GOFISHING GREAT NEW SECTION

ALL NEW

A LITTLE PIECE OF... ZANDER HEAVEN

Bury Hill Fishery, near Dorking, Surrey

HOW many commercial fisheries out there can boast a lake that holds around 100 double-figure zander? Well, Bury Hill Fishery can.

The predator season is well and truly up and running at this idyllic Surrey-based complex, which was proved earlier this month when it produced a huge 'zed' that tipped the scales at 14lb 8oz.

This is a truly exceptional specimen by any standards, but when there's a tinge of colour in the water, the runs come thick and fast at Bury Hill, and the captures of hundreds of double-figure fish are reported every winter.

Anglers visiting this four-lake complex aren't just sitting it out for big fish, either, because there are thousands of smaller fish to keep you busy all day, plus huge numbers of pike to over 30lb.

All these fish reside in the beautiful 12-acre Old Bury Hill Lake, which is arguably the best predator fishery in the country. Anglers can either target the huge stocks from the bank or fish from the boats available for daily hire.

The resident pike and zander are tempted on a variety of float and legering tactics, and small roach deadbaits are the favourite for the big zander.

Not only does Bury Hill offer first-class facilities, but anglers also have the option of expert tuition as part of the Pro Fish Courses. These popular events have been running for over 15 years.

Eric Bailey is the predator expert at the fishery, and he was instrumental in the original stocking of zander at Bury Hill three decades ago and has since caught 300 double-figure fish.

This week Angling Times asked him to give you a guide to predator fishing on Old Bury Hill.

BURY HILL FISHERY FACTFILE

Location: near Dorking, Surrey
Species: Zander, pike, carp, tench, bream, roach, perch
Facilities: Tackle shop, café, angling tuition, disabled facilities, tackle hire
Day ticket prices: £11.50 per day, £8.50 for concessions
Contact: 01306 883621, www.buryhillfisheries.co.uk

THIS is the average stamp of zander on offer at Old Bury Hill.

OLD BURY HILL LAKE

1 THE FRONT BANK: This is always a hotspot for zander at this time of the year, and the best pegs are 14 and 15 because they will produce double-figure specimens.

Legering is the most effective method here, since you need to get your bait out as far as you can. This doesn't mean you have to use big heavy leads, though, because zander hate resistance – that's why you should use a lead that's no heavier than 1oz. Ensure, too, that it's part of a free-running rig.

Use no less than a 10lb mainline, and a wire trace that's around 14ins in length.

The best hookbaits by far are roach of around 4ins, and you should mount these with a size 10 barbless treble in the head and a single barbless size 6 carp hook in the root of the tail. This area holds loads of fish in the 7lb to 8lb bracket.

2 THE LONG BANK: If you like floatfishing, then this is the spot for you and pegs 38 to 40 down by the big oak tree are the favourites among the anglers after really big zander.

You know you're in for a few fish when the water is coloured, the wind is blowing into your face and you don't have to fish that far out at all.

Use a simple light float rig with a small Fox or Middy pencil float that's allowed to slide on the line and stopped at the correct depth with a stopknot.

Fish as light a float as you can get away with. Small roach are the best baits, but they must be purchased on site and never brought on to the fishery.

Sea baits such as smelt also work very well here, and they will also pick up pike during the day.

FACTFILE

Size: 12 acres
Pegs: 75
Species: Zander, pike, specimen carp, tench, bream

2-FOR-1 TICKETS AT THIS FISHERY –SEE P30

TEMPLE LAKE

5 A luxurious lake that boasts purpose-built swims to accommodate any type of bivvy, and a stock of true British carp (pictured above) that run to 40lb.

The Temple Lake is strictly for members only, so for more information call the fishery or visit the venue's website.

FACTFILE

Pegs: 15
Species: Carp, with more than 90 fish over 20lb and 12 different thirties

SPONSORED BY
HARDY & GREYS
HARDY
ALNWICK | ENGLAND

HARDY MARKSMAN ROD RANGE
The Ultralite 10ft Bomb rod is ideal in tight swims and when baits need to be nailed hard to the bottom. Ideal for small feeders, this fabulous rod will show every little knock on your rig thanks to its super sensitive tips.

SOUTH

WE REVEAL THE PLACE TO BE TO CATCH THE PREDATOR OF A LIFETIME, PLUS THE LATEST PROSPECTS FOR DAY-TICKET STILLWATERS AND RIVER FISHERIES

MILTON LAKE

3 In the warmer months pleasure weights are taken in excess of 250lb, but at this time of the year 50lb nets of silverfish are still possible.

The pole, fished close in with maggots and casters, is the favourite method for roach and perch, and crucians also feed well closer in, so try a soft hooker pellet or a grain of corn. The feeder or straight lead with big baits are best for carp that run to over 20lb.

