



Members Update
Wednesday, 5th November, 2025

Angling at Wingerworth Lido: WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW!



Dear Member

We are writing to all Angling Trust members and member clubs in the Derbyshire area to request your urgent support to overturn an angling ban at a much loved local water. Even if you've never fished at Wingerworth it's vitally important that we win this battle. We can't allow wildlife groups to get away with claiming that our sport is incompatible with nature reserves. Once that happens, angling clubs could start losing waters the length and breadth of the country.

There is a public consultation now open to which we need every local angler and angling club to respond by the deadline of 23rd November.

As you may be aware, earlier this year North East Derbyshire District Council (NEDDC) decided to terminate the lease held by Clay Cross Angling Association on Wingerworth Lido (aka Smithy's Pond) for over 25 years. Some individuals tried to suggest angling was somehow problematic on a wildlife site which we have subsequently demonstrated was complete nonsense.

The ban triggered a vigorous campaign to save angling on the Lido and a well supported petition promoted by local angler James Duffy that made national headlines.

The Angling Trust has been working with the club and the Environment Agency to demonstrate to the Council that their objective in creating a local nature reserve or 'biodiversity hub' is in no way incompatible with retaining angling on the site. In fact, the Angling Trust has provided them with many examples from across the country of good joint working between angling clubs and local Wildlife Trusts including here in Derbyshire.

On 22nd September, North East Derbyshire District Council agreed to formally review the previous decision which had led to an angling ban and the eviction of Clay Cross Angling Society.

[**You can read this decision here: Angling ban goes back to drawing board**](#)

The issue has now gone out to public consultation and we are asking all of our members and supporters in the region to complete and return the online survey before the deadline of 23rd November. It only takes five minutes and there are some separate boxes to indicate your support for fishing which we would ask you to tick.

How to respond:

The **online consultation** is available below. Just click the link, complete the survey and submit by the deadline of 23rd November.

[**Click here for Online Consultation**](#)

Written representations can be sent to governance@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk by the deadline of 23rd November.

Local residents can also attend a **drop-in session** on Wednesday, 12th November, 3pm–7pm at the Council Offices, Mill Lane to show their support for angling.

Other points to make:

- The club has worked hard to improve biodiversity and water quality, create a healthy and vibrant environment for fish and wildlife, deal with public nuisances including litter, drug taking and anti-social behaviour and provide a much valued recreational fishery where local people can enjoy an important connection with nature.
- Years ago the Lido was choked with weed, had problems with algae blooms and unauthorised fishing and littering, and was becoming unattractive as a community resource. Clay Cross Angling Association has assisted in the management of the lake drawing on advice from the Environment Agency and fishery specialists.
- The Lido now delivers safe, affordable angling for all ages and has introduced many young people to both fishing and a broader appreciation of nature.
- However, without a properly managed angling presence, on site experience has shown that public access waters like Wingerworth become vulnerable to poaching and anti-social behaviour.

Once you have completed the survey, please circulate this message to your fishing friends, asking them to respond to the consultation.

We have made great progress in the campaign to get fishing back on Wingerworth Lido and this consultation is the opportunity for the angling community to come together and stand up for our right to fish. **We need to stick together on this one - it could be your water next!**

**Many thanks,
Jamie Cook,
CEO - Angling Trust and Fish Legal.**