

GREAT MASSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Fishing Rules & Permit Conditions – Scotman’s Pit

1. General Overview

These rules apply to all fishing activities at **Scotman’s Pit** and are designed to ensure responsible angling, environmental protection, and consideration for local residents. Proceeds from fishing permits go towards the ongoing care and maintenance of Scotman’s Pit.

2. Fishing Season

- The fishing season runs from **16th June to 14th March**.
 - The **closed season must be strictly observed**.
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3. Eligibility & Access

- Fishing on **Sundays is restricted to residents of Great Massingham Parish only**.
 - All anglers must hold:
 - A valid **UK Rod Fishing Licence** (Environment Agency requirement)
 - A **Scotman’s Pit Fishing Permit**
 - **Day permits** cost £6.50 and are available:
 - From the Village Store (Monday–Saturday, from 7:00am)
 - From the Fishing Warden
 - **Season Permits** cost £21 and are available:
 - Through application to the Parish Clerk; clerk@greatmassingham-pc.gov.uk
 - **Residents Permits** are F.O.C. and available:
 - Through application to the Parish Clerk; clerk@greatmassingham-pc.gov.uk
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4. Permit Conditions

- Permits are:
 - **Non-transferable**
 - Limited to **one per person**
- Permit holders must:
 - Present their permit on request

- Allow inspection of bags or equipment by:
 - The Fishing Warden
 - Other permit holders (if requested reasonably)
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5. Fishing Rules

The following rules must be strictly followed:

Allowed

- Fishing from **dawn to dusk only**
 - Use of **one rod per person**
 - Use of **barbless hooks up to a maximum of size 8 only**
 - All fish must be **returned alive immediately (catch and release)**
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Prohibited Activities

- Night fishing
 - Ground baiting
 - Removal of fish
 - Use of keep nets
 - Use of barbed hooks
 - Fishing with more than one rod
 - Leaving rods unattended
 - Use of gaffs, tailers, or similar equipment
 - Use of unsafe tackle disposal practices
 - Landing nets made from **metallic or knotted mesh**
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6. Additional UK Fisheries Good Practice (Added Standards)

To align with commonly expected UK angling standards:

- Use **unhooking mats** where possible to protect fish
 - Handle fish with **wet hands** to avoid damage to scales
 - Minimise time fish are out of water
 - Do not introduce **non-native species or live bait fish**
 - Disinfect equipment where appropriate to prevent disease spread
 - Follow Environment Agency bylaws at all times
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7. Children & Safety

- Children under **14 must be accompanied by an adult**
 - Anglers fish **entirely at their own risk**
 - Individuals are responsible for their **own insurance**
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8. Conduct & Environmental Responsibility

All anglers must:

- **Take all rubbish home** or use provided bins
 - Respect local residents by avoiding:
 - Excessive noise
 - Foul language
 - Radios or disruptive behaviour
 - The following are not permitted:
 - Lighting fires or bonfires
 - Driving on the village green (especially in wet conditions)
 - Any vandalism or nuisance behaviour
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9. Enforcement & Penalties

- The Parish Council reserves the right to:
 - Withdraw permits at any time
 - Refuse future applications
 - Review and adjust permit costs
 - Offences may result in:
 - Immediate removal from the site
 - Reporting to the Parish Council within 24 hours
 - Cancellation of season tickets
 - Under UK law:
 - Fishing without a licence may result in fines up to **£2,500** and confiscation of equipment
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10. Liability Disclaimer

Great Massingham Parish Council accepts **no responsibility** for:

- Injury or accidents
- Loss or damage to personal property or vehicles

All persons use the site **at their own risk**.