

Lee Valley: Fisheries Action Plan



Involving local anglers in the management and development of their river

The River Lee Valley covers parts of Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Essex and North London.

In 2002 the Lee Valley Fisheries Action Plan (FAP) was developed to increase the involvement of over 22,000 local anglers in the management and development of river and still water fisheries within the catchment. The Lee Valley FAP group is made up of representatives from the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, Thames Water Plc, British Waterways, the Environment Agency, the Lee Anglers Consortium and the Lee Valley Anglers Consultative Association. The group share a common goal - to protect and enhance fisheries within the Lee Valley.

The River Lee FAP has already had a positive impact on the river, with local groups fully participating in important actions such as projects to improve fish numbers, fish habitat, angling access and participation, as well as species specific studies of brown trout, barbel, zander and non-native crayfish.

The development of 'Angling Development Zones' initially piloted at Enfield Lock is just one project put into place as part of the Lee Valley FAP. Fish numbers throughout the Lee Navigation have declined over the last decade due a lack of fish spawning, predation by cormorants and variable water quality. To tackle these problems, a series of floating marginal reed rafts were installed near Enfield Lock, providing valuable spawning habitat and cover for fish. A recent poll showed that 78% of anglers who fish at Enfield believe that the refuges have improved the quality of fishing.

The Lee Valley FAP continues to influence local developments, such as the Olympics 2012, and London-wide strategies and provides a link to broader initiatives, including the Water Framework Directive.

Further Information on Fisheries Action Plans can be obtained from:-

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/library/publications/33971.aspx