



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, or the owner, Tim Dutton, 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 07887 360374.

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 down stream 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.



Generally we prefer you not to wade 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 pot down the right hand wall (looking upstream) just where the brickwork ends.

Garden beat (wading section): 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 and slip into the river.

Wade and fish until you reach a good hatch pool, then climb out on the river and then get back in again immediately above the hatches. 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.



Looking downstream from the mid-point



Behind the Rod Room and garages



Hatch Pool

Upper section (wading): The public footpath runs alongside the river, so we let the fringe grow high, hence the necessity to wade. Slip into the river as soon as you have crossed the bridge above The Mill.



The first one-third of the beat has trees on your right and then a 'tunnel' with trees on both banks; 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 misrepresented 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 out of the river and return to the bottom of the beat via the footpath.

WC

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

Places to Eat

The Hurstbourne, Hurstbourne Priors, RG28 7SE (1.5 miles) – 01256 892000. Good food and has rooms as well.

The Bourne Valley Inn, St Mary Bourne, SP11 6BT (4 miles) – 01264 738361
A stylish country pub with lovely rooms.

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.

Fishing and clothing shops – Stockbridge (13 miles) has Robjents and Orvis.

Places to visit

Beer, wine and food – again Whitchurch.

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" followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line 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 Direct 08 45 46 47

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