



Linear Fisheries (Oxford) Ltd

Safety advice for Anglers

Linear Fisheries has a very comprehensive Health & Safety policy, we always do our utmost to ensure our staff and the anglers that visit the site can do so in a safe and risk free environment. That being said there are certain aspects of both the fishery and fishing in general that are very hard to reasonably control. Below we've listed a number of areas that fall into this category, so please take care when visiting the fishery or fishing anywhere for that matter.

Around Water:

Without wanting to point out the blatantly obvious, fishing will always involve a degree of danger, due to the essential of being near water. Although we don't control any fast flowing water, still waters can still pose significant risks, particularly in the winter months when the water can be extremely cold. At the fishery we only allow wading to help in the safe, landing and returning of fish, always take time to think about where you are fishing, how deep the margins are and watch out for any unexpected silt pockets.

You are not allowed out on boats on any of our waters and swimming is banned, if a fish gets stuck in the weed, don't be tempted to swim out, this is very dangerous and you will be asked to leave the site, always contact a member of the fishery team in the instance.

Nevertheless, we also have lifebuoys strategically positioned around the lakes, should anyone get into difficulty accidentally.

The Danger of Fishing Hooks:

Every year we have reports of anglers impaling their fingers with hooks. Always take care when tying up fishing line and hooks, especially when you have your rod rested against your bivvy or broolly, if your rod was to slip whilst you were holding the hook, it would almost certainly end up in your finger. A good tip is to remove your lead weight when tying rigs and setups, only replace it when you are ready to cast or tie up a PVA-bag. If a lead slips when working on your rig, your hook could easily end up in your finger.

You should also always take time to check behind you before you cast, to ensure no person or animal for that matter, is behind you. Always make sure the area is clear before casting.

Getting Line Stuck in a Tree or Weed:

During the course of most angler's lives they will have got their line stuck in a tree, due to an over-cast, or attached to an unforeseen underwater obstacle. Most of the time it will free itself without too much effort but there are always occasions when that isn't the case and you end up having to "Pull for a break" which is basically trying to snap the line, with the hope of retrieving your tackle.

There is no 100% way of describing how to do this safely but the following points can help. When pulling against line stuck in a tree, always keep your rod-tip as low as possible. If the line breaks and the fishing lead comes flying back at you, it will probably follow the line of your fishing line and if that is kept low it will help it hit the ground and not you. Always pull with your head looking away from the area where your line is stuck.



If you get stuck to an underwater obstacle, always try your best to keep the rod tip under the water, this will greatly reduce the risk of the fishing lead flying back at you when the line breaks. This is even more important when you get stuck close to the bank where you are standing. As above you should also turn away to protect your face.

Wet Slippery Ground:

Rain or early morning mist can make parts of the fishery very slippery at times, particularly in the winter when the ground can stay wet and muddy for long periods. Always take care around your bivvy area when it's wet and where appropriate foot-wear with good grip.

Unforeseen Obstacles:

The very nature of our fishing lakes means that you are out in the countryside where there will always be unforeseen obstacles, be it a fallen branch, slippery slope, or a rabbit hole that was hidden in the long grass. As a fishery we always endeavour to make the lakes, particularly swims, as safe as possible but please watch out for nature's very own hazards.

Wasp Nests:

During summer months, wasp can be a major problem, with some year's being much worse than others. If you spot a nest, do not disturb it and inform a member of the fishery team. They will deal with the nest as safely as possible. If the nest is causing particular problems to an area, we will supply you with a primitive but effective wasp trap or potentially ask you to move from that area so we can deal with the nest in a safe manner. If you are known to be allergic to wasp stings please always inform a member of staff.

Food Poisoning or Infections:

There are many bacterial or fungal pathogens that can be found in the wild, particularly in soil or passed on by animals. Always ensure you employ good hygiene when fishing, take time to wash your pots and pans and always carry some anti-bacterial hand-gel or spray. You should also try your hardest to keep any food brought with you, as fresh as possible. All too often we see anglers with fresh food, particularly meat left out in the sun. Fishing is all about enjoying yourself, a case of food poisoning definitely won't add to the enjoyment!

In and Around the Lake at Night:

We allow fishing on our waters 24-hours a day, so inevitably anglers will be faced with fishing at the lakes at night. It's hard to specifically advise how you should safely act at night, other than to point out that all the dangers listed above tend to be multiplied at night, so please take care, and know the area you are fishing. It's always best practice and also good manners to keep your swim tidy, this will greatly reduce the risk of tripping over an item at night.

Local Doctors and Hospital Details:

Local Doctors:

- **Windrush Medical Practice:** Welch Way, Witney OX28 6JS
Phone: [01993 702911](tel:01993702911)
- **Deer Park Medical Centre:** 6 Edington Square, Witney OX28 5YT
Phone: [01993 893537](tel:01993893537)



Local Hospitals and A&E:

- **Witney Minor Injury Unit:** Witney Community Hospital, Welch Way, Witney OX28 6JJ
Phone: [01608 648262](tel:01608648262)
- **John Radcliffe Hospital and A&E:** Headley Way, Oxford OX3 9DU
Phone: [01865 741166](tel:01865741166)