



HAMPSTEAD HEATH

Angling



Angling

in

Hampstead Heath

Hampstead Heath has over 30 ponds and lakes of which 6 are designated for fishing: the Vale of Health Pond, Viaduct Pond, Mixed Bathing Pond, Hampstead No2 Pond, Model Boating Pond and Men's Bathing Pond.

You can obtain a Fishing Permit free of charge from the Parliament Hill office (just off Highgate Road near the tennis courts and café) or from the nearby Tennis Hut at weekends. Alternatively, they can be obtained by post by writing to Heathfield House, 432 Archway Road, London N6 4JH, enclosing your name and contact details and a photocopy of your Rod License. There are a few regulations that we expect anglers to observe at all times and these are listed on the back page.

Please avoid fishing from swims where there is a risk of snagging trees, vegetation or underwater obstacles. Report any lost tackle, pollution and sick or dead fish or birds to a member of staff or by ringing the Heath Constabulary on 020 8340 5260.

Other important out-of-hours contacts are the Environment Agency Hotline 0800 80 70 60 or the RSPCA 0870 55 55 999

We advise you to cover any open cuts and wash hands before eating due to the risk of Weil's disease and toxic blue-green algae in these waters.

If you have comments about or would like to help with the management of fishing facilities on the Heath, please ring 020 7332 3322.



The Viaduct Pond



With silken line and delicate hook, I wander
amongst the ripples and find... freedom

(Chinese saying)

Fish and their welfare

Eight species of fish are currently found at the Heath – Carp, Bream, Roach, Rudd, Tench, Gudgeon, Perch and Pike. Some advice on essential equipment and techniques to ensure fish welfare are given below.

Your hook line must be of lower breaking strain than the reel line. The reel line must never be used directly to the hook, without a weaker link. Tackle must be free to slide off the line (towed lead, feeder or float can snag the fish).

If pike fishing, minimum line breaking strain should be 12lb and minimum trace of 18" of 20lb wire.

Suitably sized knotless landing nets must be used at all times (minimum size of 106cm (42in) when specifically fishing for carp). All anglers must have a disgorger and forceps for removing hooks. A weigh sling or bag, in good condition, must be held above the unhooking mat during weighing.

Please respect fish of all species and all sizes by returning them back to the ponds as quickly as possible after unhooking. When photographing fish, have all the photographic equipment ready before bringing the fish to the bank. The fish should be photographed over the unhooking mat, as close to the ground and as quickly as possible.

Remember that watch straps and jewellery can injure a fish during handling. Never drop or throw them back into the water but use a sling or enclosed mat for the transfer.

Common Carp



Fishing at Model Boating Pond

Junior

and novice anglers

For young people new to the sport, Hampstead Heath can provide a wonderful introduction to freshwater angling. The City of London, in partnership with Thames 21, is running Learn to Fish days during the school summer holidays. For further information please contact 020 7332 3322.

Wildlife

The Heath is a haven for wildlife so we ask that you follow the Environment Agency's angling and wildlife "Golden Rules". Heath staff may ask to see your permit and rod license and will be checking that anglers are observing the regulations (see overleaf).

The solution to any problem – work, love, money, whatever, is to go fishing; and the worse the problem the longer the trip should be. (John Gierach)

Illegally-released terrapins cause major problems for our native wildlife



The Regulations

- We operate a close season of 15 March to 15 June (inclusive).
- Night fishing is not allowed by anyone under the age of 16 unless accompanied by an adult.
- An Environment Agency rod license must be held, except by children under 12 years of age.
- You need to obtain an annual fishing permit from the Parliament Hill office before fishing on the Heath.
- Permits to erect a bivouac for up to 48 hours at the Vale of Health, Model Boating or Men's Bathing ponds are issued by the Hampstead Heath Constabulary during their daily patrols of the ponds.
- Permits and rod licenses must be presented upon the request of City of London staff.
- No fish, aquatic animals or plants should be introduced to or removed from the ponds.
- All anglers must have a landing net and disgorger.
- No keep nets or carp sacks are to be used.
- All fish are to be handled carefully with wet hands and using wet equipment.
- Unhooking mats must be used to unhook large fish.
- No bait boats, live bait (including crayfish), or bait nuts may be used.
- Ground bait should be used in sensible quantities in order to preserve water quality. Unused bait must be taken away.
- No lures, barbed hooks, bent hooks, lead shot, tethered rigs, bolt rigs or braided lines are allowed.
- Only three rods may be in use simultaneously and these will require two Environment Agency rod licenses.
- All broken line must be removed to prevent water birds becoming ensnared.
- All rubbish must be put in appropriate litter bins or taken away.
- Under Environment Agency byelaws it is an offence for baited rods to be left in the water unattended. Hampstead Heath bye-laws must also be adhered to.



HAMPSTEAD HEATH

Hampstead Heath is one of a number of open spaces, parks and gardens in and around London owned and managed by the City of London Corporation as part of its commitment to sustaining a world class city. Each open space is a unique resource managed for the benefit of people to enjoy and for its wildlife and conservation importance. Please respect the peace and quiet enjoyed by the many other users of Hampstead Heath and nearby residents. A full list of sites and visitor information can be found on our website at www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/openspaces or by phoning **020 7332 3505**.

IMPORTANT

- PLEASE TAKE CARE AROUND THE PONDS AS THE EDGES CAN BE SLIPPERY.
- PLEASE AVOID OBSTRUCTING PATHWAYS WITH POLES.
- An Environment Agency rod license can be purchased by ringing 0870 1662 662, at any Post Office or online at www.environment-agency.gov.uk/fish

THANK YOU – ENJOY YOUR FISHING.

SOME IMPORTANT CONTACTS

EmergencyHeath Constabulary	020 8340 5260	
General enquiries	Parliament Hill office Superintendent's office	020 7332 3773 020 7332 3322
Website	www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/hampstead	
Email	hampstead.heath@cityoflondon.gov.uk	

The Hampstead Heath Anglers Society promotes angling on the Heath. Phone **07734 112153** or visit www.hhasoc.org for details.

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