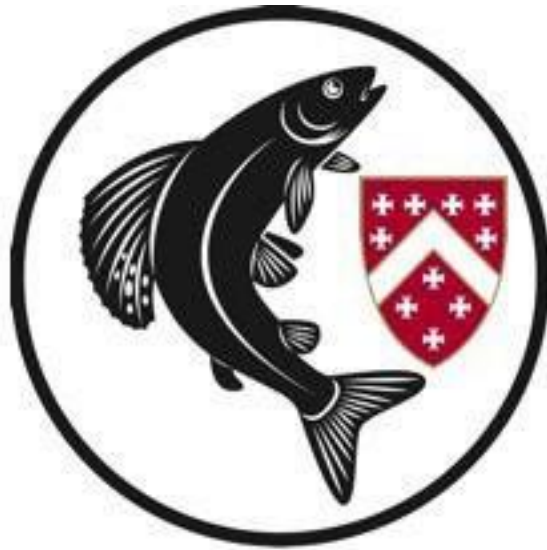


BERKELEY ESTATE FISHING SYNDICATE

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 twofold; 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 which can be found on our website; for ease of reference the Regulations and Standing Orders are contained in this Information Pack. Additionally, you have been issued with a Beat Maps and in this pack is a description of each Beat, details for the Management Group and some other organisation's 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. Remember that you "Fish at Your Own Risk".

Tight Lines

Simon Portal
Chairman

15th February 2024

Version 2

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Introduction to the Berkeley Estate Fishing Syndicate (BEFS)

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
Licences	Regulation 4
Catch Returns	Regulation 17
Work Parties	Regulation 20

Beat Map

Members are issued with a Beat Map that displays: The River, Fishing Beats, Parking Points and No Fishing Areas.

The Beats

In this pack is a 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 Returns

CATCH RETURNS are MANDATORY and are to be submitted each Month even if a Member DID NOT FISH.

Details can be found at Regulation 17 on Page 15. Members who fail to submit catch Returns jeopardize their membership.

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: We have included certain important phone numbers such as Crimestoppers and the EA Hotline.

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 the old 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.

The nature of the river allows the use of different styles of fishing. Although both fly and coarse fishing styles can be used along our waters, 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 not easy 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 designated 'River Managers' who are both Agents of the Estate and look after the wellbeing 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, the AT and the EA.

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.

This role may be shared between two members.

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 to:

- Maintain an effective secure recording system for all members details/data in accordance with the BEFS Privacy Policy.
- 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
- Manage and monitor the Catch Return Postcard System and identify members who fail to comply.
- 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.

Welfare Officer:

The role of the Welfare officer is to:

- To be the key point of contact to all members in the unlikely event of an incident
- To promote good practice by ensuring that all Club members: Are fully aware of their responsibilities around safeguarding adults at risk.
- Safeguard and promote the interests and wellbeing of adults at risk or young people with whom they are working.
- Respond appropriately to concerns.
- Take all reasonable and practical steps to protect adults at risk or young people from harm, discrimination, or degrading treatment.
- Respect and promote the rights, wishes and feelings of adults at risk.
- Make informed and confident responses to protection issues.

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. 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

Be qualified 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/Kick Sampling Teams.
- 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 28th February. 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. Members should attend 2 Work Parties each year.
- 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 in February 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 Number, on a one time basis when they join, and annually with a Membership Card. 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 website includes a secure members area.

Co-Opted Members: Where the MG identifies a capability gap or an individual offers to support the Syndicate with a specific skill but does not wish to fish then that individual may be offered "Co-Opted Membership". This recognises the individual as a non-fishing member, no subscription will be paid and the Co-Opted Member has no voting rights but is covered by Syndicate insurance.

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.
- Failure of a Member to submit Monthly Catch Return Cards.
- 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.

SYNDICATE ACTIVITY

River Walks.

There are 2 forms of River Walk as follows:

Annual River Walk. BEFS arranges an Annual River Walk for any current member, new members and potential members. This usually occurs in late March with the intent of introducing the fishery to those interested. Details are published by the Secretary through "Newscasts" and on the BEFS Website.

