

WADAA Ltd
Capernwray Tarn

16th April 2021

Background

In late 2020, Carnforth and District Angling Association (CDAA) and WADAA discussed and agreed to merge the 2 organisations in order to provide a better offering to both sets of members.

CDAA controlled fishing on 2 venues; a wholly owned tarn at Capernwray and fishing rights for significant stretches of the River Keer. Both venues are primarily game fishing, with the river having a long history of good sea trout catches and the tarn being a stocked trout water. Both river and tarn have issues which needed to be addressed and as part of the plan, WADAA set out a scope of work, as previously communicated to members.

Immediate priority was the tarn given it's likely high usage by the majority of members and the fact that the issues could be largely resolved 'in-house'.

Works commenced in February and WADAA juggled having the venue open for fishing whilst progress was being made. This was to have some fishing available for Lancashire based anglers during the period of travel restrictions.

Following the Easter break, the venue was closed to allow some significant heavy plant on-site. This work is now complete and the venue will re-open on Monday 26th April. This is 1 week later than originally planned as, although the work has been completed to schedule, the club wants to take an extra week to monitor how things settle down.

The following is a picture record illustrating the work completed. Given the desire to create an easy access venue suitable for mobility impaired anglers and a coaching agenda, focus has been on improving the basic site infrastructure.

Parking

Given the likely increase in the numbers of anglers using the tarn, plus the need for level disabled access, it was important that the club improved the existing parking (the original hard-standing laid had disappeared). This was both in terms of size and improved hard-standing. The original parking area quickly became a mud-bath when it was driven on in February – in fact a numbers of members got stuck and required assistance to get out. Whilst repairing the collapsed gulley, improvements included covering a section of the outlet stream to provide parking space and removing all of the surface soft ground material. This was a significant task involving road-building type equipment. In total, over 250 tonnes of stone was used in the construction.









Slipway

In common with lots of venues now, the tarn has some significant Canadian Pond Weed growth during the summer months. Following methods used on other venues, WADAA anticipates using a mechanical weed boat to manage this during the summer months. However, this requires access to the lake edge. A road width access route has been built, terminating in a stone slipway. This is level with the car park, so also provides access into the venue and will be used by the fish stocking vehicles.



Path

It was very noticeable during winter how wet and boggy the land was around the tarn. The club is keen to make access as easy as possible, particularly for mobility constrained anglers. A new pathed section over 100m long has been created down one side of the tarn and a section of raised walkway added over the wettest area. This is integrated with platforms and toilet.



Construction

A number of timber constructions have been added to the site. These are either to improve the fishing experience, make the venue more comfortable for members or improve site health and safety. A significant quantity of timber has been used, the pictures shows just a very small element used.



All the building has been done from scratch to ensure the designs are exactly right for members. Firstly kits were made up, then constructed into the final buildings. The club was very grateful for member help during this phase.



Bridge



Raised Walkway



Toilet and Boat Store



Fishing Platforms



3 coaching platforms and 10 standard platforms have been constructed

Water Quality

Being surrounded by lodge holiday homes, water quality is a key focus. During the work, the inlet stream has been completely re-dug, removing legacy silts and additional improvement measures have been taken such as the addition of barley straw and blue dye. Additionally, the water has been added to WADAA’s monitoring regime and details records and trends are now being kept.



Predation Control

Given it's location, the venue gets the attention of cormorants. In addition to the site control license, a hide has been constructed and manikins has been placed around the tarn.



Comfort

Given the plan to run assisted and coaching sessions from the venue, the existing large picnic table has been refurbished. This gives a great view of the water while anglers eat their lunch.



And finally, we have had a good old tidy up!!



As ever with this type of activity, it will take a little while for things to start growing again. We will be doing some basic planting and landscaping over the coming months.

Further plans

In order to limit further closures, the club has completed as much work as is possible at this stage. However, we will hopefully be replacing the perimeter fence at some point. This couldn't be done now due to both funding constraints and a fencing material shortage. Additionally, should funding become available in future, we have allowed spaced for a teaching classroom/meeting room to be added.

Thanks

This amount of work completed in a short time has only been possible with the help we have received. The club gained some funding from the National Lottery Community Fund. Work was planned with input from the WADAA Game committee and the committee members from CDAA.

The heavy work was completed by 2 contractors, Richard Dennison and Lewis Aitken who both worked incredibly hard on behalf of the club. And finally, the members who came to help out on work parties in some fairly unpleasant winter weather.

