

Account of Purley on Thames

Fish and Crustaceans

R200429 12/7/2017

Introduction

This section contains information about the different types of fish which are liable to be found in Purley.

The habitats where fish are liable to be found may be summarised as:-

The connected water courses of the River Thames, Sul Brook and West Brook.

The ponds at Westbury Farm

The gravel pit at Home Farm

House aquaria

Fish are a very popular type of pet and those exotic species that may be kept in garden ponds and house aquaria are discussed in the pets article. In addition there are some species of fish which are kept in the ponds at Westbury Farm for angling purposes and these are dealt with in the angling section.

This article therefore will cover only those fish liable to be found in the connected waterways and in the gravel pit.

Classification

Of the four classes which are generally regarded as 'fish' within the Phylum CHORDATA; Sub-phylum VERTEBRATA only those of the Class PISCES and sub-class NEOPTERGII will be found in Purley's principal water environments. The orders covering species which may be found are:-

Order ISOSPONDYLI - Sardines, Salmon and trout

Order HAPLOMI - Pikes

Order OSTARIOPHYSI - Carps & catfish

Order APODES - Eels

Order PERCOMORPHI - Perches

Order THORACOSTEI - Sticklebacks

Fish as a Measure of Pollution

The quantities and distribution of species of the fish in a waterway have been a very good measure of the quality of the water. Fish will be very sensitive to small levels of pollution and the degree of oxygenisation of the water. Some species are more susceptible than others and as levels of pollution increased over the period from 1850 to 1960 many species disappeared to return gradually after pollution controls were established.

Sardines Salmon and Trout

Pikes

Carps & Catfish

Eels

Perches

Sticklebacks