Monthly River Walks. Members of the Syndicate and the River Managers walk the river on a regular basis to confirm its condition and any maintenance activity required. These walks occur as a minimum on a monthly basis and any member of the Syndicate may contact the Chairperson via the Website if they wish to. It is of note that BEFS has a network of estate tenants and local residents who walk the river regularly. They kindly report any concerns or incidents that they witness that impact on the River to the Syndicate. Finally, and not least, many Syndicate members during their fishing excursions note concerns, incidents and points of interest and report these via our Website.
attend.

Work Parties.

The primary aim of every Work Party (WP) is to maintain the River such that it remains a wild fishery that Syndicate members may fish. There are 2 forms of WP as follows:

Monthly Work Parties. BEFS plans to hold a Monthly WP and a list of dates is published through the Website and again in “Newscasts” with the full details of date, time, location and work activity. The work to be carried out at each monthly WP is identified during River Walks and prioritised. Syndicate members are expected to attend at least two WPs per year and may attend as many WPs as they wish.

Ad Hoc Mid-Week Work Parties: When and where necessary an Ad Hoc Mid-Week WP may be arranged. Details will be published through the website. A number of members have volunteered to support Ad Hoc Mid-Week WPs and they will be contacted when such an event is to occur. Any member may ask to be placed on this “Calling List”.

Note: A WP Leader is identified for each WP and carries out a Risk Assessment prior to the WP. This is constantly reviewed throughout the WP.

Conservation and River Monitoring.

The condition of the Little Avon River and the surrounding riverbank is important to BEFS. The land that surrounds the river is, in the main, organically farmed and good farming practices are maintained. This is of help in maintaining the good condition of the river.

There are, however, within the Vale of Berkeley catchment area, a number of man made constructions that can effect the condition of the river; these range from Water Treatment Plants to Major Road Systems. BEFS therefore supports a national

monitoring scheme and maintains its own monitoring scheme at local level. The schemes are:

The River Fly Partnership (RFP)/Anglers' Riverfly Monitoring Initiative (ARMI) is a national scheme that monitors watercourses throughout Britain identifying a range of freshwater invertebrates and their populations. BEFS tests 8 sites, on a monthly basis, between Damery Bridge and the Free Section just below the Kennels Bridge. Any Syndicate member may volunteer to join this Monitoring Programme and will be trained to carry out this essential and important testing.

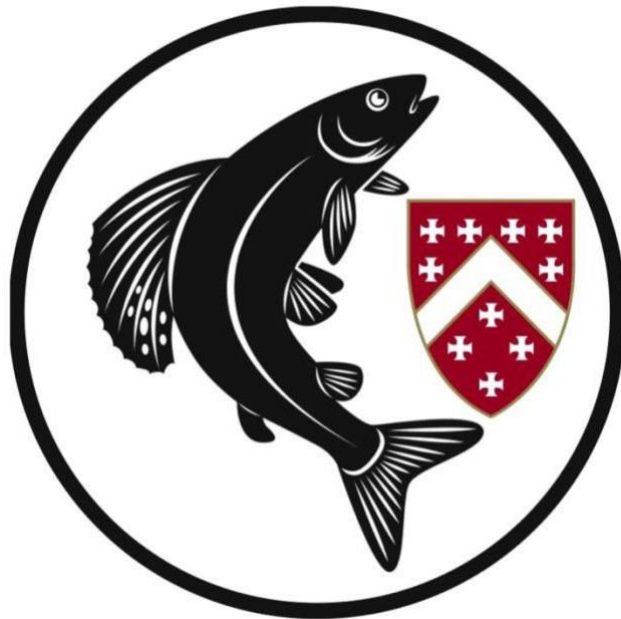
River Quality Testing: At a local level BEFS conducts regular low level water quality testing.

Records of all testing are maintained by the Syndicate. These monitoring/testing records can give an early indication of changes in the river's condition and act as an early warning system. They also allow post-incident analysis.

