

## Fishing at Fritton Lake

The lake comprises of a 3.8km (2.4 miles) stretch of water covering 60 hectares (150 acres). Historically, the lake was once thought to be a river, and partly due to sea level rise, flooded, forming the wide lake you see today. At its deepest it is 5m, which is very different to the Norfolk Broads, which are much shallower. Despite its depth, there has been evidence of peat digging around the margins of the lake, which have formed a number of bays and inlets.

The lake is surrounded by 7 miles of mixed woodlands, which often protrude onto the lake. There are also a number of open areas where reed is able to grow. Scattered strategically along its shores are 21 Duck Decoys – relics of post medieval farming of ducks and waterfowl. Most of these have long since gone out of use, containing fallen trees, and standing water, providing refuge areas for small fish. The shallow nature of such features provides warm nursery areas suitable for the fry and small fish. Towards the west end of the lake there is a substantial cormorant roost. Large numbers of wildfowl are present at the eastern end of the lake which are fed to encourage a health population.

The lake has a high amenity value, and is used extensively during the summer months as a holiday location with associated leisure activities. Although angled, the lake is not subjected to the more formal angling pressure resulting from clubs and match fishing. The eastern end of the lake is used for shooting during the winter months, several hides being present at the margin edge.

In 2006/7 a fishery survey was carried out using seine netting and electro fishing, producing the following results. A full copy of the report is available to view in our Visitor Centre Reception.

Species	Percentage of Fish Population	Size Range (mm)
Roach	44%	50 – 320
Bream	44%	80 – 625
Pike	6%	180 - 958
Tench	3%	228 - 478
Perch	2%	83 - 182
Rudd / Gudgeon	0.9%	-
Eels	0.1	655 - 1200

## Arrangements for Fishing on Fritton Lake

Fishermen are permitted to angle the lake all year round, provided they hold an NRA Rod Licence.

When the park is open to the public (see website), bank fishing is included in your admission. However it is possible to angle the lake at all other times of the year (dawn to dusk) by prior arrangement.

There are suitable areas around the shores of the lake to fish from the bank. However we must remind fishermen, to take care not to damage our reed beds, trample conservation areas, or remove branches. Additionally, we do not permit live baiting or barbed hooks.

Within the Lodge Development there are 4 specially constructed fishing swims, and over the next few years we are proposing to introduce more.

Fishermen are also permitted to hire a rowing boat for £5 a day. This is subject to availability, and may be curtailed during unsuitable conditions, or at times when the rescue boat is not available.

All those using a fishing boat are required to fill out a disclaimer, and must leave contact details, and expected return time. You are welcome to bring your own electric outboard, but we do not permit petrol or other types. Fishing is not permitted beyond the thatched flint building called Lake Cottage Lodge.

To make arrangements for Fishing at times when the park is closed, please contact Stuart Burgess on 07919 598602, or email [stuart@somerleyton.co.uk](mailto:stuart@somerleyton.co.uk).

Generally we require 24hs notice to prepare boats for use by fishermen.

Additionally, we have a wheelchair friendly boat suitable for fishermen, which was kindly supported by Suffolk County Council and the Wheelyboat Trust. Please contact us for further details and availability.



For Fishing Equipment and Bait we recommend – Cherry Lane Garden Centre, just 1 mile from Fritton Lake. See [www.lathams.co.uk](http://www.lathams.co.uk)