

# BERKELEY ESTATE FISHING SYNDICATE

Founded 2002



## Members Information Pack

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## **Introduction**

Welcome to this Members Information Pack for the Berkeley Estate Fishing Syndicate (BEFS). We hope you find it interesting and helpful.

The Aim of the pack is two fold; firstly, it gives a clear indication of the way the Syndicate works and secondly it provides information on the Berkeley Estate fishing and other items of interest that will help you enjoy your fishing on the Little Avon River. Please ensure that as a Member of BEFS you have also read our Constitution and the General Regulations, Fishing Regulations and Standing Orders that we all adhere to; for ease of reference the Regulations and Standing Orders are contained in this Information Pack. Additionally, you will find Beat Maps with descriptions of each Beat, details for the Management Group and also some other organisations that support us or we have links to. Contact details for BEFS are also provided. We have even added a Frequently Asked Questions page.

We have tried to ensure that we have covered the information that is of interest to you and will allow you to enjoy your fishing safely and have fun doing so but if there is anything else that you wish to know and it is not here please ask one of the Management Group via our Website.

Tight Lines

Roger Patrick  
Chairman

30 September 2016

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An overview and history of BEFS.

### **The Management Group**

The role of the Management Group and Syndicate members commitments.

### **General Regulations, Fishing Regulations and Standing Orders**

Rules and Regulations for the Syndicate.

The following Regulations will be of particular interest to you:

The Seasons	Regulation 1
Licence	Regulation 4
Catch Return	Regulation 17
Work Parties	Regulation 20

### **Beat Map**

Map showing the River, Fishing Beats, Parking Points and No Fishing Areas.

### **The Beats**

Description of the fishing beats; just enough so that you can get there and start fishing. Well, we did not want to take all the fun out of your trip!

### **Catch Return Form**

A copy of a catch return for you to copy as you wish. An electronic form can be found on our Website. All fishing trips should be recorded along with your catch. Please also record 'Blank Trips'. Keep this up to date. Please submit annually by 1<sup>st</sup> week of February.

### **Frequently asked Questions**

A few questions that we know members ask and their answers. We know that there may be other questions that you have about the Syndicate or the river; please feel free to ask if you wish to know something.

### **Useful Contact Details**

All contact with the BEFS is now through our Website although important phone numbers are provided for emergency contact.



## **Introduction to the Berkeley Estate Fishing Syndicate**

The Berkeley Estate Fishing Syndicate (BEFS) was established in 2002 when the, then, Berkeley Estate Manager requested that a founder member of the syndicate set out Rules and Standing Orders for a fishing syndicate on the lower section of the Little Avon River.

The Little Avon River is a limestone river rising above Wotton-under-Edge and Inglestone Common and running westward through Charfield, Tortworth and Berkeley, entering into the River Severn close to Berkeley Nuclear Power Station. BEFS members fish the 7 1/2 miles between Damery Bridge to the Estate Kennels Bridge at Berkeley. The lower section between the Estate Kennels Bridge and the River Severn is classed as 'Free Fishing' and is open to anyone that holds the correct EA licence.

BEFS has a strong relationship with the Berkeley Estate, its Landlord, and reports to Mr Charles Berkeley and the Estate Director. Regular meetings are held with the Estate where the family and estate are kept up to date with the state of the river and the Syndicate activities. The Estate Director also reports these meetings to the Board of Trustees.

The membership usually totals about 100 members including some 10 estate members and tenant farmers. Due to the insurance conditions that are placed on us, all our members and their guests must be over the age of **16** years to fish.

The nature of the river allows the use of different styles of fishing. Although both fly and coarse fishing styles can be used along all the river the top end is more suited to fly fishing and the lower end to coarse fishing.

Within the river there are many species of game and coarse fish: the main game fish are brown trout. The river has not been stocked since 2008. There are a few small lakes stocked with rainbow trout within the Vale of Berkeley and over the years there have been some escapes into the river. A large variety of coarse fish, especially Grayling, are also present in the river. The fishing is good but due to the wildness of the river the fish are hard to catch. Catch returns show fish sizes for Trout and Grayling as being from small 6" to larger 13" fish. We also find eels and lampreys throughout the river.

BEFS has a small volunteer Management Group (MG) that helps with the running of the Syndicate. There are two designated 'River Managers' who are both Agents of the Estate and look after the well being of the river. They report to the Management Group, Estate Director, as required, and are the public face of BEFS.

