

# NATIONAL GUIDELINES ON BAILIFFING AND FISHERY MANAGEMENT - ISSUED BY THE ANGLING TRUST - January 2021



Under the current Coronavirus lockdown regulations there are a range of activities deemed as essential for which travel is both required and lawful. As can be seen from the government guidance below this includes - *“for work, or providing voluntary or charitable services, where it is unreasonable to do so from home”*.

This position was endorsed last year by the National Policing Lead on Rural & Wildlife Crime who stated:

*“The Police support and protect the UK’s infrastructure, including the recreational fishing industry, recognising that waters and commercial interests still require protection at this difficult time. If a person’s essential travel is ‘reasonable’ and ‘proportionate’ then they should fulfil their roles protecting fisheries, whilst taking as much care as possible to prevent the spread of the virus.”*

These activities include:

- Maintaining safety and security at a fishery
- Protecting the fishery from theft or damage
- Fishery working parties
- Checking on the welfare of fish stocks
- Where necessary feeding fish
- Other work deemed necessary and proportionate

## **Organising Bailiffing and Fisheries Management Work**

Most angling clubs rely on voluntary bailiffs and working parties to secure and maintain their waters. The winter months are an ideal time to carry out work to remove unwanted vegetation and improve swims. This activity is entirely permissible within the lockdown rules however the Angling Trust advises that the following steps be taken:

- All bailiffs to be provided with written accreditation which can be shown on request.
- Risk assessments to be carried out ahead of any club working parties and appropriate hand sanitisers should be provided along with necessary safety equipment.
- Working party numbers should be kept to manageable numbers and volunteers should work in small, socially distanced groups.

- It would be sensible to have an advance booking system in place for club working parties to manage the numbers safely.
- People should not be travelling long distances from home.
- Bailiffs should not use night fishing as a pretext for 'security' as overnight stays are not lawful.

Some great advice from our colleagues at the Institute of Fisheries Management (IFM) on looking after your waters during the Coronavirus pandemic can be [found here](#).

## **Coronavirus Regulation and Guidance**

We are advising bailiffs, club officials and volunteers to download these guidelines to their phones, or to retain a hard copy, in order to demonstrate that they are operating lawfully and in accordance with the The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 3) and (All Tiers) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 which can be [found here](#).

### **Government Guidance**

#### **When you can leave home**

You must not leave or be outside of your home except where you have a 'reasonable excuse'.

A 'reasonable excuse' includes:

- Work - you can only leave home for work purposes where it is unreasonable for you to do your job from home
- Volunteering - you can also leave home to provide voluntary or charitable services.

#### **Where and when you can meet in larger groups**

There are still circumstances in which you are allowed to meet others from outside your household, childcare or support bubble in larger groups, but this should not be for socialising and only for permitted purposes. A full list of these circumstances will be included in the regulations, and includes:

- For work, or providing voluntary or charitable services, where it is unreasonable to do so from home.

### **[Full Guidance here](#)**

We hope this is useful and helps you keep your fisheries safe and secure and ready to once again welcome back anglers.

### **Angling Trust, January 2021**

The Angling Trust is recognised by the Government as the single representative body for all game, coarse and sea angling in England. We fight for fish and fishing by working to improve and protect fish stocks, promoting the benefits of angling for all, standing up for the environment and supporting excellence in angling. [Join today](#)

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