OAK LAKES FISHERIES – HEALTH & SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT

POLICY NOTICE

Oak Lakes Fisheries have a responsibility to make our Pipe Lake members, Oak Lake and Predator Lake anglers, and all others who visit the fishery aware of the risks they may face whilst on our land. Fishery management team is made up of the owners and appointed bailiffs.

FISHERY MANAGEMENT

Our policy is to ensure that: -

- the Risk Assessment has been issued to all members and is available to the public on site.
- our lakes are monitored to stop any persons who act in an unsafe manner and who could cause harm or injury to themselves or others.
- members of the public are aware of the risks they may face so they should read and understand this assessment.

GENERAL RISKS

KNOW YOUR LOCATION

- The fishery post code is CM0 7BJ.
- The what3words location of the main car park is ///spires.helpfully.vine

FISHERY ACCESS

Access is via the main entrance on Burnham Road. Please enter and leave the fishery carefully as the entrance onto the public highway is on a sharp bend with some limited visibility.

CCTV

CCTV cameras are there to add a level of security. They are managed by the fishery management team to act as a deterrence and cover: -

- Fish theft/poaching.
- Trespass and anti-social behaviour.
- Theft from the bank.

ROADS & VEHICLES

- All drivers must keep to the 5-mph speed limit shown on our road signs.
- Drivers must only use the designated driving areas and car parks.
- Be aware of traffic.
- Be aware of pedestrians.

ELECTRIC FENCES

Do not touch the electric fences that border the fields with horses.

MACHINERY, EQUIPMENT & TOOLS

Only fishery management can use these. Stay away from any works being carried out.

BOATS

Only fishery management can use these. Fishery management will only use them in daylight hours.

TOILETS & SHOWERS

Separate gents and ladies' facilities are in the main car park. Be aware that the floors can become wet and slippery. There is a step to and from the facilities so be careful entering and leaving. Be aware that hot water could burn if not used correctly.

DISEASES

Weil's disease is transmitted in rat urine. Wash your hands before eating, and after touching wet line or equipment. Other bacteria may be present in animal droppings. Take necessary precautions.

WEATHER

- Cover up when in the sun to avoid sunburn or sunstroke. Drink fluids to keep hydrated.
- Wear suitable clothing in the cold weather. Use a bivvy or shelter. Drink hot drinks. Keep warm.

LIGHTNING

It is advisable to avoid fishing during a storm, as rods can make good lightning conductors. Also to move away from trees at such times.

TREES

Trees can be unsafe, especially in windy conditions.

- Beware of trees or branches falling.
- Do not climb trees or attempt to cut or remove branches.

PATHS, BANKS AND PONTOONS

- Paths can be uneven and banks can be dangerous, especially near the lakes themselves.
- Please keep to the paths. Take extra care when wet or icy as paths can be slippery.
- Be aware of the banks. Some banks can be steep, and some banks may subside in certain conditions.
- Be very careful descending the path on the far side of Oak Lake towards swims 20 to 26. Be aware of very deep water in 25 and 26.
- Be careful crossing the wooden pontoon on the far side of Oak Lake that leads to swims 20 to 26. The handrails are there provide safe crossing.

FALLING INTO WATER

Life buoys are available around the lakes to be used as rescue devices. Swimming is not allowed.

ANIMALS

You may encounter: -

- muntjac deer, badgers, foxes, rabbits, rats, cats and other animals. It is advisable to leave them alone.
- Oak Lakes Fishery is home to bees. The bee hives are located away from the lakes and managed by a local beekeeper.

JUNIORS

Children under the age of 16 years old, must always be accompanied by an adult acting in a supervisory capacity.

ANGLING RISKS

NIGHT FISHING

Hazards at night are increased so: -

- set up your bivvy in daylight hours so you are aware of your surroundings.
- Carry a torch and wear a headtorch.
- Do not run.
- Do not leave your rods unattended.
- Make sure family/friends know where you are fishing.
- Keep a mobile phone charged up for use in an emergency.

CASTING

- Be careful casting, you could injure yourself.
- Be aware of people all around you (i.e. behind, next to or opposite). Weights and tackle could cause serious injury to others

OBSTACLES WHEN CASTING

If you get your tackle stuck in trees, branches, bushes or any other form of undergrowth, be very careful if you try to release it. Releasing can cause injury to yourself or others. It is recommended that you contact fishery management in such events.

HOOKS

Be careful when casting, tying hooks or unhooking fish. Barbless or micro barb hooks reduce the risks. Always carry wire cutters.

SHARP EQUIPMENT

All such items are to be used by anglers at their own risk. This includes but is not limited to knives, hooks, baiting needles and scissors.

BIVVY HEATERS

Bivvy heaters carry the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

- Ensure adequate ventilation.
- Never leave a heater on whilst sleeping.
- Keep heaters away from flammable bivvy fabrics.
- Never leave a heater unattended.
- It is recommended that alternatives such as bivvy overwraps, 5-season sleeping systems and hot water bottles are used instead.

FIRES, BBQ's & COOKING

- Never cook inside a bivvy.
- Use low to the ground cookers.
- The best fuel to use is gas.
- Always ensure you turn off cookers properly and allow to cool completely.
- Pack up all foods, waste, and packaging so you do not attract rodents, birds etc.
- Do not use open fires or disposable BBQs.

GENERAL NOTE

Whilst the fishery management team at Oak Lakes Fisheries takes the health and safety of its members and visitors seriously, it is the responsibility of all at the fishery to always act in a responsible manner.

If you see anything that causes you concern, please report it to us. Owners and bailiffs live on-site. Emergency mobile numbers are displayed on the signs in the main car park.

All anglers must abide by the lakes' rules.