



THE HILLY

(The Large Lake)

This is the club's main lake, covering approximately 1.75 acres and formed within a natural dip created by historic coal workings from the former Thornley and Wheatley Hill pits.

The lake is surrounded by mature woodland, featuring conifers and beech trees that provide a stunning backdrop and create a haven for a wide variety of local wildlife.

Access to the lake is via a stone path leading through locked gates, ensuring a safe and secure environment for anglers. The stone path encircles the entire lake and provides access to 26 purpose-built oversized platform pegs. These pegs are significantly larger than those found at many fisheries and are fully accessible for wheelchair users, sitting level with the path. Their generous size comfortably accommodates modern anglers with all their equipment, and can hold up to three people—two fishing and one seated behind. This makes them ideal for juniors accompanied by an adult or for club coaching sessions.

As with our smaller lake, anglers can enjoy clean, mud-free access throughout, ensuring a comfortable and pleasant fishing experience.

The lake features three small islands which can easily be reached with a cast of around 25m max to the largest island, all the pegs feature reed-filled margins that offer excellent cover and natural holding areas for fish. Depths range from approximately 1 metre at pegs 1 and 26, gradually sloping to around 3 metres in the centre in front of pegs 13 and 14.

Fish Stocks

The lake holds a very impressive head of fish, most ranging from 8 oz to 3 lb, providing exciting sport throughout the year especially the winter months. Large shoals of skimmers are complemented by Bream reaching up to 6 lb, while our Crucian Carp stocks are superb, with some fish approaching 2 lb. Tench are present up to 3 lb, and both Perch and Roach are well represented, with Perch growing to around 3 lb. We also recently stocked F1's which are thriving, reaching up to 2lb now. There are even a few Barbel, though they are rarely caught.

If you check out the match results you can gain some idea of the great head of fish in our main lake.

With such a diverse and healthy stock of fish, the main lake offers excellent fishing in beautiful, tranquil surroundings—perfect for anglers of all ages and abilities.