



Malham Tarn Biosecurity

This outstanding area comprising a glacial lake, wetlands, flower-rich grasslands, woodlands and limestone pavements and provides a marvelous setting for angling, walking, cycling, or just enjoying the great outdoors. The habitats and wildlife it supports are of international importance for nature conservation and it is a protected site.

Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) can have extremely severe impacts on the environments we love. Everyone visiting Malham Tarn or streams should be aware of the risk of transferring diseases and invasive non-native species (INNS) on clothing and equipment. By practicing good biosecurity, you are helping to minimise the spread of invasive non-native species and diseases, including fish diseases and parasites.

For example, American signal crayfish carry a deadly crayfish plague which has resulted in the loss of our native white-clawed crayfish from many streams and rivers across England. They also prey on young fish and their eggs, and compete for food and habitat. Their extensive burrows can destabilise banks, causing erosion, bank collapse and silting of gravels, an important habitat for riverflies and spawning fish. American signal crayfish are present in the nearby Aire, Wharfe and Ribble catchments but Malham Tarn currently provides a safe haven for our endangered native crayfish and we need to protect this important site.

Eggs, larvae, seeds, spores, plant fragments, bacteria and viruses may not be visible to the naked eye and some can survive up to a fortnight in a damp environment. **Please help to prevent the spread of harmful animals, plants, and diseases that can easily 'hitch-hike' a ride on clothing and equipment by following the simple guidelines below:**



Check your equipment and clothing after leaving the water for mud, aquatic animals, or plant material. Remove anything you find and leave it at the site.

Clean everything thoroughly as soon as you can, paying attention to areas that are damp or hard to access. If you do come across any organisms, leave them at the water body where you found them. Use tap hot water (~45°C) to soak boots and equipment for 15 minutes if possible. Use an appropriate disinfectant (e.g. Virkon) if there is a risk of transferring disease.

Dry everything thoroughly and for as long as you can (at least 48hours,) before using elsewhere as some invasive plants and animals can survive for over two weeks in damp conditions.

For more information: <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry/biosecurity-for-everyone.cfm>

Date of fishing:

I confirm that I have read and understood the information above and that I have checked, cleaned and dried my equipment and clothing accordingly before arriving at Malham Tarn.

Signature:

Print name:

Date:

Please complete this declaration at Malham Tarn Field Studies Centre before you commence fishing. If your equipment has not been checked, cleaned and dried prior to arrival, you will not be able to fish on the Tarn.

