The Arundell Waters
THE Arundell

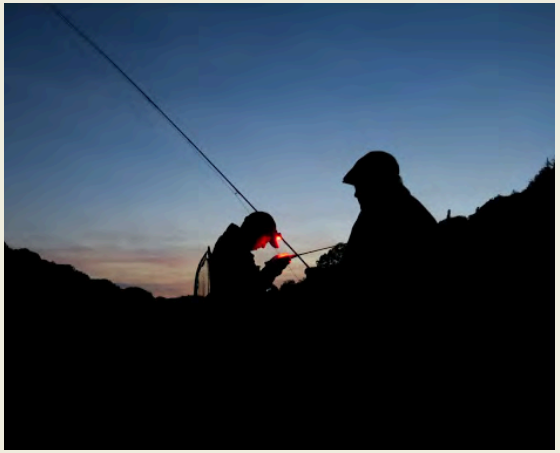
Our Waters

We are very fortunate at the Arundell to own and manage 22 miles of wild fishing on the river Tamar and five of its tributaries. Our rivers are diverse and individual, ranging from moorland spate rivers to lowland meandering trout streams. They are all beautiful, and we enjoy them for their own strengths and characteristics. We are often asked to describe our waters which is never a simple matter given the variety. This short summary is an attempt to introduce you to each of our rivers so that all our guests get to fish a river that matches their expectations and capabilities. We are sure there is something amongst our 22 miles of fishing that will suit any fly-fishing preference or ability and this guide will hopefully steer you towards the correct stretch of river for your day. In time, we hope you will fish them all.

River Tamar

The Tamar is our primary river into which all our other rivers feed, being tributaries. The county boundary between Devon and Cornwall, it is the largest of our rivers. It holds good stocks of brown trout, sea trout and the occasional salmon. Meandering through the rich fields of lowland farmland it is set against the backdrop of the archetypal rolling Devon countryside. The water is comprised of classic large, slow and deep holding pools, long gravel floored flats and riffles. Wading is good for the most part and it is an easy river to fish and access. The water holds appeal for the beginner and experienced fisherman alike; proficient anglers can seek out the more adventurous stretches between the pools which are not frequently fished, and therefore see little fly. Trout fishing can be some of the best we have on our fishery and through the summer months, anglers will find some of the larger trout the West Country has to offer in the Tamar's smooth glides. July will bring large schools of sea trout, and from late summer onwards we can expect to find salmon throughout our water.

Species – Salmon, Sea Trout, Brown Trout, Grayling
Size of River – Medium to large
Wading – Good
Ease of access and Fishability - Easy
Trout Rods - 8' #4 – 9' #5 weight rods
Salmon & Sea trout Rods - 9'6" #7 – 12' #8/9 weight rods



River Lyd

The Lyd is one of the primary tributaries of the Tamar and probably the prettiest. Beginning on the moors it runs fast and clear. More of a spate stream than its maternal Tamar, the levels rise and fall quickly allowing it to be fished for salmon and sea trout days after the peak of a spate. For anglers it offers some of the most attractive fly water due to its clear water and beautiful scenery. The valley is one of the most untouched in the West Country with no major roads or population, and the only disturbance to your day is likely to be the salute of a kingfisher whizzing past. During the summer, the Lyd can provide some of the best sea trout anywhere in the Southwest and is where most of our night fishing happens. While the Lyd is smaller than the Tamar, the pools are still easily fishable for the novice given shallow wading. For the more experienced anglers, the pots, riffles, and rocky runs between the pools can provide an exciting opportunity for sport, with wading proficiency. The Sydenham beats benefit from a fishing hut, which anglers can use during their day. It is also the perfect place for fishing parties to use as a base.

Species – Salmon, Sea Trout, Brown Trout, Grayling
Size of River – Medium
Wading – Easy to Medium
Ease of access and Fishability – Medium
Trout Equipment – 8' #4 - 9' #5 weight rods
Salmon & Seatrout 9' - 10' #7/8 weight rods

Rivers Wolf & Thrushel

The Thrushel and its own tributary, the Wolf, is a pretty, lowland river which affords excellent trout fishing. The Thrushel itself is a small to medium sized river with a good number of open pools for the novice fisherman to target some excellent wild brown trout. Its tributary the Wolf is slightly smaller and trickier, requiring more fishing experience. Both rivers are characterised by short gravelly runs with trout holding pockets that flow into rock formed pools. To get the best from your day, the ability to cast from both shoulders is preferable as many of the runs and pots require working your way up the river from side to side and between access points. A short rod of 7ft or so is recommended. It should also be noted that the water levels on the Wolf are controlled by output from Roadford reservoir ensuring that it is often fishable when all other rivers are running too high after rainfall.

