



# Angler's Terms & Conditions 2024/2025

## Hampton Court Home Park & Bushy Park

Thank you for your interest in the Hampton Court Palace Fishing licence. Hampton Court Palace works with the Royal Parks and Metropolitan Police Service to create terms and conditions in line with The Park Regulations Act 1872, 1926 and The Royal Parks and Other Open Spaces Regulations 1997.

**Fishing any waters during the closed season; between 15th March and the 15th June is prohibited.**

You should keep a copy of these regulations with you at all times when in fishing on our grounds. Fishing in the following waters and only between the times specified below.

Home Park	Bushy Park
(The Long Water and Rick Pond)	(Heron Pond & Leg of Mutton)
October to March 07.00-18.30	Fishing will be permitted during the period that the Vehicle Gates are open. These times change through the fishing season, so please check times on the gates.
April to September 07.00-20.00	

For the Rick Pond no fishing is permitted on a Wednesday and Sunday during this period and also on several Saturdays during the Model Boat Club racing season.

### Terms and Conditions

The permit holder may only fish in waters specified in this document and must be in possession of a valid Hampton Court Palace Fishing Permit and Environment Agency rod fishing licence. Both items should be produced when required by an authorised person.

Children under the age of 9 years are able to fish without a permit but must be accompanied by an adult permit holder at all times. Children aged 10-12 years must have a valid Junior Hampton Court Palace Fishing Permit but do not require an EA licence. Children aged 13-16 years must have a valid Junior Hampton Court Palace Fishing Permit and an EA Junior rod fishing licence. Children 16 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

Fishing without an EA licence, can result in a fine of up to £2,500 and a criminal record.

Failure to produce a permit and licence once fishing is an endorsable offence. Breaches of conditions will result in permits being endorsed. A permit may be endorsed twice and each endorsement remains on a licence for 18 months from the date issued. Any further breach of conditions or Park Regulations will result in the permit being confiscated and cancelled. The holder will be banned for a fixed period after investigation by the relevant parties. Altering or transferring a permit to another person will result in forfeiture. Persons found fishing in the Boating Pond in Bushy Park or any other areas not specified above will receive a permanent ban. Historic Royal Palaces and The Royal Parks offer an appeals process with regards to endorsements, cancelled permits or in the event of a ban being issued. Contact details can be found at the end of this document.

Any alcohol, solvent or drug abuse will not be tolerated and anyone found under the influence will be banned.

During the Royal Horticultural Society Flower Show, no fishing is allowed above the RHS fence and water pipe. It is also not permitted to cast over the RHS water pipe into the Long Water the other side.

All rubbish should be removed from the Parks.

We are dedicated to protecting the land in our care, as well as the people that enjoy the parks and animals that make it their home. In order to ensure this, we ask that all fishing permit holders ensure they adhere to the following terms. Failure to do so can put everyone at risk and result in the confiscation of your permit.

**All anglers must:**

- Use safe non-tether rigs, a suitably sized landing net and unhooking mat is compulsory to protect fish while they are out of the water. The mat must be able to protect a fish up to 40lbs in weight so it doesn't come into contact with the ground. And use a disgorger or forceps to prevent damage.
- Only use particle baits that have been prepared by the manufacturer and labelled as such and are limited to a maximum of 1kg of ground bait, free fed boilies or particle baits in anyone fishing session.
- Fishing in the Diana Fountain in Bushy Park is prohibited.
- Anglers must be prepared to reel in and present any fishing rig in use to a designated official for inspection upon request.
- Return all fish to the water in a safe and responsible manner.
- If you find any dead, injured or diseased fish or notice any wildlife in danger, please contact Hampton Court Palace Control on 0203 166 6599 or, if in Bushy Park, The Stock Yard on 0300 061 2250.
- The use of umbrellas, shelters and bivouacs are permitted and should be attended and secured at all times.

**Permit holders are reminded that careless actions can cause injury to birds and other wildlife. As such, we ask that anglers:**

- Discard fishing lines and hooks in an appropriate manner and remove all rubbish from the Parks.
- Lead shot fishing weights from size 8 to size 14 can be used. Split shot must be non-lead. Please beware that dust shot (size 8 and smaller) are toxic to birds if ingested. Spill proof containers for lead dust shot must be used and disposal of used lead should be carried out safely off site.

**Use of the following equipment is prohibited while within the park's grounds**

- Dead lines
- Net fishing
- Foul hooking
- Snatching
- Snaring
- Lead weights
- Bait boats
- Keep nets/Sacking
- Tents
- Barbed hooks (inc. micro barbs).
- Or any other device which would prevent the return of the fish to the water in an uninjured condition.

**Anglers are also not permitted to do any of the following:**

- Use the 'One More Cast Magic Twig' which is prohibited.
- Leave rods unattended (over a distance of 10 meters or more) at any time, whether baited or not.
- Introduce any live fish of any species into the park's waters.
- Spinning, plugging and the fishing of Pike before 1st October.
- Fish in the Rick Pond on Wednesdays or Sundays as it is used by the Model Boat Club.
- Use live bait for pike or any other species.
- Fishing from any bridges, structures or islands, including boats and punts.
- Fish in the roped off area at the bottom of the Long Water.

- Have naked flames of any kind including barbeques, fires, stoves and cookers in the grounds.
- Park their vehicle in any part of Home Park including the Hampton Court Palace Golf Club car park.
- Removing fish from waters of the parks, including moving or introducing fish from one pond or watercourse to another or releasing fish taken from sites outside of Home Park or Bushy Park.
- Fish at night. This will result in a life ban.
- Wade and/or swim in any of the waterways. Adult permit holders may, at their own discretion and risk, enter the shallow margins of the water up to 0.5meter in order to land fish in exceptional circumstances however, they are advised to assess the risk before entering the water and ideally seek assistance where possible.

### **Fishing etiquette**

- Please be considerate of other anglers at all times
- First come, first served at a fishing swim must be respected
- Do not fish opposite another angler and cast over his lines
- Set up at least fifteen metres from other anglers

Anglers must abide by any reasonable direction given by an employee of the Royal Parks, Historic Royal Palaces, Environment Agency and the Metropolitan Police Service. Anglers must abide by the Environment Agency Byelaws and Royal Parks Regulations cited above. Offenders will be reported with a view to prosecution in a magistrate's court. Serious breaches of these Environment Agency Byelaws and Royal Parks Regulations may result in the Environment Agency Licence being seized along with any fishing equipment present. In accordance with Parks Regulations 3, sub section 2, anglers found pre-season baiting will be reported and face automatic disqualification for the remainder of the season.

These terms and conditions are subject to change without prior notice.

If you have any further enquiries, please contact the Fishing Permit Office by email at [fishing@hrp.org.uk](mailto:fishing@hrp.org.uk)