

BIRCH GROVE

RULES AND CONDITIONS 2014

Sorry to make rules, but they are here to ensure that everyone who fishes the water and uses the lodge enjoys their stay.

1. You and your party have the exclusive use of Birch Grove from 1.00 p.m. on the Sunday of arrival to noon on the Sunday at the end of your week. Please ensure that you vacate the water by noon at the latest on the Sunday of departure.
2. If the following week's party hasn't arrived before you depart please lock the lodge and leave the keys on the hook above the door in the outside toilet which is round the back of the lodge.
3. A maximum of four anglers can fish the water. A maximum of one non-angling guest per angler is permitted without extra charge.
4. If any problems arise during your stay please contact Ellis Brazier on his mobile number 07977 150024. Alternatively speak to the Gwilts who live in the house at the top of Birch Grove, or ring Pip Dean on 0114 258 0812, Ext 217.
5. Please leave the lake and the lodge clean and tidy and take all your rubbish and any unused food home with you. If you find the lodge or the lake in a mess then please let us know straightaway so we can take the matter up with the previous week's party. Please be aware that we do not have cleaners at the cabin so it is down to yourself to leave the lodge clean and tidy.
6. In terms of the fishing we ask for common sense and an adherence to our few rules, which are as follows:
7. The use of all nuts is strictly forbidden.
8. If you leave the swim then please reel in. Birch is a snaggy water and unattended runs can result in fish caught up in snags and loose line, which can cause tethering. Anyone caught breaking the unattended rods or nuts rules will be asked to leave the water, without refund, and won't be allowed back on.
9. If you cast into a tree, as we can all do on occasion, then please go out in the boat to retrieve your tackle. Pulling for a break can result in trailing line.
10. Most of us who fish the Birch far margins regularly do so from a rock-solid rod-set, fishing locked-up. This minimises the chances of the fish getting caught up in snags. If you do fish locked-up then make sure the rods can't be pulled in!
11. The boats can be used for baiting up, but no rowed-out hookbaits please. Remote control boats are now allowed on the water.
12. If you choose to use the boats then you do so at your own risk. Birch is a deep water and we strongly recommend the use of lifejackets when you use a boat. There is a lifejacket in the cabin, if you use, this please return it to the cabin after use.
13. The Environment Agency rod limit of two rods per licence applies to Birch. To fish more than two rods you must be in possession of two EA licences. The national rod limit of four rods applies to Birch Grove.
14. If you are good enough, or fortunate enough, to catch one of the venue's thirty-pound plus carp then we would appreciate pictures to add to the picture gallery we are creating. Ellis Brazier is willing to call down and take pictures if any of you feel you don't have adequate photographic equipment, but please only call Ellis out for a significant capture.
15. All Swims now have wooden platforms, in order to preserve the life span of the platforms please do not drill into them. Please ensure that you take a rod pod to ensure the boards remain in good condition. Please be aware the swims can become slippery underfoot in wet weather.
16. As a result of the gate being left open by visitors we no longer have the privilege of bivvying on the far bank, or accessing the far bank swim by land. If you wish to day fish from the platform on the far bank then you can access it by boat and fish from the platform itself, but it is not big enough to take a bivvy.
17. Robert Gwilt and family live in the white house at the top of the slope. For this reason there is no bivvying allowed in the area known as the cattle drink immediately in front of the house. We would also ask visitors to keep noise to a minimum, particularly at night, to avoid disturbing Robert and family.
18. Rubbish Disposal – at the top of the drive next to gate, there are two bins which are for Birch Grove visitors to use. We keep the bins at the top of the drive to ensure that the bins are collected regularly and bin collection day is not missed.
19. New visitors might like to know that there is now a well-stocked Spar shop in Baschurch, next to the Gwilts' garage and a fantastic Chinese takeaway immediate left just over the train crossing.

Birch Grove is approximately five acres in size and features a smooth, silty bottom, bloodworm beds, overhanging trees, lily pads, reedbeds, and deep margins. The water is around 13ft deep with deep margins sprinkled with lily beds and overhanging trees. The pool houses four comfortable pegs, comprising of the Caravan Swim, the Compound (often used as a double swim to ensure the lake is fished efficiently) the Helipad and the Main boards. Birch can be fished by a maximum of four people at any one time. In addition there is a small stalking swim, known as Tags Swim at the far end of the lake.

Please enjoy your stay and leave the water and the amenities as you would hope to find them. Thanks for booking Birch Grove, we hope you have a wonderful trip.

Tim Paisley, Philippa Dean and Jemima Musson.