

## RIVER HIT, RIVER FLIT, IVEL NAVIGATION & RIVER IVEL

The Rivel Ivel is a well known tributary of the Great Ouse. Less well known are the small rivers Hit and Flit, which join in Shefford to form the once navigable Ivel Navigation (River Flit) that joins the Ivel near Langford. SDAA controls the fishing rights on virtually the full length of these rivers from Shefford through to Holme Mill (Jordans) near the village of Broom. SDAA members also have access to all the Ivel Protection Association stretches of the Ivel and these are described elsewhere.

Many of these river stretches are quite narrow, but offer some excellent fishing. Dace, roach and chub dominate the upstream reaches where fish of specimen proportions can still be found. As you move downstream increasing numbers of perch and pike are found. The Ivel also contains a fair number of bream and tench, as well as a growing population of river carp with some fish now topping 20lb.

The Environment Agency has stocked 1,100 juvenile barbel in the Clifton/Shefford area over the last few years it is hoped the species will prosper and feature in future catches.

American signal crayfish can be found throughout this river system. Whilst some fish species have suffered since their arrival they provide a nutritious food source for larger species such as perch, chub and pike. Perch over 4lb and chub over 6lb are regularly reported. There is also a good head of pike with specimens to upper doubles.

Roach and dace populations have improved in recent years. Small pockets of specimen roach can still be found with odd fish going well over 2lb. These specimen roach are rarely publicised and their location is kept a closely guarded secret.



*Alan Thomas 6lb 8oz chub Broom River*



*Michael Baldwin 4lb 11oz perch Broom River*



Hayden Coplestone shows off a mixed bag of roach, perch and dace caught in a match on Broom River. Although the specimen fish dominate the headlines good bags of small fish can be caught from most areas on traditional float methods fished on rod and line or the pole. The fish are well spread out during the summer months, but shoal more tightly in noted areas during the winter.

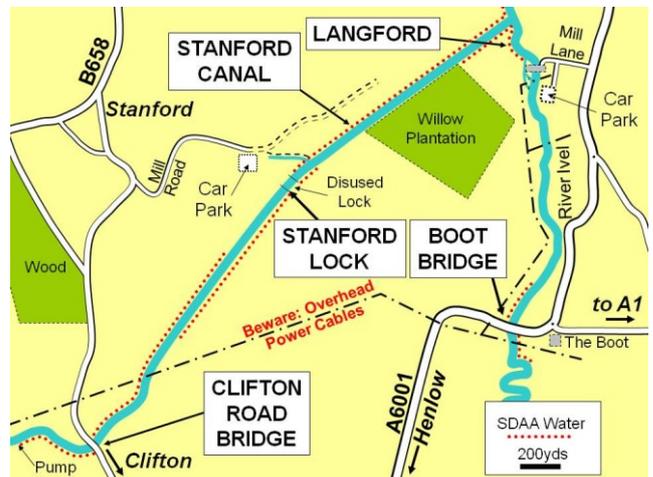


One of many chub caught during an EA survey of the section downstream of the Horsebridge

**Shefford Hardwicke Meadow:** Right hand bank of the River Flit upstream of Shefford Bridge to A600, but do not fish in front of farmhouse. You may park in the yard at Shefford Hardwicke Farm but the automatic gate is locked outside of office hours [A600 crosses river at Grid Ref TL13293906, roundabout Sat Nav SG17 5TX]

**Shefford:** Right hand banks downstream of the Rivers Flit and Hit from the Shefford Bridges to where the two rivers meet and then downstream to the Shefford Mill boundary. [Northbridge Grid Ref TL14323932, Sat Nav SG17 5DJ; Southbridge Grid Ref TL14493907, Sat Nav SG17 5AA]

**Horsebridge:** Drive down the track off the B658 and across the bridge to the car park. Left hand bank upstream to the Shefford Mill boundary. Left hand bank downstream to the disused weir. Right hand bank downstream to a point 50 yards above the overflow pool. [Track entrance Grid Ref TL15203980, Sat Nav SG17 5NP]



Alan Lawrence 6lb 1oz 'Flit' chub

**Clifton Road Bridge:** Left hand bank upstream approx. 400 yards only to the pump house. Keep out of the wood at the rear of The Lakes Farm, Clifton at all times, and do not fish from the bank within the wooded area. Left hand bank downstream approx. 1,000 yards to wooded area. [Grid Ref TL163639623, Sat Nav SG17 5EU]

**Stanford Lock:** Both banks downstream of the disused lock for 120 yards. Left hand bank upstream for approx. 900 yards to where the permissive footpath veers away from the river. No fishing within, or off, the lock structure. Use the club car park located off Mill Road, Stanford. [Car park Grid Ref TL17024096, Sat Nav SG18 9JQ]

**Stanford Canal:** Left hand bank downstream from where the stream from Stanford Mill enters the Canal to the junction with the River Ivel. Use the car parks located off Mill Road, Stanford or Broom Lake.

**Boot Bridge:** Left hand bank upstream one meadow only (shared with Letchworth GCAA). Left hand bank downstream one meadow only (IPA members are also permitted to fish this meadow). [Grid Ref TL18244017, Sat Nav SG18 9SD]

**Langford Mill:** From the junction of Langford Mill Pool downstream on the left bank of the River Ivel to the junction with the Stanford Canal, then back upstream to the start of the willow plantation (water shared with Biggleswade & Hitchin AA). Parking at Langford Recreation Ground off Mill Lane. [Recreation Ground entrance Grid Ref TL18464137, Sat Nav SG18 9QB]



*Liam Prout 21lb 4oz pike Broom River*



**Broom River:** Right hand bank of the River Ivel upstream of the disused lock near Holme Mill (Jordans) to the junction with the Stanford Canal. Use the Broom Lake car park or the parking area next to the disused lock. [Parking area Grid Ref TL18404302, Sat Nav SG18 9JY] Do not use the car park at Holme Mill (Jordans).

### Species Present

- Roach, perch, chub, pike, dace, bream, tench and carp.



*Alan Lawrence 7lb 3oz tench Broom River*



*Mick Burr 4lb 7oz perch Broom River*

**BROOM RIVER – THE venue for BIG perch!!**

Michael Baldwin's 4lb 11oz specimen (see above) set a new club record in November 2011. Here is just a selection of the perch caught over 4lb from the 2011/12 season to date:



*Nigel Gilbert  
4lb 0.5oz  
February 2012*



*Colin Smith  
4lb 3oz  
November 2011*



*Mick Cole  
4lb 2oz  
October 2011*



*Kevin Williams  
4lb 2oz  
August 2011*



*Mick Burr  
4lb 7oz  
December 2012*



*Mick Burr  
4lb 0oz  
October 2013*



*Mick Burr  
4lb 4oz  
October 2013*



*Colin Smith  
4lb 2oz  
December 2013*



*Mick Burr  
4lb 1oz  
October 2014*



*Mick Burr  
4lb 0oz  
March 2015*