

RIVER GREAT OUSE

SDAA controls the fishing rights on three separate stretches of the Great Ouse. Each stretch has very different characteristics, which adds further variety to the waters the club has to offer. Pavenham is located on the iconic 'Ouse above Bedford', famous for its barbel and chub fishing. The relatively short stretch of river at Willington is located on the navigable section downstream of Bedford where chub are the dominant species, but with a good mix of other species that provide reliable sport throughout the year. Finally the club controls over 2 miles of fishing at Little Paxton including a large weirpool, deep slow moving stretches and shallower faster flowing sections that contain a wide variety of species, many to specimen proportions.

PAVENHAM

The mile of available river bank at Pavenham has a variety of depths and flow, typical of the Ouse upstream of Bedford. With a walk of at least 400 yards from the parking areas it pays to travel light. This also ensures the venue is never crowded and several swims can be 'primed' and fished during the day.

Although not present in quite the same numbers as a few years back, barbel well into double figures are caught each season. However, most barbel anglers are rather secretive about their catches and only the 'tip of the iceberg' is ever reported.

The chub fishing has gone from strength to strength in recent years and there are strong rumours of fish over 8lb being caught, which is a distinct possibility due to the growing number specimens over 7lb reported by members in recent years.

One species that is currently in the ascendancy is the perch. Some of the deeper pools appear to hold large shoals of beautifully conditioned perch, which will often succumb to a large lobworm. Specimens over 3lb are now regularly caught.

American signal crayfish are expected to appear along this length in the near future as they are slowly working their way downstream. With this new food source available, it is likely that 4lb or even 5lb perch will start to make an appearance. The chub will also benefit from crayfish as part of their diet, which may result in further weight gain.

Although rarely targeted, this stretch of the Ouse is capable of producing specimen pike to over 20lb.

Whilst most anglers fish this stretch in pursuit of specimen fish, there have been signs that the number of roach and dace have increased in recent seasons. Bream and a few tench are also present in the river. The odd carp also turns up in catches and they are probably escapees from lakes adjacent to the river during times of flood.

Night fishing is permitted provided the landowner is contacted in advance (*see below for details*).



Nigel Gilbert 10lb 11oz barbel



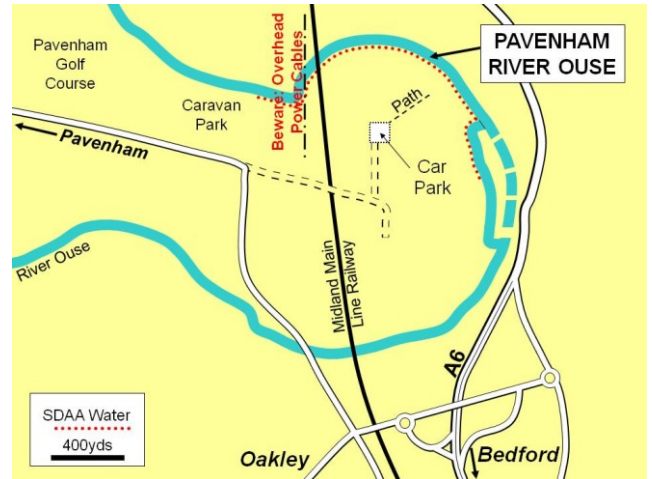
Paul Bray 7lb 2oz chub



James Turvey 3lb 4oz perch

Location:

From the Oakley crossroads, carry on to Pavenham for 1 mile. At the top of the hill turn right onto the farm road. Club water extends from the Caravan Park downstream to the notice board. Please park in the parking area at East End Farm indicated on the map. Parking is also available for two cars only next to the railway bridge, with pedestrian access to the river along the field verge to the western side of the railway. [Car park Grid Ref TL01225516, Sat Nav MK43 7PR (East End Farm)]



Species Present

- Barbel, chub, perch, roach, dace, pike and bream.

Fishery Rules

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

- Cars must not be driven down any further than the car parking area.
- Vehicles must not exceed 15mph.
- Walk in single file, keeping to the edge of fields.
- Limited night fishing is allowed provided 12hours notice is given by telephone to Dr Sharpe on 01234 823423.
- No access during the closed season.

