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# On The Up

## #3 Aston Park Fishery

We visit Aston Park Fisheries to see just why it has become one of the most popular venues in Yorkshire.

**A**ston Park is a fishery on the up! Since buying the venue, former Barnsley Black angler Alex Mitchell has transformed the place from an overgrown series of lakes into a stunning commercial water. Situated just a few minutes from the M1 and located in the angling stronghold of Sheffield, Aston Park has quickly established itself as one of South Yorkshire's premier fisheries.

Aston Park is made up of seven lakes in total – Stable, Split, Lanta, Lilly, Eliysia's, Bill's and Butt's. Stable, Split and Lilly are the original pools on site and are beautiful lakes. They offer

anglers fantastic sport thanks to the huge head of mixed species in the lakes. If it's bites you're after then Aston Park is the place for you.

One nice thing about this venue is the number of quality silver fish. Alex has stocked all of the lakes quite heavily with ide, and these voracious feeders almost

**Aston Park is one of the finest venues in South Yorkshire.**



The fact that they are open water will appeal to the angler who also enjoys a bit of rod-and-line fishing, with the bomb and waggler being good approaches in the summer.

Lanta Lake is a small snake-style venue with a central island averaging 13 metres from the bank. This is the ideal lake for small clubs as it offers 25 pegs. Again it is stocked with mixed species with a huge head of ide present, but also lots of carp. As you might expect from this type of lake, fishing tight to the island scores well. Pellets, maggots or worms are the best bait choices with pellets being excellent for the carp.

guarantee a great day's sport. With weights of up to 100lb of silver fish alone, you can see just how many are in these lakes!

It's not just silvers, though, as all of the lakes are prolific carp waters. The three original lakes are open-water venues where several approaches can work well.

**Butt's Lake is the ideal pool for the pole angler.**



Weights well into three figures can be expected in summer, but even in winter Lanta can provide some stunning sport.

Eliysia's Lake is a credit to Aston Park. It is specifically designed for coaching and is also very disabled angler-friendly. Several schools take advantage of this lake and its huge head of smaller fish that keep the float going under no matter what the weather.

New for 2013 were Bill's and Butt's lakes. These are two snake lakes offering 29 and 50 pegs respectively. Bill's and Butt's were opened just in time for last year's Fish 'O' Mania, which created quite a stir. Alex wanted to put the record straight on these lakes as they received a fair bit of criticism after the event: "The Fisho qualifier was a case of 'everything that could go wrong, did go wrong'! The problems started when the weather caused a delay with the construction of the two lakes. This obviously had a knock-on effect and put us well behind schedule. Come the day of the match and the conditions were shocking, and the fish in these lakes just switched off.

"It was incredibly frustrating for us as we had worked really hard just to get the lakes ready on time. The fishery got quite a bad reputation but 10 months on and the pools are hardly recognisable from the Fish 'O' Mania match.

"I decided to close Bill's Lake down and concentrate on getting the Butt's right. Butt's now has an incredible stock of fish. I want these lakes to be prolific and give anglers a great day's fishing off every peg. The predominant species are carp and FIs but as per the Aston Park way there are also thousands of ide and other silvers.

"Butt's has 50 pegs on it and, now it is growing up and the fish stocks have



**The facilities are fantastic at Aston.**



**The venue is well known for producing huge bags of silver fish, as Duane Gosling shows.**

settled down, it is turning into the venue I wanted it to be. Anglers are also realising how good this lake is and it is now packed with anglers.

Being just 13 metres wide, it is a pole angler's heaven." To demonstrate how good Aston Park is as a venue we joined two of the local

experts on the Lilly and Butt's lakes. Duane Gosling was the man on Lilly: "I absolutely love this place! Lilly, Stable, Split and Lanta are absolutely full of fish and the silver-fish sport is unrivalled. Today I am going to show you how to go about putting together a big weight of ide using simple shallow tactics. This approach will work on all four of the lakes I have mentioned as they all have high stocks of ide.

"Shallow fishing is undoubtedly the best way to target the ide and I like to use maggots – and lots of 'em! Loose feeding regularly with a catapult is a sure-fire way of getting the ide competing and I like to fish at a distance between 11 and 13 metres. You must keep the maggots going in.

