

# THE AIRMAN

Originally dug as a clay pit, The Airman was purchased by SDAA in 1965 and has slowly matured into an excellent stillwater venue catering for both specimen and pleasure anglers. The lake is around 4 acres in size and with depths to 30 feet in places (*see below for depth map*). The fish respond to a range of fishing styles and are often found patrolling the shallower reed lined margins. The reed beds are also a haven for a wide range of birds and insects with the lake designated as a County Wildlife Site.

The Airman is licensed to hold Wels catfish with the original stocks being direct descendants of the catfish originally introduced into the UK in 1880 by the Duke of Bedford. The catfish have thrived and specimens to over 60lb are now present, making it a very special club ticket water. There is a good head of stunning carp to 30lb and the club regularly stocks the lake with small numbers of quality carp to ensure the long term future of the carp fishing (*see below for details*). When the catfish are dormant during the winter months the pike maintain the predator anglers' interest with fish to over 20lb reported most seasons, with specimens to over 30lb being landed in the past.

Pleasure anglers can also enjoy some excellent sport from the smaller species. Track down the roach shoals and bags well over 20lb are always on the cards, with nets often including several fish over 1lb. Specimen roach to over 3lb have been caught in the past with the biggest roach (2lb+) often accidental captures by carp anglers. The lake holds a good head of bream from 'skimmers' through to specimens well into double figures. There has been a notable increase in the numbers and size of tench caught in recent seasons, with anglers now able to catch several fish in a session with tench to double figures. Shoals of specimen rudd are often seen patrolling the surface in warmer months and present a special challenge to anglers. Perch have always been present in good numbers but larger specimens to 3lb have started to show in recent years.

The lake has secure gated access with the ability to park directly behind the four pegs in the car park. There are 24 pegs in total with the majority being large enough to comfortably accommodate a bivvie. Despite rumours to the contrary, the lake is very rarely overcrowded and good pegs are usually available all year round.

As the club owns the venue, significant investment has been made in recent years. The entrance was renewed in 2010, the footpath around the lake reconstructed in 2013/2014 and the car park renewed in 2017. The swims are now accessible throughout the year without struggling through areas of waterlogged clay.



*John Dickman 60lb 13oz catfish*



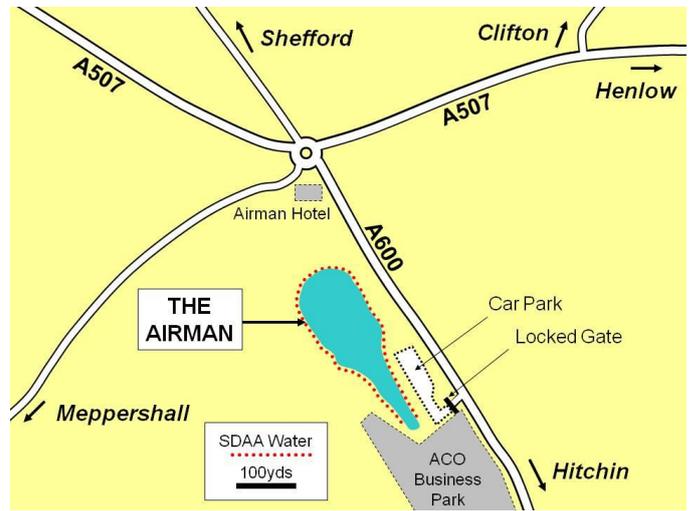
*Gareth Teakle 29lb 1oz mirror*



*Allana Fehr 2lb roach*



*The Airman in Spring*



### Location

- The Airman is just to the south of the A507/A600 roundabout near Shefford. Taking the A600 towards Hitchin the entrance is located on the right just north of the ACO Business Park. [Entrance Grid Ref. TL15863730, Sat Nav SG17 5SQ (ACO)]

### Species Present

- Catfish, carp, pike, roach, bream, tench, perch and rudd.

### Fishery Rules

These rules apply to The Airman, in addition to the full set of Club rules:

- Night Permit required for night fishing (Junior Night Permit holders must be accompanied by a night permit holder over the age of 18 and occupy the same swim whilst night fishing).
- Fishing from marked swims only.
- No fishing from the bank to the south of pegs 1 and 24.
- To safeguard catfish, use of double hooks, treble hooks or uncoated wire traces is banned on this venue between 1<sup>st</sup> April - 31<sup>st</sup> October.
- To safeguard both pike and catfish, a coated wire hooklink material (e.g. Catfish Pro Pikesafe or AFW Surflon Micro Supreme) must be used by catfish anglers when using fish live or deadbaits.
- No parking on the tarmac entrance, vehicles must not be driven over the kerbs or block access to swims and footpaths.
- The use of leadcore is not permitted.



*Peter Rose 26lb pike*



*Peter Swallow 11lb 9oz tench*

## Recent Stockings

November 2009  
AJS Fisheries C3 'scaley' carp  
12 mirrors  
Average: 7lb  
(range: 6-8lb)



*8lb mirror (2009)*

October 2011  
AJS Fisheries C3 'scaley' carp  
10 mirrors  
Average: 8lb  
(range: 7-10lb)



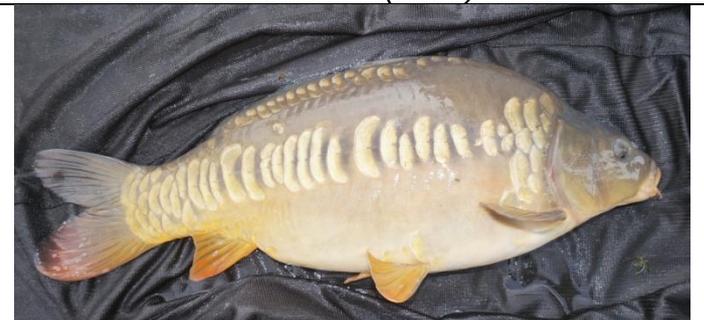
*9lb mirror (2011)*

November 2014  
VS Fisheries C4 carp  
14 mirrors plus 1 common  
Average: 9.5lb  
(range: 7.5-11.25lb)



*11lb mirror (2014)*

October 2016  
VS Fisheries C4 carp  
10 mirrors  
Average: 9lb  
(range: 7.25-10.5lb)



*10lb 8oz mirror (2016)*

# THE AIRMAN DEPTH MAP