The River Managers are responsible for conducting Work Parties throughout the year. The aim of the work is to maintain a healthy river and the work ranges from bank clearing to removing obstructions from the river. All work is conducted within the guidelines given to us by the Berkeley Estate and the EA.

In general BEFS is self supporting with the help of volunteers from the membership.

## **The Management Group**

The Syndicate is run by its members for its members and views itself as a friendly syndicate where members proposals and wishes are given due consideration and members may readily interact to enhance their fishing experience and the running of the Syndicate.

A Management Group (MG) is in place, whose members are not elected but all volunteers, to control and coordinate the management of the Syndicate and its activities. Any member may volunteer to join the MG or support it by undertaking a specific task or piece of work. One individual member may not hold more than two MG positions at any one time.

The MG will consist of the following members; their roles are set out below.

- Chairperson
- Vice Chairperson (on an as required basis)
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Membership Secretary
- River Manager(s)
- Science Member

### **Chairperson:**

The Chairperson is a senior member of the Syndicate and represents the Syndicate at all levels. The Chairperson is responsible for the effective running of the Syndicate and ensuring that the MG carry out their roles and responsibilities to the best of their ability and in the good interests of all Syndicate members. The Chairperson is to maintain the Syndicate's relationship with the Estate.

When needs be, a Vice Chairperson will be asked to take on some of the duties.

### **Secretary:**

The role of the Secretary is to:

- Administer the Syndicate.
- Arrange all aspects of MG meetings.
- Arrange all aspects of the AGM.
- Maintain a record of AGM and MG activity.
- Maintain and administer the Syndicate website.
- Publish monthly "Newscasts" informing all members of activities and events whilst also raising matters of interest.

### **Treasurer:**

The role of the Treasurer is as follows:

- Maintain all syndicate funds ensuring they are accounted for and open for inspection/audit at all times.
- Maintain bank account(s) in the name of the Syndicate.
- Be the signature for all cheques and arrange other required cheque signatories.
- Arrange an annual audit and statement of accounts for the AGM.
- Produce an overview of the accounts at each MG meeting.
- Ensure that all Syndicate bills are paid in the required time frame.
- Maintain any other funds that the Syndicate may hold.

### **Membership Secretary:**

The role of the Membership Secretary is:

- Maintain an effective secure recording system for all members details/data.
- Be the first point of contact for all membership enquiries and respond to these accordingly.
- Arrange annual membership renewal and supply membership cards and information packs as needed
- Arrange new membership as appropriate and maintain a New Members Waiting List.
- Maintain a working relationship with the Chairperson and Treasurer
- Act as the data controller and ensure the security of all personal information held by the Syndicate.
- Be the first point of contact for any enquiries regarding data held by BEFS and the use/dissemination of this data. All enquiries are to be dealt with appropriately and expeditiously.

### **River Managers:**

The role of the River Manager is to:

- Manage and maintain the river such that it provides fishing for the members.
- Liaise with Berkeley Estate, Game Keepers, Tennant Farmers and Landowners on the state of the river
- Have an in-depth knowledge of the Little Avon River and the catchment area of the Vale of Berkeley.
- Arrange and control all Working Parties and ensure that they are conducted in a safe and effective way.
- Be qualified in the use of the equipment that is used by the Syndicate and maintain a list of qualified equipment user members.
- Maintain all Syndicate equipment in good working order.
- Have a working relationship with other organisations that can support the Syndicate in its work
- Patrol the river and report problems to the appropriate authority as needed. If it is within their capability deal with the problem as they see fit.
- Work closely with the Members of the MG and the Scientific Member.

- Represent the Syndicate at meetings and other events

### **Scientific Member:**

The Syndicate has a responsibility to ensure that the river is maintained: the Syndicate takes a very serious approach to this. The Scientific Member need not have an in-depth science background but be committed and interested in the scientific aspects of managing the Syndicate fishings. The Science Member's role will involve:

- The coordination of the Syndicate RiverFlyPartnership (RFP) monitoring groups.
- The collection, collation and analysis of scientific data relating to the BEFS fishings.
- Work at a local level with the Environment Agency, Water Boards, Riverfly Partnership, River Trusts and another local interested groups.
- Work closely with the River Manager.

### **Membership:**

BEFS membership will not exceed 110 in number so that the Syndicate is self-sustaining and such that the fishing pressure does not impact on the wild stock of fish within the Little Avon River.

