

**WHERE TO FISH | RIVERS, LAKES, CANALS AND BIG CARP...HERE WE**

**REVEAL THE SWIMS TO HEAD FOR IN OUR SUPER 8-PAGE GUIDE**

# 101 GREATEST PEGS TO FISH THIS WEEKEND

## Quick Swims

### 2 Peg 8 River Trent, Laughterton, Lincs

**Why?** Locals believe a snag that was in peg 7 and held lots of fish has moved down river over the winter into peg 8, and so far this season it's been consistent for bream to 6lb and plenty of smaller skimmers plus the odd barbel.

**How?** Gear-up with strong tackle owing to the snag and the powerful flow of this tidal river. The groundbait feeder cast half-way across with one or two worms will catch, putting the rod up in the air and looking for drop-back bites. Check the tides for the best results and try and time your session, starting at the top of the tide and fishing as it runs out to sea all day.

**Contact:** Lincoln DAA 01522 720777



Maver Larford's Specimen Lake - a true land of the giants!

### 3 Peg 13 Specimen Lake, Maver Larford Lakes, Stourport, Worcs

**Why?** Peg 13 has won two Fish O'Mania qualifiers with nets of large carp. It is in the middle of the lake and there is a deep spot close in at 6m which produces fish in the afternoon.

**How?** Fish 6mm or 8mm cubes of luncheon meat but keep the feed tight via a pole cup to avoid foul-hookers. Fish to over 20lb are possible, so gear-up with at least 8lb line. A big pellet waggler fished as far as you can feed also works here.

**Contact:** 07774 703067

### 4 Peg 22 Kestrel Lake, Westwood Lakes, Wyberton, Boston, Lincs

**Why?** The barbel in Kestrel, for some reason, can all be found in peg 22. There used to be an aerator in the peg, which has now gone, and the barbel used to shoal up to it and have stayed there since, it appears.

**How?** Fish the short pole with chopped worm and caster to catch a mixed bag of barbel, ide, tench, carp and bream. You can catch barbel up to a huge 13lb!

**Contact:** 07846 769003

### 5 Peg 25 Willows Lake, Decoy Lakes, Eastrea, Cambs

**Why?** There's a gravel bank about 30 yards out in front of peg 25 on Willows which the fish shoal up against, and there's also an island within 8m to the right of the swim.

**How?** Fish a small feeder to the gravel bar which is 30 yards in front of you with softened micro pellets around the feeder and a 6mm banded pellet on the hook. To catch to the island, fish a 6mm expander pellet over softened 6mm pellets. On both tactics you will catch a mix of FIs up to 3lb, carp up to 9lb and the odd big barbel. In a pleasure session expect to catch up to 80lb.

**Contact:** 01733 202230

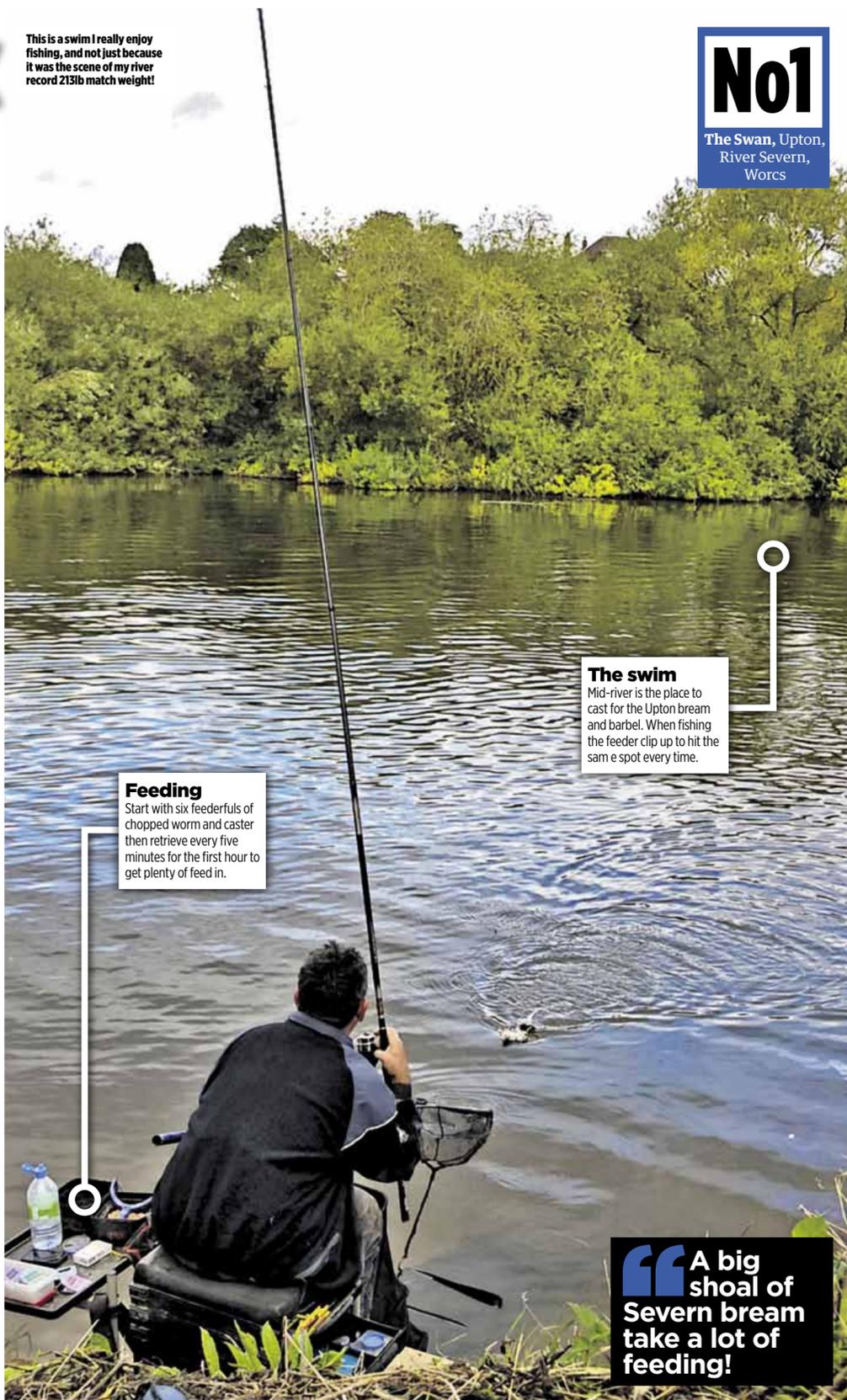
### 6 Peg 30 Pleasure Lake, Barford Lakes, Barford, Norfolk

