

Bullington Manor



time is precious.
use it fishing

WELCOME TO BULLINGTON MANOR

By now you will have arrived and I hope you are relaxing over a cup of coffee. If you are in the Cabin for Beat 3 or 4 you will be in splendid isolation; if you are on Beats 1 or 2 you may be sharing with those on the other beat. Here is a summary of the fishing and what to expect; have a lovely day.

Bullington Manor has been in the same family ownership for over fifty years and is now into the third generation all of whom are keen fly fishers. The family keep a keen interest in the day-to-day management of the fishing, which allows us to maintain it as traditional chalkstream paradise, free from too many commercial pressures.

The full extent of the river on the Bullington Manor estate runs to over four miles, with double bank ownership along the entire length. However, not all the river is fished. Firstly, on the each beat we fish from one bank and leave the other untended. This enlightened policy is a godsend for the riverine habitat that allows the wildlife, insects, flora and fauna to thrive alongside a typical Hampshire chalkstream. In addition there is a long section above Beat 1 that is never fished, left almost completely untended as a nursery for wild fish.



Bullington Church

I find the best way to fish Bullington is by stealth and observation; the water is exceptionally clear, and generally not too deep, so the fish are easy to spot, but by the same token easy to spook! These are my tips for each beat starting on the beat furthest downstream, Beat 4.

If you have a few minutes to spare the Norman church is delightful and a cool sanctuary for reflection on any a blazing hot summer day.



Beat 4

The beat starts at the cabin we call Dever Castle.

Looking upstream all your fishing will be done from the left hand bank. Of all the beats, this has the deepest water and is the least open. I would gently move up the beat; the fish spread themselves all across the river, rather than occupying particular sections. Where the reeds are wide there are fishing platforms.



About half way up the beat, just prior to a sharp left turn, the beat is at its shallowest.

Once past the turn the river deepens again, but is never as deep as the lower section.



The bank from this point onwards is very spongy, so gentle footsteps away from the edge is the key as good fish hang under the bank in the undercut.

The beat ends at the first bridge, which we call Venice Bridge.



Venice Bridge looking onto Beat 3

Beat 3



Looking upstream from start of Beat 3

You are in the cabin we call Buckingham Palace, which also has a WC just behind the cabin. We have done a great deal of work on this beat in the past three years and of all the beats this is the one that has the greatest population of juvenile and wild fish.

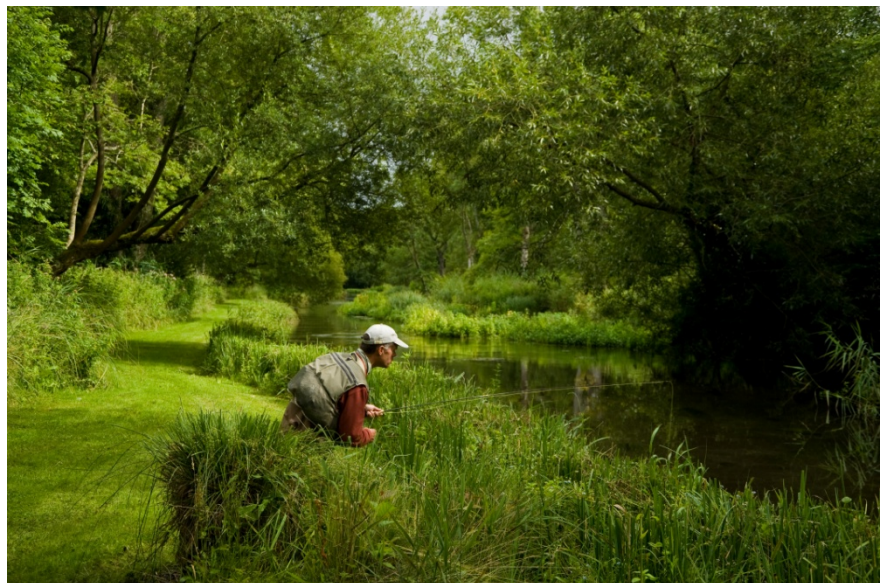
The best way to reach the bottom of the beat without spooking the fish is via the back path through the woods:

Take the track behind the Fishing Cabin past the WC. When you reach the field turn left and follow the farm track. At the corner of the field turn left into the woods. Follow the track through the woods until it brings you out beside the river at Venice Bridge. This is where the beat starts. It is a good 10 minute walk to this point from the cabin.

This is the beat with the shallowest average depth, but also holds the greatest population of wild fish. They are very much paler than their stocked counterparts and are in the shallower parts. Beat 3 starts at Venice Bridge where you can fish the other bank for the first 200 yards. Crossing back, there is a good holding section where a fallen tree has narrowed the river.

