

IVEL PROTECTION ASSOCIATION WATERS

SDAA is a founder member of the Ivel Protection Association, and SDAA members can fish all the waters under the control of the IPA. Please note guests and Associate Junior Members are not permitted to fish IPA waters. Further details of the IPA can be found on the website:

www.ipafishing.co.uk

Controlling over 6 miles of the River Ivel, IPA members have access to some of the best river fishing in the area. The IPA sections of the river are now famous for the quality of the barbel and chub fishing on offer.

The upstream sections of the Ivel around Stotfold and Astwick as well as the tributary the Hiz around Arlesey contain predominantly roach, dace and chub. These sections are rarely fished but can produce some surprisingly large specimens for those prepared to explore.

The Environmental Agency regularly stocks the Ivel in Biggleswade with a variety of river species including barbel. Whilst most anglers target the barbel on the Biggleswade Back Meadows and Common sections, they have now spread throughout the downstream sections. Double figure barbel are regularly caught, with the biggest specimens now topping 18lb. In many areas chub are the dominant species with specimens over 7lb reported each season. When the chub are shoaled up huge bags are possible, although at other times of the year the chub are more widely dispersed and a roving approach is more successful.



Kevin Williams 13lb & 14lb barbel

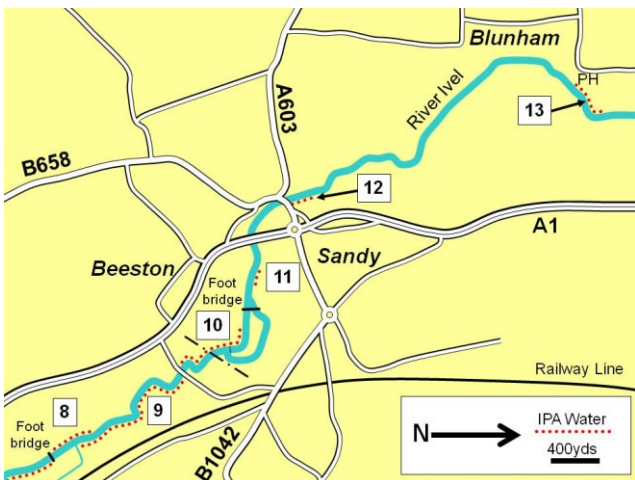
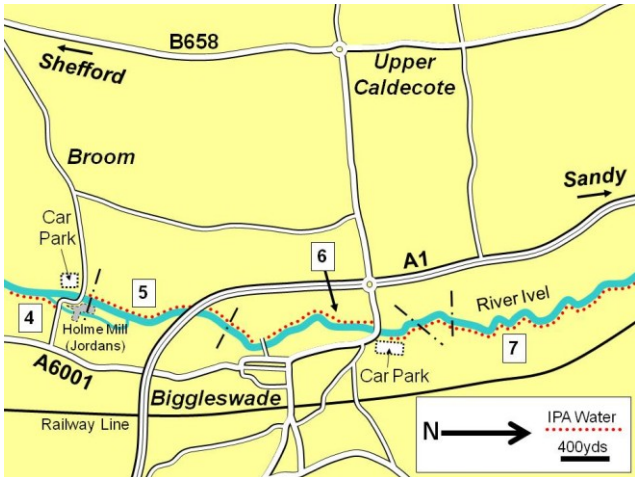
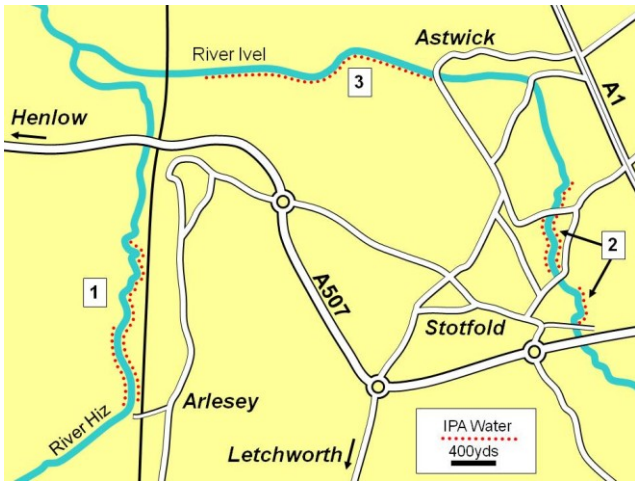