FACTFILE

Pegs: 30
Species: Tench, crucians, carp, roach, rudd, perch, perch

BONDS LAKE

4 This is the fishery's match venue and is packed with the huge stocks of small carp in the 3lb to 4lb bracket that helped make up the current three-hour match record. This still stands at an impressive 141lb.

At this time of the year the silverfish also feature heavily in catches, but the small carp will feed in even the most bitter conditions.

FACTFILE

Pegs: 20
Species: Carp, tench, roach, rudd, bream

DIRECTORY OF FISHERIES NEAR YOU SOUTH

SPONSORED BY HARDY & GREYS

TOP 50

WHITEMOOR LAKES, HOLT, DORSET

TOP TIP: Try soft pellet on the pole or waggler **TEL:** 01202 884478

BEST AREAS: Pegs 8 and 9 for carp, pegs 2, 3, 15 and 16 for silvers **BAITS:** Soft pellet, meat, maggot and corn **FISH:** Carp and mixed silvers
TACTICS: Soft pellet on the pole or the waggler is best for carp, while maggots are best for silvers

White Acres, Pollawyn, Cornwall	Twin Oaks is fishing well, with nets of carp over 80lb on the pellet waggler	Pegs 10 to 14	0870 4445590
Monk Lakes, Marden, Kent	Bridges is most productive, with carp to 24lb on fruit boilies and mixed nets to 50lb on maggots	Middle to lower end best	01622 833332
Rockells Farm, Essex	Catching small carp and silverfish on polefished maggots	Pegs on the wind	01763 838053
Slough House Lakes, Essex	Matches being won with 34lb nets of silverfish, and catfish over 50lb taken	Middle of left bank best	01708 477834
Birds Green Fishery, Ongar, Essex	Head for the Bottom Lake for mixed nets and carp to double figures on maggots or pop-ups	Pegs around the reeds	01277 899645
Newland Hall, Essex	Keep out of the wind and you'll catch small carp and silverfish on maggots	Try the sheltered pegs on Moat	01245 231463
New Barn Farm, Paignton, Devon	Mirror is the top venue, producing carp to over 26lb on maggots and pineapple boilies	Pegs 1, 4, 7, 9	01803 553602
Rayne Lodge, Braintree, Essex	Carp up-in-the-water or in the margins if it's warm. Try corn, meat and soft pellet to catch	Top Lake peg 4, all Middle Lake	01376 345719
Witherington Farm, Salisbury, Wilts	Barnmoor Lake producing carp to 21lb 5oz on corn and Peperami	Pegs in the bottom corner	01722 711616
Framfield, Uckfield, Sussex	Head for Spring Lake for big nets of carp on corn and pellets on the bomb or feeder	Head to pegs in the 50s	07798 751175
Wylands Farm, Sussex	House Lake producing double-figure carp on popped-up boilies	Pegs 16 to 18	01424 893394
Anglers Paradise, Halwill, Devon,	Easy Access Lake is the place to be for big carp, so try boilies		01409 221559
Rookley Park Lake, Isle of Wight	The small lake stil fishing well. Plenty of perch, roach, rudd and gudgeon to floatfished maggot		01983 721675
A12 Cuton Lakes, Chelmsford, Essex	Specimen and Match lakes fishing well for carp on the feeder with white maggots	Follow th wind to find the fish	07946 847703
Puddledock Farm, Upminster, Essex	Try particle baits on the Specimen Lake, soft pellet and maggot for smaller fish elsewhere		07788 716837
Blacks Pond, Aldermaston, Berks	Fishing well for roach on maggots and casters		0118 9701533
New Barn Farm, Paignton, Devon	Lots of double-figure carp being caught by anglers casting around with small baits and PVA bags		01803 553602

GLOUCESTER PARK, BASILDON, ESSEX

TOP TIP: Use casters on the hook for roach to over 1lb **TEL:** 01268 282317

BEST AREAS: Pegs on the Cockle Bank or near the sluice **BAITS:** Casters, corn, pellets, maggots **FISH:** Carp, bream, roach, tench, rudd, chub and perch
TACTICS: Feederfished corn is the best tactic for carp and bream.

