



**time is precious.  
use it fishing**







# WELCOME TO WHITCHURCH FULLING MILL

*Dear Angler,*

*By now you will have arrived and I hope you are relaxing over a cup of coffee. Here is a summary of the fishing and what to expect; have a lovely day.*

Most days the river keeper, Mark Burns, will greet you on arrival, but if not don't worry. Just start fishing in your own time. Unless it is his day off, Mark will most likely be along later in the day. If you need to call him his mobile number is 07340 193965.

I find the best way to fish Whitchurch 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! The beat falls into three sections, so I will make these my starting point to describe the fishing:

**Garden beat:** As you look downstream from Fulling Mill the main river is to your right, emerging from under the Mill through the mill race. Cross over the bridge and head

downstream on the far bank. Keep going under the road bridge to the very bottom where there is a hatch and pool. Turn there and retrace your steps, fishing all the way back to The Mill. You can fish both banks, so take whichever you prefer as the options become evident.



You may wade or bank fish the Garden section. I have found that as you move up the Garden section the fish tend to get bigger; the first section below the road often has lots of small fish and a few grayling. Above the bridge the fish are more spread out and the largest fish (surprise, surprise) are in the mill race. There is a great holding spot down the right hand wall (looking upstream) just where the brickwork ends.

**Side stream:** This is the section that runs behind the Rod Room and is away to your left, mostly hidden by the trees.

From the car park, head through the knot and vegetable garden keeping the main river 25 yards or so to your right. About 50 yards short of the road bridge, turn left through a gap in the trees. If you want to fish from the bank cross the bridge but generally wading is best.

Fish until you reach a good sluice pool; if you have been before you will see the new log deflectors. At the pool climb out on the river and then get back in again immediately above the sluices. You are now right behind the Rod Room and garages – this doesn't look much, but it holds lots of fish.

Climb out when you reach the drive. Immediately over the drive is a good hatch pool, the last bit of fishing before you move on to the Upper section.





**Upper section:** The public footpath that runs alongside the river has been fenced off in preparation for the 2019 season. Cross the footpath bridge and enter the river via the padlocked gate (combination 5278). Start to wade from this point or use the



steps on the opposite bank to move upstream via stiles and two additional access points further up the field. You will need to return this way once you have reached the end of the beat. The new fence prevents any access to the footpath.

If you have fished with us in the past you will immediately notice some improvements that were made by an enthusiastic volunteer team from the Wild Trout Trust and Sparsholt College in the winter of 2018/19. Some of the excessive shading was removed and the woody

debris used to create some very effective structures that seem to be popular with both fish and fishers alike.



Starting point for wading Upper section

The first one-third of the beat has trees on your left and right which create a slight tunnel effect; plenty of fish but easy to spook as the trees prevent weed growth. As you emerge from the trees the weed cover increases and the river widens.

I tend to move up the middle and fish to the left, right and middle. In fact, I pay special attention to the left, because the fish are so completely used to people and the shadows they cast that they are much harder to scare with a splashy cast or a mis-presented fly! The beat ends with a fantastic deep pool, we call the Tank Trap, which holds plenty of trout and grayling.



At this point climb return to the bottom of the beat via the stiles, path through the field and the gate through which you entered the river.

## **WC**

If the river keeper is around he may be able to let you into the house if you ask.

## **Places to Eat & Stay**

- The White Hart, Newbury Street, Whitchurch, RG28 7DN (1/2 mile). 01256 892900. Food and rooms.
- The Bourne Valley Inn, St Mary Bourne, SP11 6BT (4 miles). 01264 738361 A stylish country pub.
- Watership Down Inn, Priory Lane, Freefolk, Whitchurch, Hants, RG28 7NJ (2 miles). 01256 892254. Best in the area.
- Whitchurch (1/2 mile) – plenty of choices with one hotel, two pubs, tea shop and plenty more.

## **Local stores**

- Local shop – back up The Weir, turn left and 100 yards along on the right.
- Beer, wine and food – again Whitchurch.
- Fishing and clothing shops – Stockbridge (13 miles) has Robjents and Orvis.



## Places to visit

- Whitchurch Silk Mill – working silk mill, just a couple of hundred yards upstream of where you are fishing, that is driven by the River Test. Admission charge.
- The Hawk Conservancy, Weyhill – extensive collection of birds of prey. Admission charge. 10 miles.
- The Vyne, Basingstoke – a premier National Trust property. 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 successful day with us at Whitchurch Fulling Mill 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 postal address here is:**

Fulling Mill  
The Weir  
Whitchurch  
Hampshire  
RG28 7RA

**Doctors surgery:** Whitchurch Surgery, Bell Street, Whitchurch, RG28 7AE  
0844 477 2547

**Local hospital:** **Andover War Memorial Hospital**  
Charlton Road, Andover SP10 3LB 01264 358811

**NHS** Emergency 111

**Lloyds Chemist** 7 Newbury St, Whitchurch, RG28 7DW