

Washburn Valley Game Fishery

Located adjacent to the A59, Harrogate to Skipton road at Blubberhouses village, Thruscross Fewston and Swinsty reservoirs are set in attractive surroundings of the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Swinsty and Fewston Reservoirs are both 63ha (153 acres) in surface area and are regularly stocked with rainbow trout at 1lb 6oz and fish between 3lb and 7lb. The largest rainbow trout caught was over 14lb. Wild brown trout can be caught and returned in all reservoirs, Thruscross reservoir is a wild brown trout fishery only with limited bank space for the angler. The reservoirs are part of the water supply system and the level of water can vary. This and the size of the waters, compared with many other fisheries, will test the skill of the angler.

Reservoirs open daily for fishing between 25th March and the last Sunday in November inclusive from 7.30am until one hour after dusk. Winter fishing at weekends only is available on Fewston and Swinsty reservoirs from 1st December to 24th March.

Yorkshire Water recognises fishing is a popular form of recreation and to promote the sport children aged 16 years and under may fish free of charge when accompanied by an adult who is fishing with a valid Yorkshire Water ticket/permit. In this instance, a single bag limit will apply. We offer a range of tariffs to accommodate day, evening, full season and concession anglers.

Fly fishing only on Fewston and Thruscross reservoirs.

Fly, spinning and coarse fishing is permitted on Swinsty reservoir.

These waters are cold at the start of the season and a sinking line is a must for the fly fisherman. As the weeks pass, a floating line with leaders at 1.5 rod lengths in calm conditions or shorter if the water is rough will be the order of the day. This of course can only be a guide, but, to help further, some of the natural fly around the waters are - black gnats, hawthorne fly, sedges, mayfly, daddy longlegs, flying ants, lake olives, iron blue duns, heatherfly and numerous other midges.

Our Fishing Wardens are a source of valuable information, please also see fishing rules. If you need advice ask when you meet them patrolling the waters or they can be contacted by telephone during the season on 01943 880658.

General Fishing Information

The fishing office is located at Swinsty Moor car park near Fewston reservoir embankment.

Anglers must complete a registration form before fishing and place in the box provided at the fishing office.

Tickets are purchased from the ticket machine at the fishing office. The machines will accept debit/credit cards and cash. Change is not available on site. Current tariff rates are displayed in the fishing office.

Catch return forms must be completed and placed in the boxes provided.

Anglers must park their vehicles in the car parks provided.

Swinsty lagoon is reserved for disabled anglers only and those persons accompanying them. Dedicated parking is available; contact the fishery wardens prior to arriving.

Thruscross has a dedicated angler car park, contact the fishery wardens prior to arriving.

Fishing competitions and tuition can be arranged with the Fishing Wardens.

Toilet facilities are only available at Swinsty Moor car park.

There are other recreational users at the reservoirs and anglers need to consider their actions to reduce conflict and maintain safety e.g. back casting.

Yorkshire Water reserves the right to exclude anglers from all or part of the reservoir areas at any time.

REMEMBER – discarded fishing line and hooks can injure or kill birds and wildlife.

Random bag checks & tackle inspections will be made.

Any further information required including current tariffs can be obtained from the Fishing Wardens at Swinsty Moor Fishing Office Tel: 01943 880658.

Washburn Valley Fishery Rules

1. All anglers must have a valid Environment Agency Rod Licence and Yorkshire Water ticket/permit.
2. All anglers must register at Swinsty Moor Fishing Office on arrival and complete a catch return form on departure.
3. Reservoirs are open for fishing from 7.30am until one hour after dusk.
4. Children aged 16 years and under may fish free of charge when accompanied by an adult who is fishing with a valid Yorkshire Water ticket/permit, a single bag limit will apply. Every angler aged 12 years or over must carry an Environment Agency rod licence.
5. Concessionary tariffs are available to children 16 years and under, registered disabled and anglers 60 years and over.
6. The bag limit is four fish per day ticket and two fish when fishing with an evening ticket.
7. Evening tickets are available from 4.00pm between 1st May and 31st August inclusive.
8. Only rainbow trout measuring more than 25cm (10 inches) from the tip of the nose to the cleft of the tail may be taken.
9. Fly fishing only on Fewston and Thruscross reservoirs.
10. Fly and coarse fishing is permitted on Swinsty reservoir.
11. Barbless hooks must be used.
12. No fishing from the dam wall, pitchings, spillway or from any area where fishing is prohibited by a sign.
13. Bank fishing and wading to knee level only is permitted unless prohibited by a sign.
14. Swinsty lagoon is reserved for disabled anglers only and those persons accompanying them.
15. Anglers are responsible for their own safety and are expected to have the appropriate clothing, footwear, equipment and skills or supervision for the activity.

16. Anglers need to be aware of the risks from the water environment and take appropriate action to protect themselves and others from diseases and accidents.

Coarse Fishery Rules (in addition to those above)

1. The use of live bait is forbidden, any other recognised lawful bait or legal lure may be used.
2. No ground baiting is permitted; bait to be used in feeders only.
3. Landing and Keep Nets must be of a knotless construction. No snare or gaff may be carried or used.
4. Two rods and lines may be used provided they are set as and comply with Environment Agency regulations and angler only occupies one bank space.
5. No radio, tape player, record player or other noisome device or instrument may be used in the reservoir grounds or on company property.
6. Do not pollute the water.
7. All fish to be returned.
8. Dogs must be under proper control, kept on a lead and not cause nuisance to other users. Please clean up any fouling.
9. All discarded tackle, bait and litter must be taken home – REMEMBER discarded line and hooks can kill or injure wildlife.

Stop the spread of invasive aquatic species

- Check your equipment for live organisms – particularly in areas that are damp or hard to inspect
- Clean and wash all equipment, footwear and clothing thoroughly. If you do find any organisms, leave them at the water body where you found them
- Dry all equipment and clothing – some species can live for many days in moist conditions. Make sure you don't transfer water elsewhere.