



Sandwell  
Metropolitan Borough Council

# Fishing Policy



# Introduction

Sandwell Council has 25 water bodies within the borough that are accessible by the public. Many of these sites are popular for Angling.

There are often discrepancies and confusion in the understanding of rules and regulations for fishing on these sites

This policy will remove any previous confusion regarding the rules and regulations and identify what locations angling is permitted.

This policy will identify the cost of fishing and where permits can be purchased.

Angling has been a popular pastime within Sandwell's Green Spaces for many years. This policy will look to balance this, whilst also ensuring future use, other Park users, wildlife and ecology flourish.



# Angling Locations

The following sites listed below are where angling is permitted:

1. West Smethwick Park boating pool, Smethwick
2. Victoria Park Pool, Tipton
3. Dartmouth Park Boating Pool, West Bromwich
4. Dartmouth Park Fishing Pond, West Bromwich
5. Warrens Hall Nature Reserve, Rowley Regis
6. Swan Pool, Sandwell Valley, West Bromwich
7. Hydes Road Pool, Wednesbury
8. Sheepwash Nature Reserve, Tipton

Fishing is not permitted at any other location or waterbody that is not identified in the list above.



# Fees & Charges

The fishing fees are as follows:

Item	Cost
Day/Part Day max 2 rods - all Sandwell waters	£6.80
Day/Part Day max 2 rods - all Sandwell waters - Concessionary Charge	£4.00
Season Ticket - All Sandwell waters	£56.90
Season Ticket - All Sandwell waters - Concessionary Charge	£28.50

Fishing permits will be available to purchase from the following locations:

- Sandwell Council website ([www.sandwell.gov.uk](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk))
- Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre
- West Smethwick Park Pavilion
- Forge Mill Farm Visitor Centre

# Future Pools and Waterbody Development

We will undertake the following to maintain good fishing practices and seek to encourage new participants to use to these sites by committing to the following:

- Maintaining clear access to identified fishing locations
- Identify and mark suitable fishing locations where practically possible
- Work with community groups and other organisations to develop strategies and projects for improved facilities including Fish stock, infrastructure, ecology, wildlife and partnership arrangements
- Work with community groups and other organisations in hosting events and activities that encourage Angling on our Waterbodies
- Work with organisations and community groups to develop volunteer lead activities and events to improve the ecology, waterbody and green space aesthetics.
- Erect signage around fishing pools highlighting the rules and regulations of the fishing policy (Appendix A)
- Make this policy available for download via the Sandwell website
- Identify any improvements or highlight works that will improve Angling as part of the wider programme of works for Green Spaces. As per the following website: <https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/parks-green-spaces/green-spaces>

# Enforcement

Enforcement and periodic permit checks will be undertaken via various Council Officers, including but not limited to the following:

1. Green Spaces Officers
2. Countryside Rangers
3. Environmental Protection Officers
4. Green Service Operatives and Officers
5. Neighbourhood Officers
6. Private Security (when procured for spot checks)

Enforcement or requests for the sight of permits from members of the public, Friends groups or other community groups / clubs is not permitted.

Any suspected breach of rules identified in Appendix A should be reported via the mysandwell portal.

Any breaking of the law or local byelaws should be reported to the Police, ASB team or Environment Agency.



# Ecology, Wildlife and Water Fowl

The rules highlighted within Appendix A seek to enforce good practices in Angling, to ensure no detrimental impact to the fish or accompanying waterfowl.

No Angler is permitted to make alterations, remove or interfere with wildlife, waterfowl or the sites habitat including reed, shrubbery or tree growth.



# Appendix A

## Sandwell Angling Code of Conduct

1. There are national regulations and governing rules relating to where, when and how an angler can carry out his or her pursuit, and these regulations carry heavy penalties if broken.  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-rod-fishing-byelaws-for-england-freshwater-fishing-with-a-rod-and-line>
2. Prior to fishing any water whether private or public, an angler must be in possession of a National Rod Licence from the age of 12 years. This can be purchased via the following link:  
<https://www.gov.uk/fishing-licences>
3. Fishing is only permitted during daylight hours.
4. Do not hold fish with a cloth or stand up and walk whilst holding a fish.
5. Do not abandon line and other fishing equipment.
6. All equipment and litter should be removed when you leave. If line has become entangled in trees or other, and cannot be safely removed, it should be reported immediately to 0121 569 3069 (9am till 4pm all week).
7. Injuries to wildlife or signs of disease in fish should be reported immediately to the relevant agency and via the mysandwell portal.
8. A maximum of two rods can be used to fish at any one time, other rods may be set and not baited or in the water.



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9. Fishing is only permitted in the designated areas. Anyone fishing in non-designated areas will be removed from the site.

10. The use of remote controlled boats or bait boats is not allowed.

11. No dinghies or other boats in conjunction with fishing activities shall be allowed onto the water.

12. The use of surface baits or "live" baits (e.g. small fish is not permitted).

13. Rods shall be attended at all times, and no rods left unattended. Persons leaving rods unattended will be required to leave the water.

14. All anglers must remove litter and discarded line from the peg - failure to co-operate will result in offenders being removed from the site.

15. Only barbless or micro barb hooks may be used. Failure to observe this rule will result in removal from the site.

16. Fires and barbeques are not allowed.

17. Anyone who appears to be under the influence of drink and or drugs shall, at the discretion of Sandwell Council will be removed from the site.

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18.All anglers must be in possession of a current permit or day ticket and must show his/her permit when asked by the Council representatives.

19.Fish care is paramount. Unhooking mats, landing nets and keep nets must be of regulated Environment Agency recommendations.

20.Lead of any description is not allowed.

21.Tin cans that provide bait for fishing is not allowed.

22.All fish must, without exception, be returned to the water. The unauthorised removal of fish will be regarded as theft.

23.No poly ball inserts to be used in pop up baits, cork ball only.

24.No uncooked nut or seed baits will be permitted.

25.Anglers are requested not to obstruct footpaths or restrict access to other park users, poles must be broken down.

26.No bivvys, tents or shelters are to be used at any site unless prior written permission has been granted.

27.When fishing for pike 12lb minimum line and 20lb trace must be used.

28.Night fishing is not allowed on any Council water

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29. Anglers over 8 years of age can fish unaccompanied from dawn to dusk.

30. Anglers under the age of 8 years must be accompanied by an authorised adult. The Council cannot accept responsibility for the safety and conduct of anglers under 18. Children remain the responsibility of their parent/guardians at all times.

31. The Council reserves the right to remove any person for inappropriate behaviour, for example, causing a nuisance or annoyance to other anglers or behaving in such a way which may endanger themselves or others.

32. These rules have been produced to ensure the protection of fish and wildlife is paramount.