Species – Brown Trout, Grayling
Size of River – Medium/small
Wading difficulty – Medium
Ease of access and Fishability – Medium
Trout Equipment – 7'6"- 8'6" #3/4 weight rods

River Ottery

The Ottery is a magical little trout river and is the Arundell's only trout fishing in Cornwall. It is very much a lowland river flowing slowly through unspoilt pastural land at the top of the Tamar catchment. The landscape is peaceful, beautiful, and only surpassed by the trout fishing which can be excellent. The river itself is small and flanked by dense bushes, where wading is the only access to certain runs. In general, it is well maintained, and the wading and access is easy. There are deep pools and glorious runs which represent some of the best trout fishing on our fishery. Moderately experienced fishermen will get the best from the water due to the relatively confined casting space, and for those who can cast proficiently, there is no section that will prove too much of a challenge. The river provides some early season sport with a good Grannom hatch, and is also known to have one of the best Mayfly hatches in the Westcountry. It is not to be missed on your trip to The Arundell.

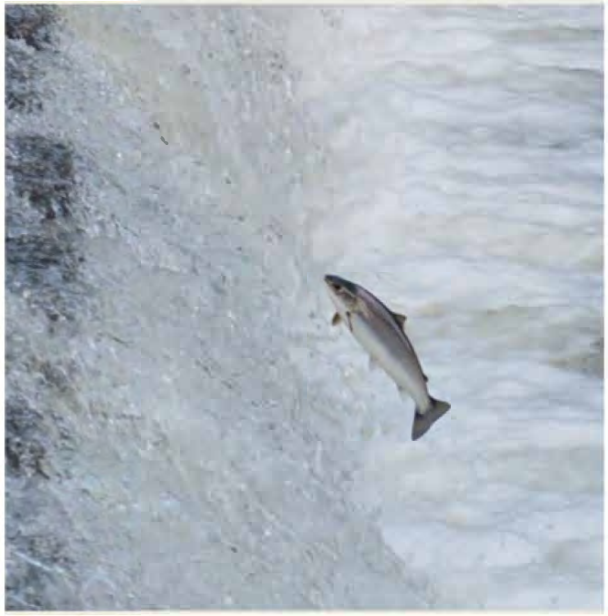
Species – Brown Trout
Size of River – Small
Wading – Easy
Ease of access and Fishability – Medium/challenging in parts
Trout Equipment – 7'- 8' #3/4 weight rods

Rivers Lew & Upper Lyd

The stretches of the Upper Lyd and Lew on the Arundell fishery represent some of the finest wild fishing for the connoisseur of the small stream. Very lightly kept, these streams are left in their natural state to provide the sport sought by the small stream purist. The Lyd runs exceedingly clear in its upper reaches and maximum stealth, guile and approach are required to fool the wily fish that occupy these stretches. It is also the first of our waters to become fishable after a spate, and is often fishable even at the peak of a spate. The Lew carries a touch more colour but also requires a greater degree of finesse in terms of presentation and a considered approach. Short rods, tactical wading and adaptable casting are required for both rivers. For those who enjoy a challenge you will not find a more beautiful and wild spot in which to fish.

Species – Brown Trout
Size of River – Small
Wading – Medium and necessary
Ease of access and Fishability – Experienced rods only
Trout Equipment – 6' -7' #3/4

Tinhay Lake

We are fortunate to have our very own lake for exclusive use of residents at the Arundell. As well as being an important teaching venue, where generations have first learned to cast and catch a fish. It also provides excellent sport for experienced fishermen as the lake holds some big, wily browns. Whether the rivers are in spate or you simply prefer fishing a still water, the fishing can be excellent. A flooded limestone quarry, the waters in Tinhay are spring fed and crystal clear allowing for the excitement of sight fishing for fish cruising along the drop off. On clear windless summer days, long leaders and small dries offer some challenging and captivating sport. We stock the lake regularly with rainbow trout to ensure that the beginner has a good chance of catching a fish and getting 'hooked' on the sport of fly fishing. Access to the lake is easy and only a short walk from the carpark. All fishing is conducted from the bank and is manageable for all levels of fitness and ability.

Species – Rainbow Trout & Brown Trout
Size of Lake – 3 acres
Wading – Fishing from the Bank Only
Ease of access and Fishability – Easy
Trout Equipment – 9' #4-6 weight rods with Floating Lines