

BEWL WATER FISHING REPORT

April 2026

Fishing report

By the Bewl Water fishing Rangers

Fishing at Bewl Water has continued in a similar vein to the previous week, with consistently strong sport reported across both boat and bank anglers. The weekend proved particularly productive, with a full complement of boat anglers enjoying excellent results, while bank anglers also recorded good numbers of fish.

Rainbow Trout exceeding 2lb were frequently caught, providing exciting sport on both fly and any-method tactics. The quality of fishing has encouraged many anglers to return for additional sessions, reflecting the reservoir's current popularity. This was further demonstrated on the Bank Holiday Monday, when an impressive 54 boats were out on the water.

Fishing Tactics & Methods

A key development over the past week has been a clear shift in trout behaviour:

Fish moving away from the banks and into more open water
Increased surface activity, particularly on warmer days and during insect hatches

This transition caught some anglers off guard. Methods that had been highly effective, particularly deeper tactics using DI5 lines, proved less productive as fish began feeding higher in the water column.

Successful anglers adapted by switching to more appropriate "summer-style" tactics, including:

- Floating or intermediate lines (e.g. Fast Glass intermediate)
- Washing line setups with Boobies and wet flies

- Buzzers, nymphs, and blobs fished higher in the water

A notable example came from an angler fishing Hook Straight, who encountered a pod of trout feeding high in flat calm conditions. Using a floating line and a combination of Blob and Booby patterns, he managed to take six fish in a short but productive window, demonstrating how crucial timing and observation can be during hatch activity.

Hatch Activity

Encouragingly, there has been a visible increase in insect life, particularly small black buzzer hatches. These were observed in several key areas including:

- Chingley Corner
- Ferry Point
- Hook Straight

Although buzzer fishing has not traditionally been a standout method at Bewl in recent years, the volume of hatch activity suggests that it is now well worth revisiting. Both straight-line nymphing and washing line setups with a buoyant indicator (“bung”) are proving viable options.

Key Locations

Fish are now more widely distributed across the reservoir rather than tightly shoaled, meaning anglers may need to cover more water to locate them.

Productive areas include:

- Bewl Straight
- The Dam
- The Bowl
- Rosemary Lane
- Hook Straight

In addition, anglers should not overlook the bays, creeks, and more expansive areas such as:

- Copen's Reach
- The water leading toward the Nature Reserve, particularly near Ferry Point

As water levels remain high, Bewl is presenting a large expanse of fishable water, making mobility and observation increasingly important.

Bank Fishing

Bank anglers continue to find fish within range, and this is expected to remain the case for at least another month. Success is likely to improve by focusing on:

- Windward banks, where food is naturally concentrated
- Areas where wind is pushing into the shoreline

These same areas are also attracting boat anglers, further confirming their productivity.

Stocking Update

A further 3,000 trout have been stocked this week, bringing the total number of stocked fish to approximately 12,000, with additional stockings planned in the coming weeks. This ensures continued strong sport and excellent fish availability throughout the season.

Looking Ahead

As temperatures begin to stabilise and insect activity increases, trout are expected to remain higher in the water column, particularly moving into May. Anglers should be prepared to adapt quickly to conditions, with an emphasis on:

- Lighter lines
- Mobile tactics
- Capitalising on short-lived feeding opportunities during hatches
- Upcoming Event

This weekend, Bewl Water welcomes the Association of Major Fly Fishing Clubs (AMFC). We wish all competitors the very best of luck and hope they enjoy the excellent sport currently on offer.

Final Thoughts

Overall, Bewl Water continues to provide high-quality fishing, with strong trout numbers, improving hatch activity, and a transition toward classic spring and early summer tactics. While changing weather conditions may present challenges, those who adapt and stay observant are being well rewarded.

Bewl Water "Ranger Air Support" Update

Rumour has it there's been increased helicopter activity over Bewl Water this week... and no, it's not a military exercise — it's just the Bewl Water Rangers upgrading their transport.

With the fishing so good and the water so vast, it was only a matter of time before the Rangers took inspiration from their "namesakes" across the pond. After all, if you're called Rangers, you've got a reputation to maintain... and apparently that now includes aerial patrols!

Anglers reported a helicopter circling overhead, which we can only assume was:

- Checking for illegal nymphing techniques from 500 feet
- Air-dropping fresh stockies into secret hotspots
- Or possibly just trying to locate where all the fish have gone during that cold wind

There are even unconfirmed reports of Rangers fast-roping into Hook Straight when a hatch kicks off... though this may just be what happens when someone blanks for a few hours and lets their imagination run wild.

All jokes aside, it certainly adds a bit of drama to a day's fishing — and if nothing else, it's a good excuse when you don't catch:

"Fish were spooked by the helicopter, mate..."

Bewl Water Rangers — now operating on land, water... and air.

Tight lines from all the Rangers at Bewl Water

#aviation #outdoors #bowlwater #troutfishing #fishinguk #adventure

— **The Bewl Water Fishing Team**

