



**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, 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.

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 downstream 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.



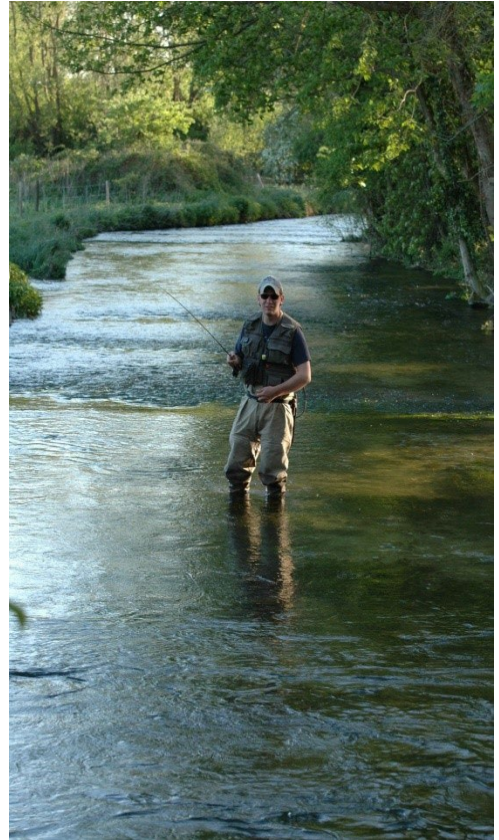


**Side stream:** This is the section that runs behind the Rod Room and is away to your left, mostly hidden by the trees.

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. If you want to fish from the bank cross the bridge but generally wading is best.

Fish until you reach a good sluice pool; if you have been before you will see the new log deflectors. At the pool climb out on the river and then get back in again immediately above the sluices. 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.



**Upper section:** The public footpath that runs alongside the river has been fenced off since 2019. Cross the footpath bridge and enter the river via the padlocked gate (combination 5278). Start to wade from this point or from the middle gate. Exit the river via the top gate and return on the footpath. Gates marked on the beat map.



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If you have fished with us in the past you will immediately notice some improvements that were made by an enthusiastic volunteer team from the Wild Trout Trust and Sparsholt College in the winter of 2018/19. Some of the excessive shading was removed and the woody debris used to create some very effective structures that seem to be popular with both fish and fishers alike.



### **Starting point for wading Upper section**

The first one-third of the beat has trees on your left and right which create a slight tunnel effect; 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 mis-presented fly!



## Fishing hut

The white summer house, in the knot garden just downstream of the car park, is a pleasant place to relax and contains the catch record book. Nothing is provided beyond a table and chairs. There is no WC, but you might ask river keeper to let you into the house.



## Places to Eat & Stay

- **The White Hart (½ mile)** Newbury Street, Whitchurch, RG28 7DN.  
Open all day. Food and rooms. 01256 892900.
- **Watership Down Inn (2 miles)** Priory Lane, Whitchurch, RG28 7NJ.  
Open lunchtimes and evenings Monday to Thursday, all day Friday to Sunday. Best in the area. 01256 892254.
- **The Bourne Valley Inn (5 miles)** St Mary Bourne, Andover, SP11 6BT  
Country pub with rooms. Open all day. 01264 738361.
- **Whitchurch (½ mile)** Plenty of choices with a hotel, pubs, restaurants, cafe and plenty more.

## Local stores

- **Tesco Express (½ mile)** 25 Winchester Street, Whitchurch, RG28 7AH  
Open every day 7am to 10pm. 0345 026 9405.
- Fishing and clothing shops – Stockbridge (13 miles) has Robjents and Orvis.
- Beer, wine and food – Whitchurch has a range of shops.

## Places to visit

- **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. Closed Mondays.
- **The Vyne, Basingstoke** – a premier National Trust property. Admission charge. 7 miles.
- **Bombay Sapphire Distillery** - Laverstoke Mill, Whitchurch, Hampshire, RG28 7NR. 3 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". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

**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**

Emergency 111

**Lloyds Chemist**

7 Newbury St, Whitchurch, RG28 7DW