Membership will be confirmed annually by the payment of a subscription by 31 March. Any changes proposed to the annual subscription rate will be agreed at the AGM.

The Membership year runs from 1 April to 31 March annually

Members commit to the following:

- To ensure their annual subscription is paid promptly.
- That they abide by the BEFS Regulations, Rules and Standing Orders.
- To support the Syndicate in whatever way they can and are able.
- To keep the Membership Secretary informed of any changes and contact details.
- To agree that their personal details be retained by the Syndicate for the purposes set out in the BEFS Privacy Policy.
- That their actions, words or deeds do not bring the Syndicate into disrepute.

Anyone may apply for membership by contacting the Syndicate through its Website. Those who apply will be placed on a Waiting List held by the Membership Secretary. The Syndicate makes no commitment to offer membership to an individual simply because they are on the Waiting List.

An annual review of membership by the MG will occur each March, led by the Membership Secretary. Departing members will be identified and prospective members will then be contacted and, based on availability, offered membership for the coming season at the agreed Subscription Rate plus an administration fee.

Members who resign will not receive reimbursement of subscriptions if their resignation is submitted part way through the year.

Present members will be asked to renew their membership each year by the payment of annual subscriptions. Members will be issued with a Membership Card and Membership Number on a one time basis as they join. Replacement cards will be issued if Cards are lost or damaged beyond use. Syndicate Car Stickers are NO longer issued as a crime prevention measure.

All members will receive access to the Syndicate's Website. (The new website is under construction and includes a secure members area).

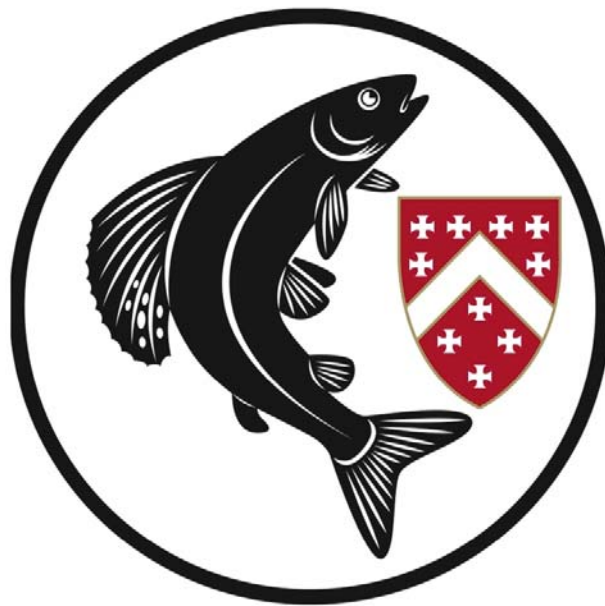
Membership may be withdrawn by the MG in the event of:

- Annual subscription remaining unpaid by 31 March annually following a written notification of default.
- Where a members' conduct is deemed to be prejudicial to the Syndicate and its members. Such conduct will be judged by the MG and the member informed of the withdrawal of membership.



# BERKELEY ESTATE FISHING SYNDICATE

Founded 2002



GENERAL REGULATIONS, FISHING REGULATIONS

AND

STANDING ORDERS

Roger Patrick  
Chairman BEFS

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Amended Jan 18

## **GENERAL REGULATIONS**

All Members of the Berkeley Estate Fishing Syndicate (BEFS) and their guests are to comply with these General Regulations that have been extracted from the BEFS Lease with The Berkeley Estate ("The Estate").

These Regulations are made:

- (a) For preservation of safety and good order;
- (b) For prevention of damage;
- (c) To avoid interference with the enjoyment of others.

The Regulations shall apply to all areas of waters owned by the Berkeley Estate.

