the wind and will often be found feeding in the shallow margins during the warmer months, when a stealthy approach is required.

The lake is home to a large head of tench and bream with both species going well over 10lb. On the right day huge bags of hard fighting tench are possible either to ledger tactics or float fishing just over the marginal shelf. Locate a shoal of feeding bream and it can be non-stop action with 100lb+ bags possible. Whilst a more subtle approach and traditional baits still work for both species, they are equally happy to feed on large boilies fished on rigs intended for the carp.

During the winter many anglers target the pike population, which usually offer reliable sport when activity with the other species has slowed down. The lake holds a good head of eels and the occasional large stillwater chub is reported. Shoals of roach, rudd and perch are also present for those happy to target the smaller species and those using selective baits have reported roach approaching 2lb.

The lake has secure gated access with the ability to park directly behind the 15 pegs along the tree lined lakeside track. Elsewhere most of the bank is open, grassed and flat, interspersed with small wooded areas.



*Barry Jarvis 27lb 1oz mirror*



*Alan Lawrence tench 8lb 5oz*



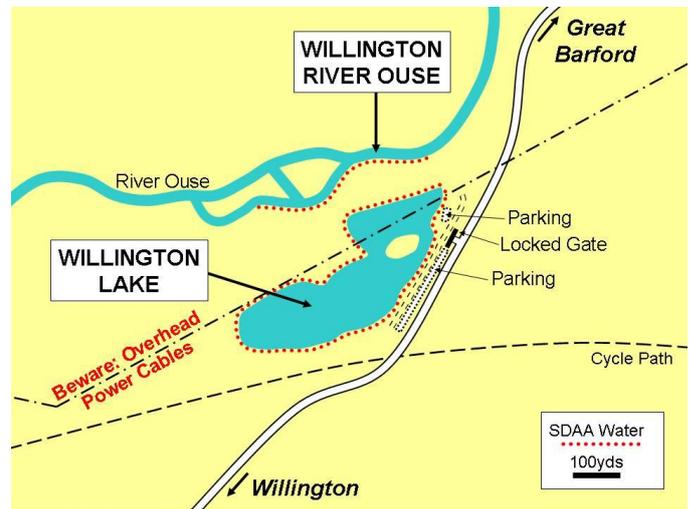
*Aiden (Junior) pike 13lb 4oz*

## Location

- Turn off the A603 at Willington following the sign to Great Barford, which takes you along the Barford Road for approximately 1.3 miles. The lake entrance is located on the left just after crossing over the cycle path (dismantled railway) bridge. [Entrance Grid Ref TL13225090, Sat Nav MK44 3QR (Barford Road, 1 mile SW of lake)]

## Species Present

- Carp, tench, bream, pike, roach, rudd, perch, eels and chub.



Willington Lake: open western arm



island (above) tree lined track (to right)

## Fishery Rules

These rules apply to Willington Lake, in addition to the full set of Club rules:

- Night Permit required for night fishing
- No parking in the gateway entrance. 5mph speed limit.
- Vehicles must be parked carefully off the track, as large farm vehicles require regular access along the whole track and through the gates. Never drive vehicles through the gates at either end of the track.
- Keep to the edge of any ploughed or cropped fields.
- Raking of swims is permitted, provided other anglers are not disturbed and the raked weed is left in a heap by the water's edge so that insects and invertebrates can crawl back into the water.
- The use of all leadcore is not permitted.



Kevin Wilkins bream 8lb 3oz



Neil Bygrave 6 tench and a bream

## Recent Carp Stockings

<p>November 2008 VS Fisheries C4 carp 10 mirrors plus 2 commons Average: 9lb (range: 7.5-10.5lb)</p>	 <p><i>9lb 13oz mirror (2008)</i></p>
<p>November 2010 VS Fisheries C4 carp 21 mirrors plus 3 commons Average: 9lb (range: 8-11.5lb)</p>	 <p><i>11lb 8oz mirror (2010)</i></p>
<p>October 2011 AJS Fisheries C3 'scaley' carp 21 mirrors Average: 7.5lb (range: 6-10lb)</p>	 <p><i>10lb 4oz fully scaled mirror (2011)</i></p>
<p>November 2012 AJS Fisheries C3 'scaley' carp 34 mirrors plus 2 commons Average: 7.5lb (range: 6-9.75lb)</p>	 <p><i>8lb 4oz mirror (2012)</i></p>
<p>November 2014 VS Fisheries C4 carp 10 mirrors Average: &gt;10lb (range: 8.75-11.5lb)</p>	 <p><i>11lb 4oz mirror (2014)</i></p>
<p>October 2016 VS Fisheries C4 carp 15 mirrors Average: 9lb (range: 7.5-9.75lb)</p>	 <p><i>9lb 4oz mirror (2016)</i></p>
<p>November 2018 VS Fisheries C4 carp 15 mirrors Average: 12lb (range: 9.25-14.25lb)</p>	 <p><i>13lb 0oz mirror (2018)</i></p>

# WILLINGTON LAKE DEPTH MAP

