



KANJARA

WELCOME TO KANARA

Dear Angler,

By now you will have arrived and I hope you are relaxing in the fishing hut.

It is possible you may meet Keith Purse the river keeper, who may drop by to say hello. Do introduce yourself; Keith knows the river better than anyone and is a mine of information.

Here is a summary of the fishing and what to expect; have a lovely day.

For some the River Itchen is the ultimate chalkstream. Much shorter than its counterpart the River Test (17 miles vs. 39 miles), the Itchen is formed by the Alre, Tichborne and Candover Brook, which come together just below Alresford.

For seven lovely miles it flows from the confluence westerly through the now mostly defunct water meadow pastures until it reaches the ancient capital of England, Winchester. Heading south it flows almost beneath the shadow from the tower of the Cathedral, alongside the playing fields of Winchester College and on into open country again.

Eventually, fourteen miles into its journey the river reaches the conurbation of Southampton, turning brackish at the Woodmill salmon pool before spilling into the ocean.

At Kanara we are just 7 miles from the open sea as the crow flies, so don't be surprised to see salmon and sea trout.



Where river meets sea

About Kanara fishing

Assuming you have made the fishing hut your base for the day, which is more-or-less the midpoint of the beat, I will divide the fishing into the sections above and below.



Downstream of the fishing hut: Keith has cleared a wide path so you should be able to make your way all the way to the bottom of the fishery without spooking the fish along the way.



You will know you have reached our starting point when you arrive at a fence to the water's edge and a sign.



The first one hundred yards or so are fishable from the bank if you wish. Do tread carefully as this is the only section of unstable bank so you will notice log supports laid into the ground which are easy to trip on. If you choose to start wading here there is a steel access ladder. This is the only one on the beat. All other access/egress points are marked by a wooden fence post.



The river between here and tail of the hatch pool is the deepest section of the beat. Go carefully at all times, but especially during high water periods and where the tree roots have scoured deep holes. We recommend a flotation device at all times. The bottom can be silted.



As you come into the hatch pool area the depth reduces considerably.



Upstream of the fishing hut: compared to the lower section the upper section is shallower with more of a gravel bed. At regular intervals you will reach the stone weirs. I don't recommend trying to climb over them; they have deep scours on the downstream side and the rocks that make them up are unstable. Better to get out on the right bank (as you look upstream) and rejoin the river above.



The beat ends at the bridges at the top. The smaller one to the left is a footpath bridge and the arched brick road bridge is directly ahead. You can return to your car by exiting to the right or follow the bank path back to the fishing hut.



Footpaths

There are no footpaths adjacent the lower section but you should know about those on the upper section; neither have any direct impact or access to our fishing but I am sure an explanation will be useful.

On the right (looking upstream) there is a nature trail on the other side of the barbed wire fence that is part of Brambridge Garden Centre. It is not much used, largely hidden by trees and bushes.

On the left (looking upstream) and running parallel with our river from the hatch pool to the road bridges is the old canal, often called the Itchen Navigation. The tow path is now a footpath which is well used, but we have a good screen of trees, bushes and hedging so the most you usually see are a few bobbing heads.

Fishing Hut

The fishing hut is a basic shelter. There are no facilities, water or stove etc.

WC

We do not have a WC. Generally we suggest you visit the Brambridge Garden Centre.

Places to eat

- Brambridge Garden Centre, Kiln Lane (50 yards)
- The Dog & Crook, 18 Brambridge, Colden Common, Eastleigh SO50 6HZ (0.5 mile) www.thedogandcrook.co.uk
- The White Horse, Main Rd, Otterbourne SO21 2EQ (1 mile) www.idealcollection.co.uk/brands/the-white-horse

Local shops

- Brambridge Garden Centre. 50 yards.
- Tesco & Tesco Filling Station. 138 Twyford Rd, Eastleigh SO50 4HP. 2 miles.
- Fishing & clothing shops – Stockbridge has Robjents and Orvis. 15 miles.

Places to visit

- Winchester Cathedral – Izaak Walton, writer of *The Compleat Angler*, is buried here. Free. 3 miles.
- Marwell Zoo. Admission charge. 3 miles.
- Sir Harold Hilliers Gardens. 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 Kanara.

Tight lines!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'S' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Simon Cooper
Fishing Breaks Founder & Managing Director

Emergency

The address here is:

Brambridge Garden Centre
Kiln Lane
Brambridge
Eastleigh
SO50 6HT

Doctors surgery

Colden Common Surgery, 45 Spring Lane, Colden Common, Winchester SO21 1SB
01962 712202

Local hospital

Royal Hampshire County Hospital
Romsey Road
Winchester
SO22 5DG
01962 863535

NHS Direct 08 45 46 47

Chemist

Colden Chemist, 19 Spring Ln, Colden Common, Winchester SO21 1SD
01962 715300