

## EA improves Durham pond

THE Environment Agency has continued its great work with councils to improve angling opportunities in local areas with the overhaul of a popular urban fishery. Local interest in the sport has 'sky-rocketed' since Redhall Community Pond in Darlington, County Durham, was refurbished with brand new platforms and newly-laid pathways.

The work, funded and carried out by the EA and Darlington Borough Council, will improve the fishing for existing anglers and aid future plans to bring new blood into the sport.

## Science could steer fish from danger

SCIENTISTS from Southampton University are helping hydro engineers to understand fish behaviour in a bid to come up with innovative ways to keep them away from turbines and intake systems.

Work in this area has historically focused on salmon, but freshwater fish ecology and fisheries management lecturer, Paul Kemp, has now broadened it to include numerous other species that could be threatened by engineering work to modify rivers and control the flows of water.

He said: "We want to tap into aspects of fish behaviour to manipulate their movement and deter them from hazardous areas, such as turbine and water supply intakes, while attracting them to preferred routes such as fish passes."

## Wayte goes to Wychwood

NEIL Wayte is the latest member of the Wychwood consultancy team.

The well-known river carper and all-rounder has more than 40 years' angling experience.

Wychwood brand manager Mick Barnes said: "I have known Neil for longer than I care to admit and have always had great respect for him as an angler."

"His unique approach to specimen angling will add an enormous amount to us as a brand and puts Wychwood in a great position to keep bringing UK anglers the very best specimen tackle."

Neil's main job will be to develop products for the manufacturer.

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# Bend them like Harrell

## THIS WEEK DAVE REVEALS HIS FAVOURITE HOOK PATTERNS AND A CLEVER TRICK WITH A PAIR OF TWEEZERS

**W**ALK into a tackle shop and you will be confronted by a vast array of hooks from lots of companies. If you don't know what you're looking for it can be a bit daunting, especially for a newcomer to the sport.

Your hook is a vital part of your tackle that needs the utmost care when it comes to selection. It's the only contact you have with a fish when you connect with it, and at that point it doesn't matter whether you've got the most expensive rod or pole in the world. If the hook isn't up to the job, you'll lose the fish.

Over the years I have used literally hundreds of different patterns, but have now settled on six, to cover all my river fishing approaches.

Some of them are available pre-tied to nylon, others I tie at home or on the bank.

Always bear in mind that while most of the hooks now available are good, they are mass produced and, as a result, there can sometimes be one or two bad samples in the batch. Things to look out for are short points and deformed or sharp spades, and if I find any of these in a batch I always discard them immediately.



An inward-pointing hook point (right) will see far fewer fish losses than a standard point (left).

### WHAT LENGTHS?

I use 35cm hooklengths for running-line fishing and 20cm for pole work. My running-line hooklengths have one small shot on them for stick float fishing, or a shot fixed just above the loops when I'm using a waggler.

My hooklengths for pole fishing never have shot on them as all the fine tuning of the float is done in advance at home and the addition of any hooklength shot would affect it.

In addition to this, I'll often be using very fine hooklengths, which could easily get damaged if a shot were fixed on too hard.

### MORE INFO

Dave Harrell is recognised as one of the country's best-ever river anglers and has devoted his life to learning different skills on running water. He has fished for England at World and European level and now owns his own tackle company, Dave Harrell Angling. For details of the product range go to: [www.daveharrellangling.com](http://www.daveharrellangling.com) He is also available for one to one and group coaching sessions on the River Wye throughout the river season. For more details contact Dave at: [info@daveharrellangling.com](mailto:info@daveharrellangling.com)



If you're suffering with fish coming off the hook, squeeze the point inwards slightly. By doing this, I have found that species like roach stay on much better.

**Dave Harrell**  
BRITAIN'S BEST RIVER ANGLER TELLS ALL – ONLY IN **AnglingTimes**

## My top six patterns for river fishing

### DRENNAN WIDE GAPE

I spend a lot of my time fishing rivers that hold a lot of fish, and I have found this hook to be a superb all-round pattern for floatfishing. I use it pre-tied to nylon in sizes from 20 up to 10 with hooklengths from 0.12mm to 0.18mm. It's also a good hook for light feeder work.



### DRENNAN RED MAGGOT

I use this pattern a lot with red maggots and have found it to be a very good hook for perch and roach in clear water. It's a bit stronger than the Carbon Match and well worth a look at if you've never used red hooks. I match this hook with lines from 0.12mm to 0.14mm.



### KAMASAN ANIMAL SPADE

In floatfishing situations where I need to use strong gear, this is the pattern I always go for. It's a fantastic hook for chub and barbel fishing and I often use it tied direct to 0.20mm or even 0.22mm lines.



### DRENNAN CARBON MATCH

If I'm faced with very clear water I favour this pattern as it's made from very fine wire and is ideally suited to 0.09mm up to 0.12mm hooklengths. It's a great little hook for roach fishing and has enough strength to cope with bigger fish if you take things easy and use a soft actioned rod or light pole elastic.



### SENSAS 3405

My good friend and current world champion Sean Ashby put me on to these hooks for bloodworm fishing, and it's the best hook I've ever used for that approach. It's also an excellent hook for hemp and breadpunch. I use it in sizes 20 up to 16 with lines from 0.08mm to 0.10mm.



### DRENNAN SUPER SPECIALIST BARBEL

I've only been using this hook since the start of the season, and for barbel fishing it has quickly become my first choice. It's a very strong pattern in a wide variety of sizes. I use sizes 14 and 12 for most of my pellet feeder fishing and sizes 8 up to 4 for big baits like meat. These are matched to lines from 0.25mm up to 0.30mm.

### HOOKLENGTH LINE

As with hooks, there is a lot to choose from when it comes to line selection for hooklengths. This is an area where I tend to stick to line diameters more than breaking strain, and I'd advise anyone to do the same or you will end up with a real miss-match of information. I have used Ultima line for many years and prefer the Power Plus for big-fish approaches in diameters from 0.16mm up to 0.30mm. For thinner wire hooks that I tie myself, I use Ultima Power Match in diameters from 0.10mm up to 0.14mm.



Two hooklength lines that have never let me down, for light and heavier work.

### BARBED OR BARBLESS?

All of my current favourite hook patterns are micro barbed, but I often remove the barb by squeezing it in with a pair of flat-nose tweezers. It's an easy job to do on the bank, and the small lump that is created helps to keep baits like double or treble maggot from coming off when you're casting out. I find this tactic especially useful in the summer months when maggots are warm and active.

## How to use a hook tyer

**1** Clamp the hook in the tyer with the hook facing inwards.



**2** Lubricate line and take it around both prongs, starting on the same side as the hook point.



**3** Make quite sure the line lies parallel like this before beginning to turn the hook-tyer.



**4** Twist tyer and make 8-10 coils down shank, trapping the line inside of the spade as you do so.



**5** Pass the end of the line you've been holding around the end prong on the hook-tyer.



**6** Push the prongs down to release the line.



**7** Now pull on the mainline to tighten the whippings around the hook shank.



**8** Release the hook by loosening the wheel and pulling the hook and tag end out of the tyer.



**9** Trim the tag end with clippers. Now you have a perfectly tied hook.

