

Water of Leith: Permit to Fish

Your name

Season: 1 April to 30 September 2025

This permit gives the holder permission to fish for brown trout and grayling in the Water of Leith between Balerno Bridge and West Bowling Green Street Bridge, Leith, excluding private stretches around Balerno/Currie/Juniper Green. You can see details on our website [Water of Leith Fishing](#)

Permit holders must adhere to these conditions:

- Fishing is permitted seven days per week.
- The permit is not transferable.
- You must always carry this permit (digitally on your phone or print this permit) when fishing on the Water of Leith and, if asked, show it to Natural Heritage, Police and authorised fishery officers.
- Permits are not granted to young people under 12 years of age.
- Fish Safely and follow best practice: - [About - Fishing Around the Forth \(fishforth.org\)](#)
- Catch and release only: you must return fish to the river.
- You must always use barbless hooks.
- Fishing for salmon or sea trout is strictly prohibited and should not be targeted. Anyone targeting these fish will be in breach of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation)(Scotland) Act 2003 which may result in a criminal offence and or fine or imprisonment.
- To safeguard all wildlife, please take all discarded line and tackle away with you.

Methods of fishing

- a) Balerno to Boggs Bridge - fly fishing only
- b) Boggs Bridge to Leith - fly or bait fishing
- c) Line used is restricted to 4lb break strain
- d) Spinning is prohibited
- e) Fixed line fishing is prohibited
- f) Fishing is restricted to one rod per person. The rod must be hand-held when in use.
- g) Landing nets should be used and best practice followed, further information here: [Catch and Release - Fishing Around the Forth \(fishforth.org\)](#)
- h) Fishing is not permitted during prolonged dry and hot spells, fishing should stop if the water temperature goes above 18°C. This handy guide provides more information for anglers [fishing during hot weather](#)

Please Note

If you do not comply with these conditions this permit will be invalid.

You can find more information on fishing permits on our website: [Water of Leith Fishing](#).

Pollution

Please report pollution direct to SEPA on 0800 80 70 60 (24 hour). For any other enquiries, phone us on 0131 529 2401.

Details of fish caught

We value your support for fishing on the Water of Leith and would appreciate a catch return following every successful outing. Please email your catch records to naturalheritageservice@edinburgh.gov.uk

You can use the table below or simply put the information in an email. Thank you in anticipation.

Date of catch	
Location(s) of catch	
Total number of trout caught and returned	
Weight of largest fish/where it was caught	
Any other species/wildlife sightings	