To start the session I will kick off on the deck and keep the bait going in, gradually you will get the fish coming shallow. These ide will normally give the game away and will often swirl at the loose feed. As soon as this happens, I reach for the shallow rig.

"Ide are aggressive feeders so short, self-hooking rigs are very effective. I like to use a small inline dibber and a short line between the float and pole tip. Usually I fish between 10 and 18 inches deep and use a simple bulk of shot four inches from the hook. To help in hooking the fish I hold a tight line between the pole tip and float and most of the bites will see the elastic pouring from the pole tip!

"I believe light tackle is a must – my hooklength is 0.08mm and my hook is a size 18 Gama Green. Some anglers fish much heavier with similar results, but I am confident in this light approach.

Light elastics are also a must and early in the season a No5 is my choice. Ide don't fight much and can wallow all the way to the net; use an elastic that's too stiff and hook-pulls will be a

The action can be fast and furious.



## VENUE INFORMATION

**Aston Park Fishery**  
Aston Way, Off Mansfield Road  
Aston, Sheffield, S26 5EP

**Contact For Bookings**  
07743 845737  
[www.astonparkfisheries.co.uk](http://www.astonparkfisheries.co.uk)

## FISHERY FACT

Aston Park Fisheries has a unique aeration system. Next to every peg is an air pipe that runs below the lake. These pipes are used instead of aerators and gently bubble away, providing excellent oxygen levels during summer and keeping the lakes free of ice in winter!

**Peg Fees**  
Day tickets: **£5**, concessions **£4**

nightmare. The light elastic helps with the bite too as the fish just slowly kite out of the swim.

“Today has been typical of this venue and it hasn’t taken long to get the ide queuing up to be caught. Three hours have flown by and with over 60lb of ide in the net you can see just why I enjoy fishing here so much. There are a load of carp too and in a match a margin line would certainly see a few carp boosting your weight.”

Up on Butt’s Lake was young Axel Lill, who actually works at the venue. We were intrigued to see how this lake fished, given its high stock. “Butt’s is like many other snake lakes in the country. It is very pole-angler-friendly and features two distinct shelves on either side of the lake. Average depths down the middle are five feet and it shallows up to virtually nothing touching the far-bank grass.

“Carp and F1s make up most of the weights on here and pellets are by far the best bait at the moment. The far side of the lake is the best place to target and feeding 2mm fishery pellets via a Kinder pot and then fishing a 4mm expander will keep the bites coming. Feeding quite positively is best as there are a lot of fish in here and you need lots of feed to keep the

Just a few hours’ fishing produced this healthy 40lb net of carp, F1s and ide for Axel Lill.



fish in the swim.

“Today I have found three swims across in the same depth of water, which is about two and a half feet. This seems to be a good line at the moment but I would expect the shallower water to be better as the water gets warmer. It is simply a case

of rotating the swims to keep the bites coming.

“There is no need to fish heavy on this venue and my tackle is simply 0.12mm main line with an 0.10mm hooklength and size 18 Middy 63-13 hook. A 4x12 Carpa Chimp and strung bulk works well with the

pellets and a nice Middy 1-5 hollow elastic completes the setup. This may seem light but it works nicely and when used with a puller bung, anything in this lake can be landed.”

Axel has fished for just two hours today and it is easy to see why Butt’s is becoming so popular – 40lb of carp, F1s and ide show the potential of this lake and we can only see it getting even better as the perfect little carp continue to grow!

Another reason Aston Park is proving so popular is the facilities on offer. The Water’s Edge Cafe is a 50-seat cafe and is one of the nicest we have ever seen at a fishery. With it providing some superb food at very competitive prices, it would be rude not to partake in one of the excellent full English breakfasts!

Finally The Bait Bar is Aston Park’s tackle shop and supplies some excellent bait, and is stocked with tackle from all of the top brands. It is all part of the service.

If your club is based in the Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire area then you have to give Aston Park Fisheries a try – it has everything that a commercial fishery should have. We were really impressed with what we saw at Aston and cannot recommend it highly enough. **mf**