Longmoor Farm, Wokingham, Berks	Lots of carp being caught on floatfished corn	Pegs 7 to 10	01189 762443
Marsh Farm, Godalming, Surrey	Mixed nets being baught on the waggler with red maggots		01483 422791
Stafford Moor, Winkleigh, Devon	Tanners Lake is best for nets of carp up to 100lb on the waggler or straight lead	Pegs 30 to 36	01805 804360
Royal Berks Fisheries, Windsor, Berks,	Still producing consistent sport for those fishing maggots or corn	Fish tight to the islands	07976 967976
Willinghurst Fishery, Guildford, Surrey	Maggots, corn and pellets are accounting for carp match weights to over 60lb	Island pegs on Oak Tree	07741 88760
R Blackwater, Shepperds Meadow, Hants	Nets of chub and roach to be had on maggots and casters	Upstream of the car park	01252 614066
Church Farm Fishery, Yateley, Hants	Lake 1 is best for carp to over 20lb	Pegs on the wind	01252 614066
Padworth Canal, Reading	Big perch to over 2lb on chopped worm and casters.	All pegs are producing well	0118 9701533
River Kennet, Upper Benyons, Reading	Big barbel to over 13lb being caught on smelly baits like meat and halibut pellets		0118 9701533
Town Parks Fishing, Paignton, Devon	The Top Lake is best, with anglers catching over 35lb of roach to over 3lb on maggots	Top swims are 5, 7, 16, and 18	01803 523133
Lakeside Park, Ash Vale	The pike fishing is coming into its own with lure fishing or floatfished deadbaits best	Peg 3 or 35 to 39	01252 679414
Lake John, Essex	Match weights to over 30lb of silverfish. The best method is pole with red maggots over groundbait	Pegs on the wind	07958 938153
Hartleylands Farm, Cranbrook, Kent	All lakes producing carp and skimmers in the margins on corn over groundbait	Reservoir's 26 to 28	07710 538505
Chilham Match Lake, Mid Kent Fisheries	Mixed nets up to 80lb on the pole with maggots and casters	Fish the 70s	01227 730668
Hungerford Lake, Nutfield, Surrey	Lots of carp being caught in nets to over 100lb on a simple feeder with maggots	Pick of the pegs is 7	07761 959449
Stone End Farm Fishery, Corse, Glos	50lb of carp is possible on maggots fished on the pole or waggler	House Pool is the best	07887 673721

WHITE SPRING LAKES, SWANSEA, SOUTH WALES

TOP TIP: Feed and fish pellets for carp and bream **TEL:** 01792 885699

BEST AREAS: All lakes fishing well, but head for the Match Lake for nets over 60lb **BAITS:** Pellets **FISH:** Bream, carp, tench, roach, barbel, orfe, chub
TACTICS: The pole is the best bet

The Fennes Fishery, Braintree, Essex	Ashground is the favourite for nets of skimmers, bream and carp on maggots, corn and pellets	Pegs 12 to 18	01376 323285
Colemans Cottage, Witham, Essex	Head for Wood Lake for 80lb weights of carp on a straight lead with corn	Pegs near the end bay are best	01376 516383
Gold Valley, Surrey, Hants	Syndicate is producing nets well over 100lb to those fishing a straight lead with corn at 18m		01252 336333
Ivy House Lakes, W'tton Bassett, Wilts	The Big Lake is on form for roach, bream and the odd carp on maggots, pellets and corn	Pegs on the back of the wind	01666 510368
Willow Park, Ash Vale, Hants	The Middle Lake is fishing well for mixed nets to 50lb to those fishing the pole and the feeder	Hotspot is pegs 15 to 18	01252 325867
Viaduct Fishery, Somerton, Somerset	Corn is the best bait for carp on all lakes, with big fish to be taken in the margins		01458 274022
Suffolk Water Park, Suffolk	The Big Fish lake is producing brilliant pike sport on floatfished deadbaits		01473 832327
Llyn-y-Gors, Anglesey	Carp to 15lb being taken from the Old Carp Lake on fruit-flavoured boilies	Area known as the 'Backs'	01248 713410
Beaver Fishery, Lingfield, Surrey	Match Lake producing mixed bags to double figures. Big pike and carp also showing		07710 656041
Tyler Hill Coarse Fishery, Tyler Hill	Bream and roach are feeding well, and the best method is the feeder or pole with red maggots	Fish the deeper water	01227 760574
Buchan Park, Crawley, West Sussex	Big weights of bream and silverfish are being caught on a daily basis, so try red maggots		01923 467064
Holgan Farm, Wales	The waggler fished overdepth is still the killer method on the Carp Lake	All pegs capable of 50lb-plus	07796 517586

COTTINGHAM LAKES, DEAL, KENT

TOP TIP: Fish casters on the hook for roach over 2lb **TEL:** 01304 380691

BEST AREAS: Specimen Lake pegs on the Tree Bank **BAITS:** Casters, maggots, pellets, corn **FISH:** Carp, roach, bream, tench
TACTICS: Fish a light waggler for big roach

LANDSEND FISHERIES
Day tickets: £6
Contact: 07977 545882

THE SOUTH WEST'S **HIDDEN GEM**

Landsend Fisheries, Wedmore, Somerset

IN the South West of England there's no shortage of good-quality commercial fisheries, with the likes of White Acres, Stafford Moor and Viaduct all grabbing the headlines – but one water you may not have heard of has been quietly on the up, and is now on a fishing par with these famous names.

Landsend is a two-lake complex, the Match and Specimen waters, and both are regularly used for the many matches the fishery holds. For pleasure anglers, though, each lake offers something different and responds to different tactics.

The Specimen Lake is home to carp well over the 20lb mark, perfect for the budding big-carp man, while the Match Lake holds smaller carp, supplemented by lots of tench, bream, roach and rudd.