

Haddon Estate Fishery Policy

All water above the weir in Rowsley is run in accordance with a strict policy of wild fish only; no stocking. No eggs or fish have been stocked since 6th June 2003. Fish are not relocated or fed artificially in the river.

You will find the wild fish in abundance for a number of reasons.

Catch & Release

Catch & Release is the term given when anglers return all fish to the river unharmed. Some like to use long handled landing nets, others like a special tool which can be slid down the line to the hooked fish and with a twist the fish swims free.

Hard Line on poaching

We privately prosecute all poachers caught fishing without permits. Illegal fishing is also followed up by the Environment Agency who will bring action for fish killed undersize, the use of illegal instruments and having no rod license.

Habitat restoration

The river is helped to create its own fish by adding spawning gravel and making sure it remains clean and free from silt. The swim-up fry are given refuges and the fingerlings get plenty of separate territories. Adult trout require and receive plenty of cover in the form of low tree canopy cover and ranunculus weed beds.

Water quality watch

All this wouldn't be possible without good quality water and plenty of it. That's why we challenge any possible causes of pollution such as combined sewage outfalls (CSO) and chronic nutrient loading. The insects you copy with your dry flies are sensitive to slight changes in water quality, so such action is crucial.

Balance and limits

Only 12 rods each day will fish the Wye. These are separated between 7 ½ miles of river. The fishing has been dry fly only since 1865. This gives the fish sanctuary below the surface.

Two major tributaries to the Wye, The Lathkill and Bradford are important areas for spawning and fry habitat. They join the Wye at the Lathkill/Wye confluence at the top of the Rowsley Meadows beat and add more cool, clear calcium rich water. These two rivers are subject to the same high standards and principles.

We have a long history of day ticket fishing. This dates back to around 1820. It is important that we can offer single day, no commitment fishing to those new to fly fishing or coming back to it after a time away. A commitment has been made to continue these day tickets alongside Peacock Fly Fishing Club membership.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Derbyshire Wye and the Peacock Hotel.

Warren Slaney, Head River Keeper, Haddon Estate