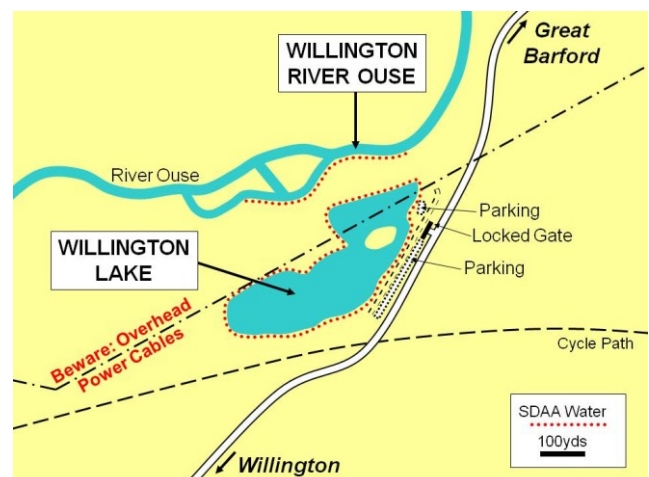
WILLINGTON

This stretch receives little attention from anglers but contains a good head of chub to over 6lb, which offer reliable sport especially during the winter months. The downstream section forms part of the main river whereas further upstream it becomes the narrower disused lock channel. Good bags of roach, dace and perch can be taken on traditional float methods although weed can cause problems with presentation during the summer months. This stretch is not particularly noted for barbel but odd specimen fish are caught, usually by those targeting other species.

The disused lock channel flows much more sedately than the main river and becomes a haven for most species when the river is in flood. This area also harbours a good head of river carp with fish to well over 20lb present. Shoals of bream patrol the area and even the occasional tench can crop up in catches.

Location:

Turn off the A603 at Willington towards Great Barford along the Barford Road for approximately 1.3 miles. The entrance is located on the left just after crossing over the cycle path (dismantled railway) bridge. The river section is located behind Willington Lake, SDAA waters extends from the lock downstream to the ditch, approx. 275 yards. The shortest route is to walk through the kissing gate at the northern end of the track and walk across the meadow to the river. [Entrance Grid Ref TL13225090, Sat Nav MK44 3QR (Barford Road, 1 mile SW of lake)]



Species Present

- Pike, chub, perch, bream, roach, carp and barbel.

Fishery Rules

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

- No parking in the gateway entrance.
- 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.

LITTLE PAXTON

The Ouse at Little Paxton offers many different characteristics spread across the two miles of available bank. The upstream section flows sedately through Lammas Meadow and is renowned for its shoals of bream, which are well suited to the slow moving deep water. Find a feeding shoal and huge catches are possible.

The river then splits in two with one arm forming the navigable section, which passes through a lock before flowing gently downstream and contains a good head of normal river species. The other arm flows through a large weir pool that contains a vast number of species, most noted for barbel well into double figures. This stretch is noted for many predator species including zander and pike over 20lb, as well as a growing number of catfish. The weir pool also contains the usual river species, a good head of eels and the occasional large river carp to well over 20lb. Chub over 6lb and bream over 8lb are also regularly reported from this area. Moving further downstream the two arms rejoin and the river becomes wider with swims of varying depths.

The weir pool swims are the most popular due to their proximity of the car park. Due to the longer walks involved many of the downstream sections remain largely unfished and those willing to be more adventurous will find large areas of river bank to explore where a long handled landing net is advised due to the high banks.

Location:

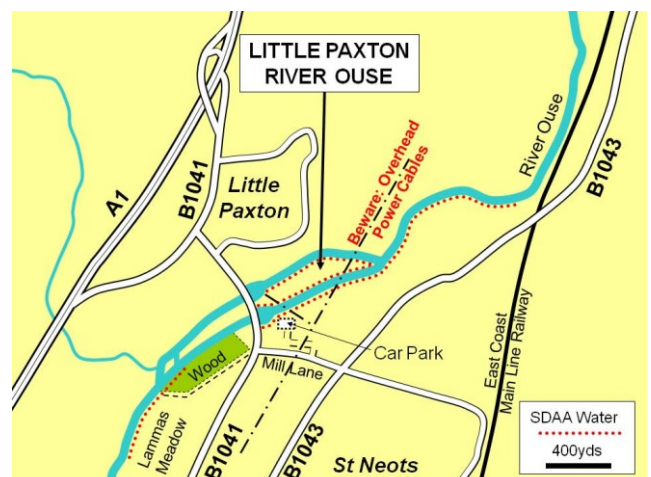
Right hand bank downstream from the B1041 past the sewage farm and down towards the railway line. Left hand bank of the main river downstream from the B1041 and the right hand bank downstream of the navigable section to their junction. Lammas Meadow opposite the golf course and downstream into the wood. The designated car parking is within Rowley's Allotments, located on the north side of Mill Lane, between the B1041 and B1043. Further parking is available off the B1041. [Allotment entrance Grid Ref TL18966161, Sat Nav PE19 6EF]



Andrew Howard 13lb 10oz barbel



James Turvey 21lb 6oz pike



Species Present

- Barbel, bream, chub, pike, perch, zander, roach, eels, catfish and carp.

Fishery Rules

These rules apply to Little Paxton, in addition to the full set of Club rules:

- Whilst within Rowley's Allotments, vehicles must not exceed 5mph and parking is only permitted within the SDAA gravelled parking area, located at the end of the third track on the right. Members must not park anywhere else within the allotments.