1. No persons shall throw, deposit or leave any foodstuff, containers, bottles, glass or any other refuse whatsoever.
2. Except for the purpose of saving life, no person shall swim or bathe in the Little Avon River or its tributaries.
3. Access may only be made through authorised gates and stiles specified by The Estate.
4. No camping (including caravans) or sleeping on Estate land.
5. No person shall remove, deface, injure, destroy or interfere with any part of any building, structure, wall, fence, hedge, equipment, seat, notice or other property of The Estate or its tenants.
6. No person shall remove, interfere with damage or destroy any tree, shrub or plant.
7. No fires shall be lit on Estate land except by express permission of an agent of The Estate.
8. No person shall obstruct a permit holder exercising his rights under his permit.
9. No person shall in any way create, or allow to be created, noise to the annoyance of others.
10. All dogs shall be kept under control.
11. No person shall interfere with, disturb, injure or destroy any bird, animal, reptile or any birds' eggs or nests (exceptions may be made by individuals authorised by The Estate).
12. Any person may be required to leave The Estate and may be reported for further action by any agent or agricultural tenant of The Estate, who has reasonable grounds to believe that:
  - (a) A breach of the Regulations has been committed or contemplated;
  - (b) Annoyance or nuisance is being caused to others;

(c) There is a risk to the safety of persons.

13. The Estate reserves the right to restrict, or stop without notice, access to the river area.

14. The Estate will not accept responsibility for any loss or damage to property, or injury sustained by any person on the Berkeley Estate. All persons, whether fishing or not, enter The Estate entirely at their own risk.

15. Any person or persons fishing on The Estate shall carry full 'All Risk' insurance cover, included by BEFS Members' Policy.

16. The Estate or the Syndicate Management Group may add to or amend the Regulations from time to time. Reasonable steps will be taken to inform Syndicate members of any such amendments, but it is the responsibility of individual members to be fully conversant with the current Regulations.

17. The Estate may appoint 'Authorised Persons', eg River Managers, etc from time to time as it sees fit.

18. Members of the families of Estate agricultural tenants may fish the water free of charge, subject to prior agreement with the Syndicate.

19. Members' children under 16 years old may not fish.

20. Details of guests must be informed to The Administrator (BEFS Secretary) the day before fishing so that insurance cover is provided.

Guests are the responsibility of the member, who must accompany him/her at all times. Both can fish.

21. The syndicate can seek external funding for conservation work, subject to agreement with the Estate.

22. Changes to these General Regulations will be notified through the BEFS Website.

## **FISHING REGULATIONS and STANDING ORDERS**

All Members of the Berkeley Estate Fishing Syndicate (BEFS) and their guests are to comply with these Fishing Regulations and Standing Orders which expand on the General Regulations with which Anglers must be familiar before they start to fish.

### **1. Seasons**

Trout	18 March – 7 October inclusive
Coarse	16 June – 14 March inclusive

### **2. Fishing Hours**

One hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset (all Anglers must leave the Estate by one hour after sunset).

### **3. Location**

The Northern bank of the River from:

Damery Bridge (Grid Reference 705 942) to Middle Mill (Grid Reference 694 952) and both banks from the A38 (Grid Reference 697 957) to the Berkeley Hunt Kennels (Grid Reference 682 987). Please note the “No Fishing” areas on the Beat Map.

### **4. Licence**

All Anglers must carry their BEFS Membership Card, together with their Environment Agency Rod Licence and photographic identification at all times and on request show them to Authorised Agents of the Estate, Syndicate and Environment Agency. (Please note that car stickers are no longer issued as a ‘crime prevention’ measure).

### **5. Methods**

Fly – Trout Season  
Float and Ledger or Fly for Grayling - Coarse Season  
There is no Spinning.  
Barbless or De-barbed hooks only.

### **6. Rods**

Fishing with more than one rod at a time is prohibited, although more than one rod may be carried.

### **7. Catch and Release and Keep Nets**

All fishing is on catch and release basis. Keep nets may not be used.

### **8. Car Parking**

Cars must be parked so as not to block access to property or fields. Authorised areas are:

- (a) Berkeley/Ham Road (Grid Reference 682 987)
- (b) Junction South of Ham (Grid Reference 678 982)
- (c) Old A38 at Stone (Grid Reference 682 987)
- (d) Estate Yard (2 only) (Grid Reference 681 985)

**9. Accesses and Egress**

- (a) Castle Meadow Gate, Berkeley Road (Grid Reference 683 989)
- (b) Kennels/Estate Office (Grid Reference 681 985)
- (c) Ham Lane to Brownsmill (Grid Reference 682 981)
- (d) A38 tunnel (Grid Reference 688 956)

**10. Prohibited Areas**

Fishing the frontage of Residential Property is forbidden. There are specified "No Fishing Areas" - Please see the Beat Map.

**11. Litter**

No litter or discarded bait or line to be left at any time.

**12. Weights**

The use of lead weights is prohibited.

