

Official Work Party Guide

Introduction

Bedford Angling Club (the Club) believe that the work undertaken by our members at our work parties is important in enabling the optimum safe use of our waters by our members. This critical work enables effective pleasure and match fishing, strengthens our relationships with our land owners and also the communities local to our waters.

What to do before attending a work party

An overriding priority of the Club is, of course, to ensure that the work undertaken at these events is safe for those involved and any members of the general public nearby. Anyone taking part in a work party needs to be very vigilant and careful to ensure that the events are completed without issue. For this reason it is important that anyone intending to attend a work party reviews the risk assessment related to work parties that can be found on the website before attending.

What happens at a work party?

Unless told otherwise, work parties start with a meet at a parking area of one of our waters. Keep an eye on Facebook for more details in the run up to these events.

The Club will have nominated a work party lead (WPL) to supervise the work party who may have others to assist them in specific tasks, including the use of external contractors on occasions.

The WPL will have arrived on site before the members and will have completed an initial review of the venue and will update all members of any significant findings at an opening briefing. They will then allocate and explain the tasks to be undertaken so please do listen to their instructions carefully and do not go beyond their brief unless you are given permission by the WPL to do so.

Please note that the WPL will have overall responsibility for the work party and their decisions on work to be completed and tools that can be used is final.

Work is varied and can include:

Vegetation clearance

Pruning trees or bushes

Strimming

Cutting grass

Waterborne work

Litter removal

Setting out swims

Ground works

Reed cutting

Weed raking

Timings

Work parties will usually take place on a Saturday or Sunday morning at 9.00am and will last for approximately 2 or 3 hours dependant on the numbers attending. Please see the website and the Facebook page for more information.

Cancellation

Occasionally due to unforeseen circumstances work parties may need to be cancelled. Every effort will be made to let members know as soon as possible before the planned work party by posting on Facebook.

Equipment

For insurance reasons the Club cannot provide equipment for use.

Members may bring tools with them including strimmers, brushcutters, petrol lawn mowers, weed rakes, reed cutters, pruners, secateurs or similar items and they may be used subject to the agreement of the WPL on the day. Please remember that access to some of our waters does require quite a lengthy walk and therefore some tools will not be appropriate in those circumstances.

Anyone who uses strimmers, brushcutters, lawn mowers or other tools should be competent to do so and it will be for the WPL to ensure that this is the case at any work party and that the equipment appears fit for purpose and is in reasonable working order.

Please note that the use of chainsaws is strictly managed. Please see the comments in the risk assessment on the website for more information. Evidence of competence is required before these are used and use is only permitted in limited circumstances. Please do not bring these to work party events without agreeing this with the Club in advance.

Members are expected to wear appropriate clothing, footwear and personal protective equipment suitable for the tasks that they are going to undertake and any mechanical equipment they are planning to use.

Do not bring shovels unless this has been agreed in advance for a specific agreed task.

Junior members attending Work Parties:

The Club would not normally encourage bringing junior members to work parties however, if you bring a junior member with you, please remember that they will not normally have the

knowledge or experience to recognise the hazards associated with work parties and often have no concept of the risks and dangers they pose.

You will have sole responsibility for their safety and wellbeing and ensuring that they behave responsibly.

What should I bring?

- Always bring work gloves, suitable footwear and clothing for the work that is likely to be undertaken and the weather / bankside conditions
- Bring something to drink (non-alcoholic)

Medical issues

If you have any underlying medical issues then please let the WPL know upon arrival so that they do not allocate inappropriate tasks to you.

Conclusion

Many hands really do make light work so the more members that attend, the quicker the sessions and the more we can accomplish. Also, whilst there is no compulsion for members to attend for work parties they are an excellent opportunity to learn about the waters, meet fellow members and improve the condition of our shared facilities for all. Thank you in advance for your support.

Simon Campbell - April 2026