

Angling Policy

Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust recognises the value of angling in linking the public with freshwater wildlife. Angling can provide a source of income on some properties and can also benefit nature conservation through support for site management through working parties and on site presence providing a 'wardening' role. However, unless properly managed, there may be damaging impacts caused by angling, including litter, damage to wildlife habitats and disturbance to sensitive species.

Angling currently takes place on three Trust reserves and is generally well controlled, principally by agreements with local angling clubs and syndicates. It is important to promote good practice in order to prevent damage to the environment and to benefit fisheries.

Guiding Principles

1. Angling, for both game and coarse species, is welcomed by the Trust on its reserves where it currently takes place, subject to this not conflicting with the nature reserve's main objective, nature conservation.
2. Where angling does not already take place, it will only be permitted subject to strategic assessment of its likely impacts and the preparation of a fishery management plan.
3. Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust advocates the concept of sustainable fishery management. Its goal is the development of fish communities that are appropriate to individual water bodies and that can sustain themselves without artificial stocking.
4. Sporting rights on waters acquired by the Trust should be obtained wherever possible.
5. To ensure value for money, license fees will be periodically reviewed by an appropriately qualified valuer. Any legal agreements will be prepared or scrutinised by a qualified solicitor.
6. Integrated management of the reserve and its fishery will be sought, through the production of a reserve management plan which includes management of the fishery and angling.
7. Management of the fishery will be by license, accommodating current legislation and the principles of best practice promoted by the Institute of Fisheries Management, including the FACT code of conduct and appropriate Fishery rules.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

Approved HMWT Council: 24 January 2008

Approved HMWC Board of Directors:

Review date: January 2011

'Herts and Middlesex Wildlife' Trust includes its trading subsidiary HMWC



Herts & Middlesex

Grebe House
St Michael's Street
St Albans
Hertfordshire
AL3 4SN

Tel: (01727) 858901
Fax: (01727) 854542
Email: info@hmwt.org
www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/herts

Chief Executive: Judy Adams



Hertfordshire & Middlesex Wildlife Trust Limited is registered in England No 816710 at the above address and is registered as a charity under Registration No 239863. VAT No 366 9276 06

President
Sir Simon A Bowes Lyon, KCVO