BEFS does all it can to help with conservation along the Little Avon River. Our monthly work parties constantly carry out conservation tasks that help to protect the river. The work that BEFS does also encourages a wide range of wild life. At all times, BEFS will seek advice from available sources to ensure that the work carried out is to the benefit of the river and fishery and that it meets, where appropriate, requirements laid down by the appropriate Government bodies.

BERKELEY ESTATE FISHING SYNDICATE

Founded 2002



GENERAL REGULATIONS, FISHING

REGULATIONS AND

STANDING ORDERS

Simon Portal
Chairman BEFS

Email: enquiries@berkeley-fishing.co.uk

Web: berkeley-fishing.co.uk

Amended February 2024

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"). All Members of BEFS and their Guests fish **at their own risk at all times**.

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 fish through the Youth Fishing Initiative.

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.

All Members of BEFS and their Guests fish at their own risk at all times.

1. Seasons

Trout	1 April – 7 October (inclusive)
Coarse	16 June – 14 March (inclusive)

NB. These are local regulations, notwithstanding the regional Bye Laws as published on the Gov website

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 or Lure Fishing.
Barbless or De-barbed hooks only. Maximum size 10.

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 a catch and release basis. Keep nets may not be used.

8. Car Parking

Car Parking Areas are shown on the Beat Map and a brief description is given with each Beat below. Cars must be parked so as not to block access to property or fields.

9. Accesses and Egress

Points of Access and Egress are explained with the Beat descriptions below. Please ensure you follow the "Country Code", for example, close gates after passing through them if they were closed.

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 Returns

CATCH RETURNS are MANDATORY and to be submitted each Month even if a Member DID NOT FISH.

A new system of Catch Return Postcards was introduced in March 2020 as previous systems had failed. The Postcard system ensures that every member can, with little effort, complete the Monthly Catch Return and post it free of charge. The Catch Returns are sent to a Member when new membership cards are issued and include "Notes for Completion of Monthly Catch Return Form"

18. Subscriptions

All subscriptions for the coming year must be paid to the Membership Secretary no later than 28 February annually. None or late payment will result in cancelled membership. Help for members unable to make payment may be available on request.

Other Important Matters

19. Only fully paid-up members of the Syndicate and pre-approved guests of members may fish. Note that a Youth Fishing Initiative is in place for family members.

20. Apart from unusual circumstances (e.g. 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. Members **“Fish at Their Own Risk”**.

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

BEATS

Members are issued with a Beat Map on joining and may request another as required. 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 of the Damery Beat through the open field and wood to the M5 Motorway Bridge/Tunnel. This beat includes the M5 Tunnel.
3. Middle Mill: Down stream of the M5 Tunnel and after a No Fishing Section the river splits. The main river goes South around a larger field and flows into a large Mill Pool. Downstream of this Mill Pool and after the road bridge there is a small log bridge 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. Please note that the Southern part of the Cascades may only be accessed from the old A38 Bridge and the Northern part only from 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 downstream from 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 2 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)

These areas are shown on the Beat Map in red.

Damery Beat

Car Parking and Access: Car parking is in one of the lay-bys near Damery Bridge or a lay-by along the road to Damery Gate. Do not park in the passing space in front of the Keepers Lodge and do not park in front of the Damery Wood Gate as the landowner does require access.

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. Dogs can be a problem in the river.

The syndicate has only single bank fishing rights on the North bank. The South bank from Damery Bridge to the M5 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.

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 us via the Website.

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

Johns Field

Car Parking and Access: The only access to the river is via a Footpath halfway up the hill when travelling Northwest away from Damery: there is space for 2 cars by the "Footpath" sign. You must NOT enter the open field via the gate. This beat has been named after the Landowner, John Hames, who lives in the Keepers Lodge. The river meanders around the edge of an open field and through a small wood to the M5 Motorway Bridge/Tunnel.