**13. Ground Bait**

No more than 1.5lbs of dry weight ground bait per angler per day.

**14. Hemp**

No whole hemp may be used; it may be added to ground bait.

**15. Wading**

This is permitted at each Angler's own risk.

**16. Match Fishing**

Will not be allowed by The Estate.

**17. Catch Return**

All Anglers must complete an annual Catch Return of fish caught and return this to the

Management Group by 1st week in February each year (Catch Return Forms will be supplied with membership and are available on the Website). All fish to be included. Members can make returns electronically.

**18.** All subscriptions for the coming year must be paid to the Management Group no later than 31<sup>st</sup> March annually. No or late payment will result in cancelled membership. Help for members unable to make payment may be available.

**19.** Only fully paid-up members of the Syndicate and pre-approved guests of members may fish.

**20.** Apart from unusual circumstances (eg difficulty with health or family) all members are asked to attend at least two Work Parties annually. Members must wear safety equipment when required. Non members who work on the river under our control and rules will be covered by our insurance.

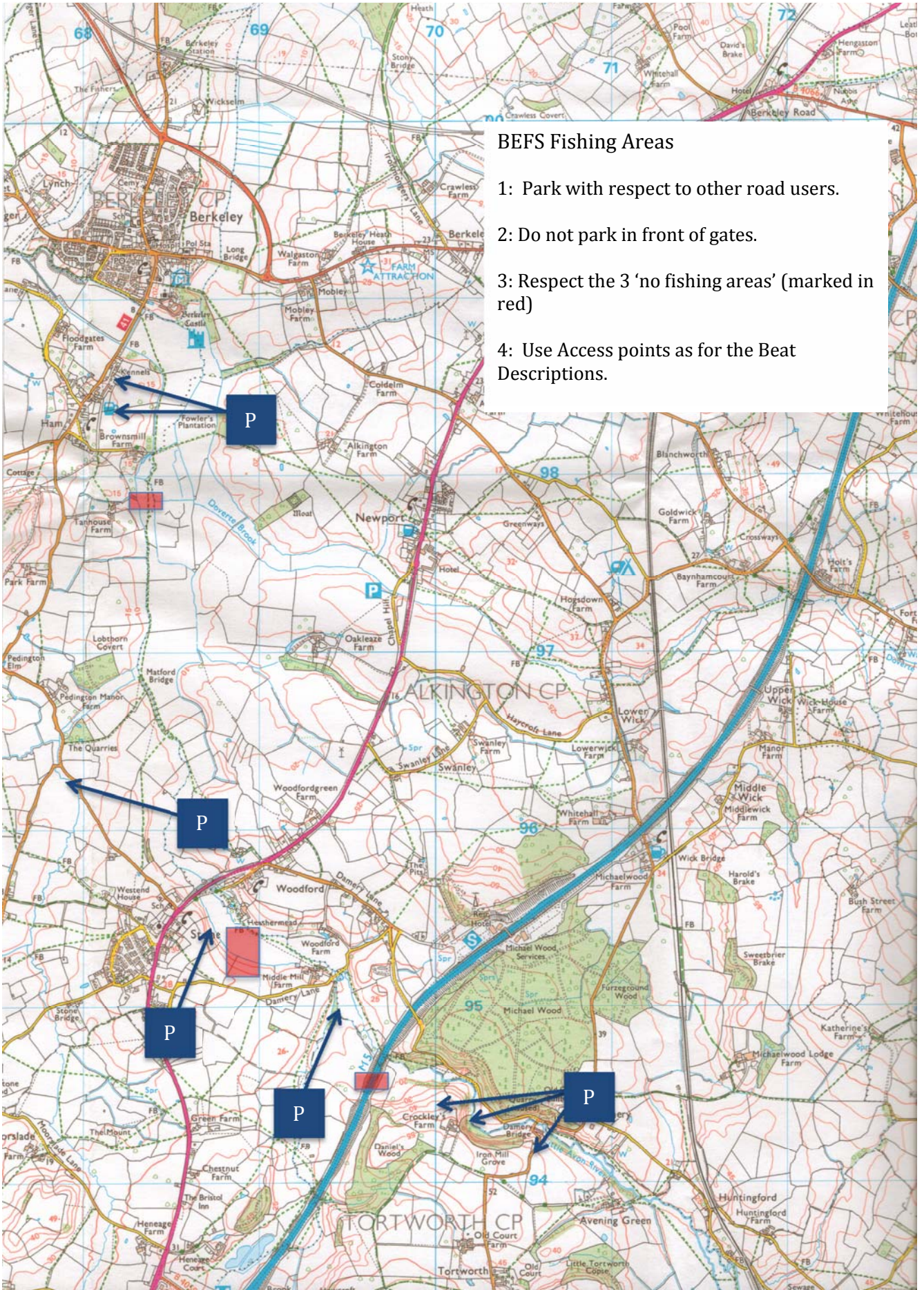
**21.** Members of the Management Group (MG) and River Managers are deemed Agents of The Estate and control the day to day work of the syndicate. They are appointed by the Syndicate and are not elected but drawn from the membership as volunteers. The BEFS Constitution gives full details of MG Members and their roles.

