

WHERE TO FISH

10 PAGES OF THE MOST IN-FORM STILLWATERS, RIVERS & CANALS TO FISH THIS WEEK!



NORTH
Arm-aching action at Lindholme
P16



MIDLANDS
Roswell Pits and the Great Ouse
P18



SOUTH
Catch a new personal best at Milemead
P20

AnglingTimes
THE UK'S BIGGEST
& BEST FISHERY GUIDE

FISHERY OF THE WEEK
SHARNBROOK PITS,
RADWELL HERTS

BAG BIG BREAM AT THIS GREAT VENUE
Sharnbrook Pits holds high doubles

Large they may be, but the rewards are there.

ARE YOU after some challenging yet rewarding specimen fish in idyllic surroundings? Then head to Sharnbrook Pits.

Situated in the winding Great Ouse valley are the beautiful Vauxhall AC-run Sharnbrook gravel pits - all seven of them! Angling Times duo Ian Jones and Jake Benson recently visited the complex, with one thing in mind - big bream! Jake reveals how they got on...

"I was first made aware of the venue after a conversation with my work colleague, Ian Jones, who had previously managed some success with dustbin lid-sized bream - a handful of which were over the magical 10lb mark.

"Now, I've never had the privilege of landing a 'double', mainly down to never specifically targeting them. However, it was soon apparent that the Sharnbrook complex offered the perfect opportunity...

"Eager to fish for some big bronze-flanked bream, we

arranged a trip, albeit only a short overnight session. "On arrival I was met with a fairly busy complex, which is unfortunately always the nature of fantastic venues. Midweek, though, I'm told you can get the place to yourself.

"This wasn't a problem, though. Due to the huge expanse of water on the fishery I still had plenty of swims to go at!"

PLENTY OF GROUND BAIT

"I joined Ian on Pit 2, a large gravel pit of some 22 acres, and the scene of his hit of doubles just a year previous.

"As I ventured into his swim, I could see he was busy knocking up groundbait, and lots of it - something that is often crucial for bream success. Pit 2 also boasts the largest number of bream, with fish ranging between 6lb and the mid-teens, dictating that a shoal could easily get through a fair amount of bait.

"Ian and I both decided to target the open water, which is

often a sensible move for bream, as these social creatures love navigating large expanses of water. These being rich gravel pits, they're full of life, and plenty of weed. The green stuff can often be problematic, but a quick chuck with a marker float soon enabled us to locate spots clean enough to present our rigs.

"These spots we primed as accurately as possible with a Spomb. I stuck to a particle approach, with scaled-down carp rigs over the top. Ian deployed groundbait, before presenting Method feeders in the zone.

"I was sure both tactics would produce well in the right spot, but it was Mr Jones who opened the scoring on this trip, with two fish during a short early morning feeding spell. Neither was the monster we had come for, but a fine result in difficult conditions. Both had stunning, deep copper bronze scales that glistened beautifully in the sun as I snapped away with the camera. Big bream are a totally

different animal to their skimmer counterparts!

SPECIMEN FISH, GREAT WILDLIFE

"Talking about the complex on the whole, I must say I was very impressed.

"I've never been a fan of commercial venues, finding naturalistic waters far more appealing, and here I certainly wasn't disappointed. During my relatively short stay, I may not have found bream, but I did witness barn owls quartering the dense wild meadows, grass snakes coursing the margins, red kites soaring above, and an abundance of insect life - this really is a wildlife haven!

"The vast selection of pits here all boast a fantastic mixture of specimen fish, from carp approaching 40lb, to double-figure tench, massive perch, and python-sized eels - so whatever your fancy, you can get your specimen fix.

"If that wasn't enough, the complex is also surrounded by

several brilliant stretches of the formidable Great Ouse, which are noted for specimen chub, barbel and perch. Maybe more on that next time... I'll definitely be heading back!"

LOCATION: Sharnbrook Pits, Moor End Lane, Radwell MK43 7HY

CONTACT: 07506 378748

PRICES: Vauxhall AC (June 16-March 14). Adults £55, concessions £30

RULES: See membership book

VENUE INSIDER

ANGLING TIMES NEWS
EDITOR IAN JONES
SAYS:

"I HAVE been fishing at Sharnbrook for nearly three years now. I love its potential to produce a new personal best of several species.

"I mostly fish Pit 2 for the bream, however, as there's a superb chance of catching a double-figure specimen. This pit can be weedy in places but with a quick lead-around you will soon find the clear patches of silt and gravel, and it's here where you want to be fishing your rigs - ideally 30 yards-plus from the bank.

"I've enjoyed a lot of success by Spombing out balls of groundbait to these clear areas and fishing Method feeders over the top. "On the hook I've found that bunches of dead maggots and sweet, fishmeal boilies get the better results.

"These tactics accounted for my personal-best bream of 11lb 9oz on an earlier trip, and there are bigger fish in there."

WHILE YOU'RE THERE...

Why not pack a short lure rod and a few lures next time you visit Sharnbrook? If the big-fish sport is a bit slow, you can enjoy some great action with the venue's resident perch. Some big fish have been taken in the past.



Two fin-perfect bream for Ian Jones - not doubles, but still very worthwhile fish to catch, and proper stunners!

FREE

AnglingTimes
2 FOR 1
EXCLUSIVE

FISHING VOUCHERS

HOW TO TAKE PART - Cut out the special voucher below, take it to one of the participating fisheries listed in our 2-for-1 scheme and you'll receive two day tickets for the price of one. Enjoy!

TOP VENUE
LANCASHIRE'S ROSEMARY WOOD FISHERY HITTING TOP FORM FOR CATCHES OF CARP AND SILVERS TO WAGGLER TACTICS
PAGE 17

KEEP IT SIMPLE AT LLINGMERE
PAGE 17

BEAT THE 100LB MARK AT FURNACE
PAGE 18

TRY A PVA BAG FOR A BIG CARP
PAGE 20

TARGET THE MARGINS FOR ACTION
PAGE 18

80LB MIXED NETS FALL TO MAGGOTS
PAGE 20

AnglingTimes

FISHING VOUCHER

2 FOR 1

Lingmere Fishery • Risby Park, Beverley • Rosemary Wood Fishery, Ruddy Ponds Fishing Lakes • Saltfleetby Fisheries • Silksworth Lake • Lindholme Lakes • Belvoir Lakes Fishery • Bishops Bowl • Dents of Hilgay • Furnace Mill Fishery • Rysons Lake • Shearsby Valley Lakes • Acorn Carp Fishery • New Claygate Lake • More House Farm Fisheries • Rib Valley Lakes • Todber Manor • Oakley Road Fishery • Lake John Fishery

Valid from Tuesday 26th June until Friday 29th June excludes weekend includes Monday 2nd July.