A short distance down the Footpath you cross a style and can then walk to the river path and move to the South to fish by the small weir or North to fish the majority of the Beat. Sometime ago we obtained permission to build a collapsible weir, towards the top end of this Beat, 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 some very deep pools that are to be avoided when wading. Please be aware of these.

The beat is a favourite site for our long standing members and is another area for big brown trout, grayling and chub.

Middle Mill

Car Parking and Access: Parking is along the Middle Mill Lane. It is quite tight and you should take care not to obstruct other road users and access to fields. Do not park in front of Middle Mill Barn. If there are no parking spaces then park on Damery Lane and walk to the Beat. You can access the river to the South via a 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.

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 and a brook heading straight on. Between here and the Motorway bridge there is a small No Fishing Area

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.

The Upper Section flows around a field and then over the old Mill weir into the mill pool. The pool is deep but can be fished from the bank and margins. This is a good trotting style location.

Downstream of the mill pool the river flows under a road bridge into a field in front of a recently converted barn. We were unable to fish this area as BEFS rules say that we cannot fish in front of a house. In late 2012 Peter Turner, the 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

Car Parking and Access: Access to the Cascades can only be gained via a tunnel that runs under the A38 road. You may park on the old A38 Bridge. This is also the start of the Berkeley Estate land and you can fish both banks for most of the river downstream 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. You can only access this area from Matford Bridge. 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.

Matford Bridge

Car Parking and Access: Matford Bridge is located in the middle of a field which can be hard to access. It can only be approached via footpaths along the bank from either Brownsmill Farm or by parking on the road from Ham to Stone at the Quarries: travelling South there is a hump back bridge after Pedington Manor and Park Farm, 50 meters past that bridge, park on the road side and walk via the gate on the Eastern side of the road directly to Matford Bridge along the designated track. 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

Car Parking and Access: Car parking is available on the Berkeley/Ham Road to the West of the Kennels Bridge from here you walk back towards Berkeley and enter the Castle Meadow via gate on the Eastern side of the road. You may also park in the Old Estate Office Yard. You must then walk down the road towards Berkeley past the Kennels and enter the Castle Meadow as described above. You cannot cross the field behind the Old Estate Office Yard as this is not a footpath and signed as such. You cannot park in the meadow. You can also access the river via Brownsmill Farm: park on the track just to the North of the Farm. Please ensure you do not obstruct gates and allow tractors to pass.

The river between Brownsmill Farm and the Kennels Bridge is similar to that in the Matford Bridge area. You should remember that you may fish in front of the farm buildings including the pool at Brownsmill but please respect Colin Pearce, the farmer, and his family if they are using their garden.

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.

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.

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.

Free Section

The river below the Estate Kennels 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!!

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the fishing seasons?

(FISHING REGULATIONS and STANDING ORDERS-1)

We have two seasons on the river, these are:

Trout 1st April – 7th October inclusive
Coarse 16th June – 14th 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 28 February 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 submit a Monthly Catch Return Postcard?

(FISHING REGULATIONS and STANDING ORDERS-17)

Catch Returns are **MANDATORY** for all members and are to be submitted Monthly in accordance with the "Notes for Completion of Monthly Catch Return Form". Members who fail to submit a Monthly Catch Return will be warned and this failure will jeopardize their continuing membership.

Useful Contact Details

Syndicate

Email	enquiries@berkeley-fishing.co.uk	
Website	www.berkeley-fishing.co.uk	

Secretary

Name	Andy Johnson	Notes:
Address	211 Church Rd Frampton Cotterell South Gloucestershire BS36 2BJ	
Email	andy@berkeley-fishing.co.uk	

Membership Secretary

Name	Ian Jones	Notes:
Address	"Fairview" 57 Churchill Road Forest Green Nailsworth Gloucestershire GL6 0DE	
Email	membership@berkeley-fishing.co.uk	

Berkeley Estate Office

Phone	01453 819393
Email	email@berkeleyestate.co.uk

Don't forget the Environment Agency Hot Line: **0800 80 70 60**

And CRIMESTOPPERS: **0800 555 111**