**22.** All Members of BEFS are to familiarize themselves with the BEFS Constitution which gives details of how the Syndicate will be managed and the processes and procedures involved.

**23.** The BEFS accepts no responsibility, whatsoever, for the health or safety of its members during their fishing.

**24.** Changes to these Fishing Regulations and Standing Orders will be notified through the BEFS Website.

# The Beats



## BEFS Fishing Areas

- 1: Park with respect to other road users.
- 2: Do not park in front of gates.
- 3: Respect the 3 'no fishing areas' (marked in red)
- 4: Use Access points as for the Beat Descriptions.

There are 8 recognised Beats along the river, these are:

1. Damery Beat: This starts at Damery Bridge and runs downstream through the wood to the next open field opposite the Game Keepers Lodge/House.
2. Johns Field: The river section running downstream through the open field and wood to the M5 Motorway Bridge/Tunnel. This beat includes the M5 Tunnel.
3. Middle Mill: After a No Fishing Section the river splits. The river goes South around a larger field and flows into a large Mill Pool. Downstream after the road bridge there is a small log bridge (this is often washed away after flooding) that leads to the North bank where we can fish for some 300m to the end of the field.
4. Cascades: Under the A38 Tunnels at Stone is the start of the Berkeley Estate land. From here on we can fish both banks. The Cascades is a long beat that flows from the A38 Tunnels to Matford Bridge.
5. Matford Bridge: A well-fished pool and section of river flowing to Brownsmill farm.
6. Brownsmill: The area in front of the farm buildings including the pool cannot be fished. The Brownsmill Beat has fishing downstream of the bridge at Brownsmill to the bridge and a gate that enters into the Meadow Field.
7. Meadow Field: A small beat that runs downstream from the Meadow bridge to the Estate Kennels bridge.
8. Free Section: This is in two parts with an upper and lower section. The upper section flows from the road downstream of the Estate Kennels Bridge to just before the houses upstream for the bridge at 'Scott Law'. The lower Section flows downstream of the bridge at Scott Law to the Tidal Barrier. All fishing is from the North bank.

#### No Fishing Areas:

There are 3 no fishing areas, these are:

- Downstream of the M5 Motorway Bridge/Tunnel for one field to where the river splits.
- Starting 300m downstream below Middle Mill bridge to the A38 Tunnels (often called the Heathermead stretch of river)
- The area in front of the farm buildings including the pool at Brownsmill

These areas are shown on the Beat Map as a red shaded area.



## **Damery Beat**

This is the favoured beat for all members as it is easy to get to. There are some 700m of river flowing through Damery wood. Although this is a private wood it is well used by walkers and the public walking their dogs. A big problem is dogs being sent into the river by owners.

The syndicate has only single bank fishing rights on the North bank. The South bank from Damery Bridge to the Motorway Bridge is Tortworth Estate land. If you need to get out of the river onto the south bank for reasons of safety please do so but return to the North bank as quickly as you can.

Car parking is either in one of the lay-bys at Damery Bridge or a lay-by as you travel West/downstream. Parking is also available at the gate, on the left hand side, along the road from Damery Bridge. There are a number of parking spots here. Do not park in front of the gate as the landowner does require access.

This Beat holds the main breeding grounds for this section of the river. There are a number of gravel beds along the beat where fish spawn and at times you may be asked not to fish these areas.

Fish seen in this area are mainly Brown Trout and Grayling, however Chub have been caught here.

As this beat is easy to get to you may find Non-Members fishing in this area. If you see anyone you have the right to challenge them and ask them to move on. However if you do not wish to do this please take details and pass this onto the River Manager.