Dan Thompson 6lb 7oz chub

The arrival of the American signal crayfish has resulted in the perch packing on weight with 3lb perch regularly caught along with the occasional specimen over 4lb. The Ivel also produces plenty of pike to over 20lb, one of many species which has adapted to a diet that includes crayfish.

Shoals of large bream can be found dotted along the Ivel, usually showing up in the deeper and slower sections. Many of the bream top 5lb with fish over 10lb reported. Carp can also be caught from most areas of the river with the original carp probably escapees from adjacent lakes during times of flood.

Surveys conducted by the EA confirm that silver fish stocks are only a shadow of historic levels. The decline in small fish during the 1990s coincided with the arrival of cormorants in the area, shortly followed by the American signal crayfish becoming established throughout the Ivel. However, specimen roach to well over 2lb can still be caught from a few areas of the river. In recent years there have been some promising signs of increasing numbers of small roach and dace being caught, especially in the sections upstream of Biggleswade.



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1. **Arlesey:** River Hiz downstream of the road bridge near the Old Station.
2. **Stotfold:** the right hand bank downstream of Baldock Road and several sections around Stotfold Green.
3. **Astwick:** left hand bank downstream from Astwick Bridge to a point 200 yards before the railway.
4. **Broom River:** left hand bank upstream of Holme Mill for approximately 300 yards.
5. **Holme Mill (Jordans), Broom:** left hand bank downstream, under the A1 and down to Biggleswade Recreation Ground.
6. **Biggleswade Back Meadows:** right hand bank upstream of bridge near the Dan Albone car park to Biggleswade Recreation Ground.
7. **Biggleswade Common:** right hand bank downstream from the Dan Albone car park to just upstream of the footbridge opposite Manor Farm.
8. **Manor Farm:** IPA members can park at Manor Farm (access off the A1 southbound carriageway) and walk down the track to the river. West bank from the footbridge downstream for a third of a mile. IPA members can also obtain a £1 discount on Manor Farm day tickets.
9. **Sandy New Road:** left hand bank upstream from Sandy New Road bridge, past the private lakes on the left, and up to the brook.
10. **Beeston:** left bank downstream from Sandy New Road bridge to the overflow weir and then approximately 300 yards of the 'dead river' to a fenced row of trees. The next 200 yards section of the 'dead river' downstream to the footbridge must not be fished.
11. **Sandy:** adjacent to Mill Lane, Sandy on the bank opposite to the Riddy nature reserve. One meadow (approximately 200 yards) of right hand bank downstream of the houses by the mill pool.
12. **Girtford Bridge, Sandy:** right hand bank downstream of the bridge for one meadow only (150 yards). Parking on side road between the river and A1 roundabout.
13. **Blunham:** park next to the Salutation PH and fish the field behind the pub.

Species Present

- Barbel, chub, perch, roach, dace, pike, carp and bream.

Fishery Rules

- No night fishing or bivvies to be used on Biggleswade Back Meadows.
- Please respect all notices posted on IPA waters.
- Do not stray onto any adjoining private stretches of the Ivel that are controlled by other fishing clubs.
- Where an IPA venue is booked for a match a notice will normally be posted at the venue, which will be closed to all IPA affiliated clubs unless anglers are a member of the named club and are participating in the arranged fixture.
- Biggleswade Back Meadows must not be fished for the 2 days prior to the IPA Open.