

Angling on Malham Tarn

Introduction

In 2020 Coronavirus restrictions meant that no angling took place on Malham Tarn. We know that now these have been eased anglers will be wanting to get out and start fishing again.

We have spent the last couple of months looking at how we would operate angling in 2021 and unfortunately are not going to be able to accommodate it this year. This means we will not be taking any bookings for the 2021 season. We will be taking time this year to look at how we can administer fishing in the future and to look at how we can improve biosecurity. Malham Tarn is an internationally important waterbody and home to incredible wildlife including some rare species such as the white-clawed crayfish. To make sure everyone can enjoy the Tarn in the future we need to make sure any risk to the biosecurity of the site is balanced with access, including angling.

We know this will be disappointing to everyone who was hoping to get back out on the Tarn this year. Please contact yorkshiredales@nationaltrust.org.uk if you wish to be included in stakeholder consultations we will be conducting later this year on how we administer fishing and the biosecurity measures.

FAQs

1. Why can the FSC / NT not carry on with the current arrangements for angling?

In the past the FSC has managed bookings and have had staff on site in their office 7 days a week. They have now reduced the number of staff and are not going to be running the same level of activity. They therefore currently do not have the office staff on site to sign anglers in and give out the keys.

The National Trust have also had reductions to their staffing with many people still working from home and the office not regularly staffed at this time.

2. Why couldn't you have made this decision and looked at the options earlier when there were restrictions because of Covid?

The majority of our staff were furloughed and those who were working were carrying out essential work related to compliance, so there was not the capacity to look at angling. We have recently had a number of staff changes due to the charity's re-organisation and this has given us the opportunity to look at angling afresh as part of our property offer.

3. Can I / we develop a system to run the bookings on behalf of the National Trust?

We are considering all options on how a booking system could be run in the future. We also need to be able to manage the bookings on site with staff on the ground on a daily basis. Any future system will need to be planned out and then implemented. Because of reductions to our staff team, we are unable to dedicate sufficient time to planning how this could work and who could run it at the moment. We will continue progressing this through 2021.

4. Are you just going to stop angling on the Tarn?

It is not currently our intention to stop angling. The changes that the pandemic has caused are going to take time to adjust to. We will then be in a position to work with the FSC and take the time to make a proper plan for the future of angling at Malham Tarn.

5. Will you be involving anglers and other stakeholders in any decisions about how angling is run in the future?

Yes. To do this well takes time and planning. Because of reductions to our staff team, we are unable to dedicate sufficient time to it immediately but it will happen in 2021. We will put details of any consultation on to our website [Malham Tarn fly fishing | National Trust](#), or let us know direct via yorkshiredales@nationaltrust.org.uk if you wish to be included in the stakeholder consultation.

6. What will this consultation involve and when will it happen?

In 2019 a piece of work was carried out by the University of Leeds in partnership with the Yorkshire Dales Biosecurity and Invasive Non-Native Species Steering Group. This highlighted a number of activities that pose a high-risk in terms of introducing invasive non-native species and diseases. We were unable to implement the recommendations in 2020 and are now looking to review all the activities highlighted. Angling was one of these activities and potentially poses a high risk to the biosecurity of the site. Other activities that pose a risk are: visitors including fell runners, walkers, dogs; educational groups and activities; activities of our staff; activities of contractors. We will also be looking at how we can reduce the risk of these.

We are going to be running a consultation where we share the findings of the 2019 biosecurity risk assessment and ask all stakeholders how we can mitigate these risks. Changes to National Trust and FSC staffing means that we currently don't have the capacity to administer bookings and we will also be reviewing this and how it could operate in the future.

As yet we don't have a date for this consultation, although it will be in 2021. We will put details of any consultation on to our website [Malham Tarn fly fishing | National Trust](#), or let us know direct via yorkshiredales@nationaltrust.org.uk if you wish to be included in the stakeholder consultation.

7. When will we be able to start angling again on the Tarn?

At the moment we don't know. We realise it must be frustrating that we cannot provide a clear answer and timeline. It is very unlikely we will be able to accommodate any angling this year.