

BIRCH GROVE

RULES AND CONDITIONS 2010

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 swims by noon on the Sunday of departure at the latest.
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.
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, speak to the Gwilts, ring Philippa Dean of Angling Publications on 0114 2580812, Ext 208. or ring John Lilley on his mobile number, 07946 536218. John built the lodge and understands its workings better than anyone. If the electricity goes off then get in touch with Robert Gwilt straight away. There is a cut-off switch in his house, and another one in the lodge. Ellis is a fireman so you may not be able to contact him straightaway, but he will call down as soon as possible.
5. It is difficult for us to monitor the gas supply to the shower and the cooker. If the gas supply to either of these appliances runs out please replace the bottle, send us the receipt. We will refund you by return post. The nearest place that supplies Calor Butane gas is the garage on the way into Wem, or the caravan park the other side of Wem.
6. As a result of reaching agreement with Tim Kent, the farmer who owns the land round the far bank of Birch, we have been able to resume fishing from one swim on the far bank. Access to the swim is by boat or over the footbridge and via the track through the copse. Anglers can go beyond the designated far-bank swim to bait up, but there is strictly no fishing beyond the swim area. This rule is to preserve the Gwilts' privacy, so please respect this stipulation.
7. Please leave the lake and the lodge clean and tidy and take all your rubbish home with you. If you find the lodge or the lake in a mess then please let us know straight away so we can take the matter up with the previous week's party.
8. We have done some landscaping and shrub and tree planting over the last two years. Please try to avoid damaging the new plants.
9. The wheelie bins are corporation ones and should be left at the top of the track on Wednesday morning for collection. Please check the information folder regarding the use of the bins, and check with Robert Gwilt as to the precise collection day, which may be subject to change.
10. In terms of the fishing we ask for common sense and an adherence to our few rules, which are as follows:
11. The use of all nuts is strictly forbidden.
12. 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.
13. If you cast into a tree, as we all do on occasion, then please go out in the boat to retrieve your tackle. Pulling for a break can result in trailing line.
14. Most of us who fish Birch 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!
15. The boats can be used for baiting up, but no rowed-out hookbaits please. Remote control boats are now allowed on the water.
16. 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.
17. The Environment Agency rod limit of four rods applies to Birch. To fish more than two rods you must be in possession of two EA licences.
18. 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.
19. 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 stay in good condition.

We have built the lodge, changed the lodge area and created the new swim to make fishing the water as enjoyable as possible. Please enjoy your stay and leave the water and the amenities as you would hope to find them. The venue will be inspected each Sunday to ensure that the facilities are as they should be for the incoming party. Thanks for booking and fishing Birch Grove.

Tim Paisley, Philippa Dean and Jemima Musson.