**Why?** This 'boss' peg is out on a point and offers lots of open water to cast to. The carp average double figures in this lake, so gear-up accordingly.

**How?** The pellet waggler works well, loosefeeding a few 8mm pellets, and there are also lots of bream to be caught on the pole with pellet.

**Contact:** 01603 759624

This is a swim I really enjoy fishing, and not just because it was the scene of my river record 213lb match weight!



## No1

The Swan, Upton, River Severn, Worcs

**The swim**  
Mid-river is the place to cast for the Upton bream and barbel. When fishing the feeder clip up to hit the same spot every time.

**Feeding**  
Start with six feederfuls of chopped worm and caster then retrieve every five minutes for the first hour to get plenty of feed in.

A big shoal of Severn bream take a lot of feeding!

# BACK IN THE SWIM THAT MADE HISTORY

## Scene of my 213lb record



UK'S NO1 RIVER ANGLER

**Picking my favourite peg is a simple task because it's the swim I fished last September at Upton-On-Severn, where I broke the river match record with 213lb!**

The swim in question is directly in front of the Swan pub, and my tactics to get the best results from it are fairly straightforward. I'd use two 13ft feeder rods - a Daiwa Connoisseur 1113P and a Daiwa Spectron M2 1213Q. They are very different in terms of strength and action, but both play a part depending on the river's height and the speed of the current.

At normal level I'd use the Spectron with a glass tip, 6lb or 8lb mainline and hooklengths from 3lb-6lb. If there was extra water in and I needed additional lead on the side of the feeder to make it hold bottom, I'd opt for the Connoisseur with a carbon tip, 8lb or 10lb mainline and hooklengths from 4lb-8lb. Reel choice for both rods would be a Daiwa Exceller 4000 with plenty of winding power.

The feeder for both set-ups would be Nisa open-enders with 10z-40z loadings, free running with 3ft or 4ft hooklengths. Hook choice would be Kamasan Animal Spades in sizes 14, 12 or 10 and the other important terminal tackle would be a few bombs from 10z-30z.

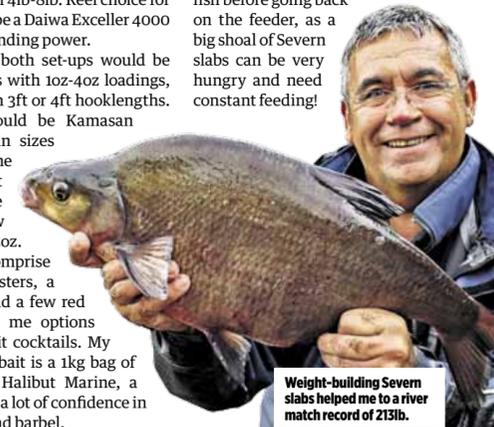
Bait would comprise four pints of casters, a kilo of worms and a few red maggots to give me options with my hookbait cocktails. My favourite groundbait is a 1kg bag of Bait-Tech Super Halibut Marine, a recipe that I have a lot of confidence in for both bream and barbel.

