



Schools Farm

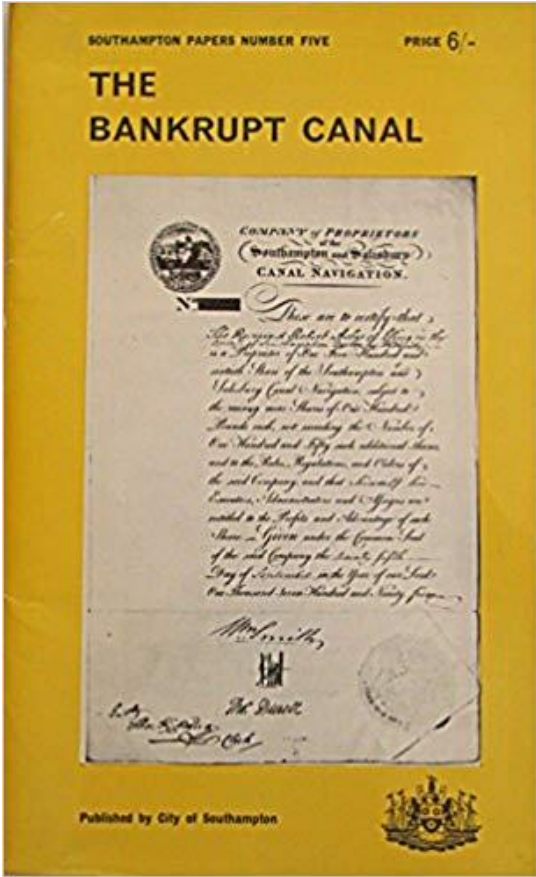
WELCOME TO SCHOOL FARM

Dear Fly Fisher,

By now you will have arrived and I hope you are relaxing over a cup of coffee.

If you did not visit School Farm in 2018 you will be unaware of the Estate Office that was recently built; I hope you agree it is a beautiful building. In the corner office nearest the cabin is Anna Maria who runs the fishing – give her a wave!

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



The River Dun flows through the counties of Wiltshire and Hampshire. The Dun rises in Wiltshire to the south-east of Salisbury near West Grimstead, and flows east into Hampshire before joining the River Test at Kimbridge, ultimately draining to the Solent.

For those of you who like a little bit of industrial archaeology take a look into the woods on the right as you walk downstream. There you will see the remnants of the Salisbury to Southampton canal that closed in 1808.

It is easier to pick out in the winter and spring as it still fills with water, but head down the stream that runs under the lower fishing cabin and you'll actually be walking along the original tow path of a waterway that lasted for just 14 years, twice going bankrupt before finally falling into disrepair with less than a third of the route dug.

About the School Farm fishing

You will have parked by the fishing cabin which is close to the top of the beat. I'll start by describing the top section before taking you down to the bottom of the beat.

Upstream of the main fishing cabin: This is about 150 yards in all. Fish from the left as you look upstream; the opposite bank is mostly wooded.

There are a series of wooden weirs, some deeper pools and shallow sections. The beat ends with a pool and a footpath bridge across the river. You may see the village kids trying their luck in the pool!



From the downstream boundary: There are enough side paths and bank width to reach the bottom of the fishery without disturbing the river. When you reach the Summer House I recommend keeping to left heading straight down the path beside



the back stream. Cross left over the telegraph pole bridge and follow the path through the woods to bring you out at the bottom of the beat. By the way, this back stream has some good fish, so feel free to give it a go if you wish. If you have a short, light outfit that makes it all rather fun.

If you have fished Dunbridge in the past you may well recognise the start of the School Farm beat, for where it starts Dunbridge ends. The first section will take you up to a turbulent weir pool. As with all this top part of the beat you will be entirely fishing from the left bank (as you look upstream) with the opposite bank unfished and left to grow wild.

Over a little railway sleeper bridge and ahead there is a straight section which takes you to the first deep pool where the river turns sharp left.

However, take your time as this apparently uninviting straight section holds plenty of fish, especially under both banks.



After the pool and the turn the river is gravelly and shallower, with *ranunculus* weed. If you are seeking out wild, small fish this is one of the likely parts to find then. Ahead is the deepest and largest pool on the beat, with the waterfall tumbling in.

To this point when there is no surface action lightly weighted nymphs will prove very effective. It is worth remembering that some of the bends are very deep, as much as 4-6ft so try a long tippet and let the nymph go deep and knock along the tree roots. Unfortunately, you will get snagged from time-to-time, but the rewards can be worth the risk.

At the Summer House you may turn left to try the back stream or turn right to continue up the main river.



The main river section from will take you all the way back to the fishing cabin, but for two thirds of the way the flow and depth is fairly uniform so you'll find fish across the full width of the river.



Those of you who have fished School Farm in the past will notice that the keeper James Harnett has done a great deal of work opening this up section with some major trees felled letting in much more light. James is the person you are most likely to see



during the week or at the weekend the owner Caspar Macdonald-Hall. James now has sole charge of the fishing since the retirement of Dennis who, many years after his official end date and decades at School Farm, has finally hung up his weed scythe.

As you reach the Estate Office and fishing cabin the river shallows but don't miss out on the opportunity to try the depths in the shadow of the bridge.

Places to eat



- Mill Arms, Dunbridge (1 mile) 01794 340401. Food, rooms and local beer.
- Bear & Ragged Staff, Michelmersh (2.5 miles) 01794 368602. Food all day.
- Romsey (4 miles) – plenty of choices with hotels, pubs, coffee shops and plenty more.

Local shops

- Petrol station & bakery (3.5 miles) – head towards Romsey.
- Fishing & clothing shops – Stockbridge (9 miles) has Robjents and Orvis.
- Beer, wine and food – again Romsey. There is a Waitrose in Alma Road, SO51 8AS

Places to visit

- Romsey Abbey – Kings of England were crowned here in ancient times. Free. 3 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 & rose gardens – National Trust house and gardens with walk beside the River Test. Admission charge. 2 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 School Farm.

Tight lines!

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

Simon Cooper
Fishing Breaks Founder & Managing Director

Emergency

The address here is:

School Farm, Lockerley Road, Butt's Green, Romsey SO51 0JH

Doctors surgery

Alma Road Surgery, Alma Rd, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 8ED
01794 513422

Local hospital

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

Dial 111 for the NHS service if you urgently need medical help or advice but it's not a life-threatening situation.

Dial 999 in the case of an emergency

Chemist

Lloyds Pharmacy 123 The Hundred Romsey, SO51 8BZ
01794 522716