If you are new to Fly Fishing or just want somewhere to practice your cast this is good beat.

## **Johns Field**

This beat has been named after the Landowner, John Hames. The river meanders around the edge of an open field and through a small wood to the M5 Motorway Bridge/Tunnel. The only access to the river is via a Footpath halfway up the hill. Once in the field you can venture to the left of the field off the footpath and to the river. At the top of the field is an old Mill (mentioned in the Doomesday Book). There is a small weir there that has collapsed. Sometime ago we obtained permission to build a collapsible weir here to help slow down the water flow, oxygenate the water and also direct the river away from the bank to stop erosion. This weir is rebuilt each year once the river levels have fallen from winter/spring highs.

There are very few problems on this beat but be warned there are a few very deep pools that are to be avoided when wading. Please be aware of these.

The beat is a favourite site for the older members and is another area for big brown trout, grayling and chubb.

### **Middle Mill**

Middle Mill is a long beat starting at the downstream side one field below the M5 Motorway Bridge/Tunnel to the end of the field 300m below the mill pool. There are three main areas, the upper section of river, the pool and the lower section of river.

Parking is along the Middle Mill Lane. It is quite tight and you should take care not to obstruct other road users. From this site you can get to most of the river going over the style and walking along the path to the first bridge, which is gated. Go over the bridge and you will have access to the Middle Mill pool.

The river flows over the old Mill weir into the pool. The pool is deep but can be fished from the bank and margins. This is a good Trotting style location.

From here you can work upstream around the edge of the field but it is best fished from within the river. At the far end of the field you will find an old dam that splits the river with the main river going off downstream to the left and a brook heading straight on. Between here and the Motorway bridge there is a small No Fishing Area.

Downstream of the mill pool the river flows under a road bridge into a field in front of a recently converted barn. We have not been able to fish this area as BEFS rules say that we cannot fish in front of a house. In late 2012 Peter Turner, the new owner of Middle Mill Barn, gave the syndicate permission to fish in front of his property. Since that time we have worked in the area and opened up another 300m of river for our members to fish. Please give every consideration to Peter and his family when you fish this area.

### **The Cascades**

Access to this beat is gained via a tunnel that runs under the A38 road. This is also the start of the Berkeley Estate land and you can fish both banks for most of the river from here on to the River Severn.

Above this Beat the river runs slowly and there is a need to get some air back into the water. The Cascades are named after a set of small collapsible stone buffers that agitate the water and help to get oxygen back into the river.

This Beat has high banks and it can be hard to gain access however when in the river the fishing is good.

Below the first field the river meanders down to Matford Bridge and can be fished from the bank. This is a good area for trotting. There is very little tree cover along this section as the trees were removed by the EA a number of years ago. In the summer it can be hot and you should wear a hat and sunscreen.

## **Matford Bridge**

Matford Bridge is located in the middle of a field which can be hard to access. It must only be approached via footpaths along the bank from either from the A38 or from the Castle Meadow or there is a footpath from the Berkeley road. It is approximately 1km along each of these paths to get to the bridge.

The river above the bridge is slow flowing in the summer and can have thick growths of Ranunculus and reed. Under the bridge there are a lot of large rocks that cause the river to bubble up and get oxygen back into the water.

Below the Bridge is a large pool with a brook coming in from the West, which has a gate protecting the flow. Below the pool is a gravel bed, which in the summer becomes dry and is a nesting site for some water birds.

Although this is a hard location to get to, for the mobile fisherman it can prove to be very challenging, but also pleasant and productive fishing.

## **Brownsmill to the Kennels**

The river between Matford Bridge and Brownsmill Farm is similar to that above Matford Bridge. You should remember that you are not to fish in front of the farm buildings including the pool at Brownsmill.

Below the farm there is a small bridge and a gate into the next field. There is a wood on the west side of the river where we do not have access, but we can start fishing after the gate on the field side. This section is deep water and should be fished from the bank only.

At the end of the field there is a gate into the Castle Meadow and the Meadow bridge. Downstream from the bridge is a large pool that has been used by local children for swimming during the summer for many years (Mr Berkeley used to use it in his youth). This can be a problem at times and it is best either to move away from the bridge or go to another beat if children are swimming.

You cannot park in the meadow. Parking is found behind the old estate office along the fence, it is a short walk to the meadow from there. If you park here please ensure that you have your syndicate parking disc in the car window.