At Upton I'd fish mid-river after searching around with a bomb to ensure that the area was completely clear of snags. Once on the spot, I'd clip up the reel line to ensure casting accuracy.

I'd start off with six big feederfuls of groundbait holding chopped worm and caster, then for the first hour I'd only leave the feeder in the peg for a few minutes each cast. Usually, if bream are present, you will get one after about 45 minutes, and by then you'll have plenty of casters and chopped worms on the bottom for the fish to grub around for.

After an hour of leaving the feeder in for no more than five minutes I'd be prepared to leave it in longer, up to 10 minutes, for the rest of the session, as enough bait should be in the peg. Some days a bunch of red maggots or casters can work, although usually one, two or three worms tipped with a red maggot is king - that was what I used to break the record.

Here's an important tip. At Upton, when you start to catch, switch to a straight bomb and long tail. This is a very effective way to catch fish quickly with minimal disturbance. Don't stay on it for too long though, maybe just two or three quick fish before going back on the feeder, as a big shoal of Severn slabs can be very hungry and need constant feeding!



Weight-building Severn slabs helped me to a river match record of 213lb.

## Quick Swims



The gap between the islands is a prime spot on the Bonsai Lake.

### 7 Peg 69 Bonsai Lake, Garbolino Lindholme Lakes, Sandtoft, North Lincolnshire

**Why?** This peg is situated at the end of the central arm and has two different islands to cast to, plus a large expanse of open water. It is home to a large shoal of common and mirror carp averaging 2lb to 3lb.

**How?** Cast tight to the left-hand island with the bomb, feeding and fishing 6mm pellets. In the last hour move on to a small Method feeder with micropellets around it. If it's a warm day, you'll probably catch on a 6mm pellet shallow on the long pole too, 12ins deep.

**Contact:** 01427 872905

### 8 Peg 42 High Bank, Gunwade Lake, Ferry Meadows Lakes, Peterborough, Cambs

**Why?** The deepest part of Gunwade, with depths up to 15ft close in, which makes it a great peg to fish the pole or waggler as the fish will feed close in. It's only a short walk from the nearby car park!

**How?** Bream dominate at Ferry Meadows and while you will catch them on standard groundbait feeder and worm tactics fished at around 40 yards range, heavy feeding on the pole line at 13m will draw them in along with quality roach, big hybrids and even a bonus tench or two.

**Contact:** Wade's Tackle 01733 565159

### 9 Awbridge Lock, Staffs-Worcs Canal, Awbridge, Staffs

**Why?** Lots of chub live among the far-bank reeds, and because the canal isn't permanently pegged, swims with these features are like gold. Fish of 5lb-plus aren't uncommon, along with the odd big carp plus lots of roach and gudgeon.

**How?** Poke a bait into those reeds with the long pole using chopped worm or caster, but if conditions don't allow that, target the central boat channel with maggots for the chub. As for the small fish, squatt, pinkie, maggot, hemp and breadpunch will all catch.

**Contact:** Ian's Fishing Tackle 01785 715744

### 10 Peg 44 Island Lake, Hayfield Lakes, Doncaster, S Yorks

**Why?** It's the swim on the point of the island on the pub side of the lake. There is a shallow bar coming straight off the point to the posts that holds some big fish.

**How?** A Method feeder to the island is the best approach, although the margins are very good in this area in the evenings fishing next to the next platform.

**Contact:** 07816 832551

### 11 Peg 35 West Lodge, Blundell's Fishery, Rixton, Cheshire

**Why?** This peg has depths that drop off quite sharply down to 9ft in the middle of the canal-type lake, something that the fish seem to like.

**How?** Targeting the two slopes on the near and far sides produces the most fish, but shallow tactics here also been working for the ide using caster, with 80lb nets not impossible.

**Contact:** 0161 7752124



**RICHARD GRANGE**  
MATCH EDITOR  
richard.grange@bauermedia.co.uk

Every fishery has them - pegs that see anglers running to them and which are almost always occupied by breakfast at weekends.

They might be out-and-out match winners or home to big fish that have provided many a happy angler with a personal best down the years.

Wherever they are, Angling Times has this week searched the land to bring you the best 101 that are fishing their socks off right now.

From mouth-watering canal pegs to vast rivers, sprawling gravel pits to snake lakes, the lot is included over the next eight pages.

We've even included tactics to catch the fish, and the good news is that almost all the pegs featured are day ticket. Better still, some are completely free to fish - all you need to do is buy the bait!

- NORTH - Pages 26 and 27
- MIDLANDS - Pages 28 and 29
- SOUTH - Pages 30 and 31