Keep on up the same bank; the river varies from very shallow, to very fast with pools in between. You are getting close to the end of the beat when you reach a wooden bridge – from here up to the end of the beat, which includes the section in front of the Cabin, the fish hold over on the far

bank.



Beat 3 mid-point

Beat 2

I recommend that you walk down the road from Mill Cabin to reach the start of the beat.

From the car park turn right onto the road. Keep on for about ¼ mile; passing the thatched Keepers Cottage on the left. 150yds further turn right through the farm gate down to the river. NB Don't take the white gate directly opposite Keepers Cottage or you will miss the first 200 yards of Beat 2.

Looking upstream, all the fishing is on the left bank. Be careful as you cross the bridge; there are fish right under your feet as you cross. Between this bridge and the next bridge is a prime section of shallow water where fish are easy to spot. The first fifty yards or so after the second bridge are nothing much, but once you reach the tussocks go carefully. This bank is very spongy and all the fish lie in the undercut of your bank. We call this grayling alley, which takes you to the excellent Ash Tree corner.



Ash Tree Corner

Above Ash Tree corner it is fast and shallow; we installed some faggot groynes two years ago and they have created holding sections. But look out as you get close to the road – the old tank crossing/cattle drink is a productive pool. The path will take you a few yards to the left, away from the river, over the stile, across the road and over another stile,

some walk boards and back to the river. Immediately there is another pool (tricky to cast) and then on up to the pool immediately below the Mill Race. You are now back at the Cabin and the end of the beat.



View upstream from start of Beat 2



Hatches close to top of Beat 2

Beat 1

Of all the beats I suspect this is the most varied. Make your way from Mill Cabin over the mill race; turn right and the beat starts the other side of the gravel drive through the gates.



This first section to the first corner always holds fish; in fact you will probably spot fish as you approach the gate, so go carefully. The fish do spread themselves over the entire beat, so do move slowly and observe. You will fish the left bank (looking upstream) until the first hatch pool.



Footpath bridge

After the first hatches cross to the right bank where casting is tricky until you get past the footpath bridge, where the beat curves right and is fairly open until you reach the second, and top, hatch pool.



Top hatches. Crossing to left bank and eventually viaduct.

Cross again to the left bank. The beat is at its widest and shallowest; to make life difficult the back cast is restricted and the fish will be on the opposite side. Just short of the railway viaduct is a fabulous pool, which holds clunking grayling.

It is worth scrambling up and around the viaduct, cross the wooden bridge and fish the short section to the concrete road bridge.

On a bright, sunny day fish lie in the deep on the opposite side. If you have waders you can slip into the water at the top, walk under the concrete bridge and fish the final 100 yards or so. We don't manage this in any



Viaduct. Fish on left and cross bridge to right

real sense and the road noise can be intrusive, but it can be fun. You can make your way back to the Cabin via the road.

WC

There is a WC adjacent to the cabins on Beats 1, 2 & 3.

Places to eat

White Swan, Barton Stacey (1 mile) 01264 720592. Our village local with good food lunch time and evening. Best to call ahead to check opening times and meal hours, especially during the week.

Coach & Horses (1 mile) – 01962 760279. Good food and has rooms as well.

The Mayfly, Chilbolton (4 miles) – 01264 860283. Food and drink on the banks of the River Test.

Stockbridge (5 miles) – plenty of choices with one hotel, five pubs, tea shop and plenty more.

Local shops

Garage shop – in Sutton Scotney. Open 7am-9pm.

Fishing and clothing shops – Stockbridge has Robjents and Orvis.

Beer, wine and food – again Stockbridge. Annie's Bakery and Thyme & Tides are good for take away sandwiches. The Co-op is a newsagent, general store and off-licence, open 7am-10pm. There is also a chemist.

Places to visit

Danebury Hill – ancient hill fort. Great walk and view. Free. 5 miles.

The Hawk Conservancy, Weyhill – extensive collection of birds of prey. Admission charge. 5 miles.

Salisbury Cathedral – magnificent spire, oldest working clock in the world, original Magna Carta and a beautiful cathedral close. Voluntary admission charge. 12 miles.

Mottisfont Abbey and rose gardens – National Trust house and gardens with walk beside the River Test. Admission charge. 7 miles.

I will be sending you an email in a few days time. If you have a few minutes to give us some feedback from your visit it would be really appreciated.

I hope that you have a great day with us at Bullington Manor and that we see you another time.

Tight Lines!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Simon Cooper
Fishing Breaks Founder & Managing Director

Emergency

The approximate postal address here is:

Bullington Lane, Lower Bullington, Hampshire SO21 3RE

Doctors surgery:

Stockbridge 01264 810524
Out of Hours 0844 811 3060

Local hospital

Andover War Memorial Hospital
Charlton Road, Andover SP10 3LB
01264 358811

NHS Direct 08 45 46 47

Chemist

High Street, Stockbridge (opposite Orvis)