Below the meadow bridge is a short section of river that you can wade and enjoy reasonable fishing. At the end of the beat is the Estate Kennels Bridge: this is the end of our fishing. The river below the bridge is what is known as the 'Free Section'. If any non-member asks where they can fish, please tell them to fish down stream from here. If you want some wild fishing have a trip yourself.

Good luck and Tight Lines!!

Don't forget the EA hot line: **Environment Agency Hot Line: 0800 807060**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***What are the fishing seasons?***

*(FISHING REGULATIONS and STANDING ORDERS-1)*

We have two seasons on the river, these are:

Trout      18 March – 7 October inclusive  
Coarse     16 June – 14 March inclusive

### ***I wish to take a guest onto the river, how do I do this?***

*(General Regulations - 20)*

BEFS has a number of Guest Memberships that can be used by Members to take a guest onto the river. To obtain the Guest Membership you should contact the Syndicate via the BEFS Website with the following details:

Name of Guest  
Date of Birth  
Address  
Confirm that they hold a valid EA Rod Licence.

You are responsible for your guest during their visit. A cheque or BACS payment for the fee, currently £7 per guest for a Day Ticket should be sent to the Secretary or made before you fish.

### ***What Times can I fish from and to?***

*(FISHING REGULATIONS and STANDING ORDERS-2)*

You can start fishing one hour before sunrise and you must stop one hour after sunset and leave the Estate.

### ***When do I need to pay my annual Subscription?***

*(FISHING REGULATIONS and STANDING ORDERS-18)*

Subs should be paid by the 31 March annually. With the issue of New Membership Cards, each Member will be allocated a Membership Number: this will allow e-payment of subscriptions. If you still wish to pay by cheque you can. Full details will be published on the Website.

### ***Do I need to attend Work Parties?***

*(FISHING REGULATIONS and STANDING ORDERS-20)*

All members are asked to attend 2 work parties a year. Work parties are held monthly and details can be found in our Newscasts or on the Website.

### ***I am not 100% fit and well but would like to attend a work party, can I still attend?***

Yes. Please come along as we can always find work for every one. If you think it is appropriate you should let the Leader of the Work Party know of your situation.

### ***Do I need to keep a catch return?***

*(FISHING REGULATIONS and STANDING ORDERS-17)*

All members are requested to maintain a record of all fishing trips on the river. This record is to be kept for a 12 month period starting in February each year. Returns are to be submitted by first week in February the following year. A standard form is available on our Website: a copy of this is below. Please note you should also indicate "Blank Days" on your return.

**Berkeley Estate Fishing Syndicate**

**Catch Return:**

**Members Number and Name:**

Date	Time of Day			Species	Size in length	Location	Style	Notes
	AM	PM	Evening					

Note:

- Catch Return year will be from 1 February to 31 January.
- Catch returns are to be submitted to the nominated person by the first week of February each year so that the data can be presented at the AGM.
- Returns can be sent in any format as long as the correct data is given.
- One entry for one fish.
- Size in Length: This can be either in inches or millimeters as these are easily converted.
- Locations are the set syndicate beats.
- Style: this can be either Fly or Course or any other thing that the members wants to put in.

## Useful Contact Details

**Environment Agency Hot Line: 0800 80 70 60**

### Syndicate

Email	<a href="mailto:enquiries@berkeley-fishing.co.uk">enquiries@berkeley-fishing.co.uk</a>	
Website	<a href="http://www.berkeley-fishing.co.uk">www.berkeley-fishing.co.uk</a>	

### Secretary

Name	Toby Abbott	Notes:
Address	20 Lansdown Road Puchlechurch Bristol BS16 9RG	
Phone	07811 105511	
Email	<a href="mailto:enquiries@berkeley-fishing.co.uk">enquiries@berkeley-fishing.co.uk</a>	

### Membership Secretary

Name	Ian Jones	Notes:
Address	"Fairview" 57 Churchill Road Forest Green Nailsworth Gloucestershire GL6 0DE	
Phone	01453 834948	
Email	<a href="mailto:membership@berkeley-fishing.co.uk">membership@berkeley-fishing.co.uk</a>	

### Berkeley Estate Office

Phone	01453 819393
Email	<a href="mailto:email@berkeleyestate.co.uk">email@berkeleyestate.co.uk</a>