

# HOW TO...

# Fish Milton Lake

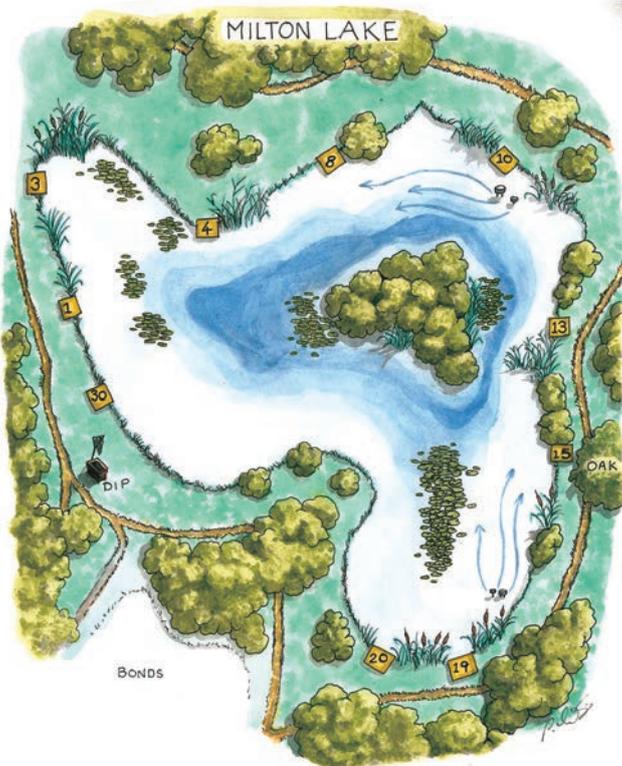
*A prolific mixed fishery of 3 acres with 30 pegs. The average depth of Milton Lake is 4 ft, there is a wooded island and large beds of reeds and rushes surrounding the lake as well as numerous large beds of lilies.*

## Species

Milton boasts a wide range of species, which run from ounces to approaching 10lbs. Predominantly tench and crucian there is also a good head of quality roach, rudd, perch and small carp.

## Methods

Whilst most methods will catch, float fishing is one of the best methods for fishing Milton using a waggler float attached to the base only to eliminate surface drift (see diagram over page).



## Tackle

A good quality 10 ft to 13 ft float rod with a suitable reel loaded with 4lbs breaking strain line is ideal. You will also need a couple of floats, such as an insert waggler size 3BB to 2AA and a packet of hooks to nylon: size 14/16 barbless with a 3lbs breaking strain hook length. Add to this a selection of shot, say No 8, No 4 and BB or AAA subject to the size of float you are using and a plummet. The fishery rules also state that you MUST have a suitable landing net and an unhooking mat. We sell a good selection of budget priced rods, reels and end tackle in our shop and offer great deals on rod and reel kits.

## Bait

You wont need lots of bait on Milton and the following suggestion should catch you plenty of fish.

1 pint of maggots, 1 tin of sweet corn and 1 small tub soft pellet.

## Where shall I fish?

The water in Milton is generally quite coloured which gives the fish confidence to swim and feed close to the bank, so the best spot to fish is virtually under the rod tip (15ft to 20ft directly out from the bank) or close to the reeds either side of the platform.

As most species feed on or near the bottom, it is essential that you know the depth, so before starting to fish, test the depth with a plummet weight, then set your rig so that the hook is just touching the bottom with the shot nearest the hook set 3" above. If you can't catch at dead depth or the wind is causing your float to drift, setting the float 4" over-depth will often bring an immediate response from the fish.

Once you have decided where to fish,

it is important to concentrate all your efforts on that one spot, think of a hoola-hoop or a circle appx 1 metre across. It may take up to 30 minutes of feeding before you even get your first bite, but perseverance is the name of the game, but whatever you do, do not chuck handfuls of bait in all directions!

shot positioned between the float and hook and a No 8 shot 3" - 4" from the hook. It is important to make sure that the float is weighted down so that no more than 5mm (1/4") of tip is showing otherwise the fish will feel the weight of the float and drop the bait. You are now ready to start fishing!



## How shall I feed?

It's no good assuming there are lots of fish in your swim just waiting to be caught, and all you have to do is dangle your bait and one will jump on the hook - it just doesn't work like that. The aim is to attract a shoal of fish into your target area by regularly throwing bait in. This does not mean throwing in one big handful of bait every 15 minutes or so and then sitting back and admiring the scenery - if you want to be successful you must work at it. The best anglers are the best feeders. Everything that swims loves a maggot, and feeding little and often is the key to success. Feed 20 to 30 maggots every two minutes or so for the first half hour and then half that amount for the rest of the session. If

## How do I tackle up?

Bearing in mind that Milton is a mixed fishery, be prepared to fine down your tackle. Heavy reel lines (10lbs) and big hooks (6s and 8s) won't catch you many fish here. 4lb reel line, size 14 and 16 hooks to nylon with a 3lbs breaking strain hook-length is ideal. A small insert waggler float 3BB or 2AA attached at the base only completes the set up. As you will be fishing on the bottom, the next step is to plumb the depth of the area you wish to fish, to do this pinch a large shot either side of the float to lock it in place and adjust the float so that the hook is just touching the bottom with just a small amount of float showing. Once you have done this, put the remaining bulk shot around the float (see diagram) with a No 4



you stop feeding, the fish will quickly vanish from your swim, so remember, keep your baiting regular and in the same area.

## What hook bait shall I use?

Start with a single maggot and if you find yourself catching too many small fish, try a single grain of sweet corn or a 6mm soft pellet as a change of bait - bigger baits will often tempt the larger fish. However, regardless of what bait you are using on the hook, do not stop loose-feeding the maggots.

If you are missing bites on sweet corn, try squeezing the middle out of the corn and use just the skin on the hook; this often does the trick. Be very careful when loose-feeding corn as this can quickly fill the fish up, 4 or 5 grains every 15 minutes should suffice but don't forget to keep the maggots going in!

## Vital tips

If it's windy, it's very important to beat the surface drift by sinking the line between the rod tip and the float. To do this, cast further than the area you are fishing, plunge the rod tip under the surface approximately 6" and swiftly wind the reel handle a couple of times until the line is completely sunk and the float is in the middle of your baited area. Fish are cleverer than you think and can detect noise and movement on the bank, so always sit down and fish - don't jump around, and keep noise levels to a minimum.



## Fish are living creatures so please be kind to them!

- Make sure your hands are wet before handling a fish.
- Land all fish using a 'fish friendly' landing net before placing the fish on an unhooking mat.
- If a fish is deep hooked and you cannot easily remove the hook using a disgorger, cut the line by the mouth and return the fish immediately to the water.
- Return all fish as swiftly as possible.
- Never lift a fish off the ground, especially to take a photograph. A dropped fish is a dead fish.
- We take a pride in our clean tidy fishery, so please do not leave any rubbish - there are bins provided near the boathouse area.

**PRO-FISH**  
ANGLING  
COURSES

Whether you are a beginner or a long time angler, you can boost your confidence and catches by joining one of our Pro-Fish Angling Courses. Costing just £30, our general angling courses run from May to September with tackle and bait provided, there really is no easier way to be introduced to the fun

of fishing! For those preferring that personal touch, we also offer private tuition. If you need to improve your feeder, pole, or waggler skills, a five-hour session with tackle and bait included, should be the key to plenty more bites. Alternatively, let us help you catch a personal best by improving your carp and predator skills.



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