

Anglian Water Stocking Policy 2024

We are committed to providing leading trout fisheries at our four centrally located reservoirs, Rutland, Grafham, Pitsford and Ravensthorpe Water's.

We manage our stocking policy by assessing previous season stocking quantities, rod averages, angling pressures and the size of the waterbody. Within the season we regularly reflect on current weather conditions, angling demand, to date rod averages, upcoming events, water levels/temperatures and can adjust stockings accordingly between the four reservoirs.

Last season our associated fish farms delivered excellent quality rainbow and brown trout.

Our 2023 seasonal rod averages were:

Rutland Water 6.08

Grafham Water 5.38

Pitsford Water 6.3

Ravensthorpe Water 4.7

For 2024 we are delighted to be continuing with our 10 year purchasing agreement with UK trout farms. These farms will be supplying the following quantities of rainbow and brown trout at our waters at regular intervals from February 2024.

Rutland Water 71,000

Grafham Water 40,000

Pitsford Water 25,000

Ravensthorpe Water 7,000

Rainbow trout will predominately be stocked at a weight of 750grams and 900grams. Where available, Ravensthorpe Water will be continued to be stocked with some larger rainbow trout into double figures.

Brown trout will to be stocked at 750grams into Rutland, Grafham and Pitsford Water. The 'no kill' on brown trout rule remain in place across all waters to sustain the brown trout for future seasons.

Every year we see fantastic overwintered & grown on trout ranging from 4lb – 10lb+. Grown on brown trout are a particular spectacle especially in October & November at Rutland and Pitsford where these large trout can be caught from the bank & boats. In 2023 we also stocked a small quantity of brown trout into Ravensthorpe to mark the Kings Coronation. These fish are showing to be growing on well and look to provide some superb sport in the future.

Stocking will commence in February 2024, a few weeks before the start of the new season. Regular stockings will then take place throughout the spring and into early summer. We reduce the number of stockings during July and August when typically the weather is at its warmest and as are the reservoir water temperatures. We then increase the stocking frequencies again from September to October to support strong Autumn and Winter fishing. Our fisheries close on 31st January for 4-6 weeks. During this time the boats are taken off the water for maintenance and servicing and the next season pre stocking will commence.

Stocking Locations.

Below are the areas we plan to stock at various times of the year. Considerations when choosing the location include, high or low water levels, ground conditions, water temperatures, previous stocking locations (stocking locations are rotated as much as possible to ensure an even distribution) and any other seasonal factors. The stocking dates are carefully planned throughout the year with our suppliers around competition dates and high summer. Occasionally planned stockings are rescheduled because of stock availability, water temperatures and rod averages.

Rutland	Grafham	Pitsford	Ravensthorpe
Whitwell Creek, Earnies Point, Fantasy Island, Church Bay, Harbour, Sailing Club, New Zealand Point, Green Bank, Old Hall, Half Moon Spinney, Transformer	Fishing Lodge, Pontoon, Sailing Club, Marlow Jetty	Causeway, The Dam, Fishing Lodge Pontoon	Fishing Lodge, Coton Car Park

Despite the price of trout increasing at record levels we are purchasing and stocking the same quantity of trout into our waters. To mitigate some of the increasing costs we are stocking more 750gram trout and less 900gram trout again this year. This will ensure our rod averages remain at an enjoyable, sporting level.

We operate rigorous checks on the trout supplied ensuring the fish are of the correct weight or higher, of good health and condition and free from pests and diseases. Our farmers also follow enforced biosecurity measures to ensure non native invasive species are not spread between waterbodies.

We are continually investing in our angling facilities by purchasing new fishing boats, refurbishing our fishing lodges, catering facilities, pontoons and biosecurity wash down points. We offer beginner fly fishing courses to adults and children and work closely with our local fly fishing clubs to promote the sport we love.

During the 2023 season we introduced the use of an online catch return system alongside an online permit and boat booking system for the convenience of the angler. We plan to build on this system and include online retail over the course of the next year.

We always recommend you keep an eye on our weekly fishing reports throughout the season or telephone one of our four fishing lodges for the latest information.

We wish you all the best for the 2024 fishing season! Tight lines!

Anglian Water Fisheries