

## HVAC Discovery Data

### Finding Trout

Resident brown trout are territorial creatures. If they find a good lie where there is abundant food and shelter in the river they will claim it and defend that territory against other intruding fish. Individual trout are known to return to "their spot" after they have recovered from their upstream spawning migration.

The angler who spends a lot of time on a river and gets to know where the large fish are to be found has a great advantage over other anglers who are not familiar with the lies occupied by individual fish. Larger trout are more wary than their smaller cousins and so the zones where these fish are living should be approached with extra caution if the whereabouts of good-sized trout are known. The best way to find these spots is to fish a stretch of river regularly throughout the season. If you are not skilled at spotting fish then try to spend some time with an angler who has developed this skill and you will learn from them. Remember, trout cannot read, so they are not always found where the books say they will be.

The smart angler knows the most likely spots but is also aware that trout can be almost anywhere in a river and so he checks out the shallows on his side of the river, before wading. If looking for trout it is always best to approach from downstream and move upstream. Even highly skilled and very careful fishermen will spook fish that are lying in unexpected places, so don't worry if you scare a few trout at the river, just make a mental note to expect one in that vicinity next time. It is all part of the learning experience.

Novice anglers are often uncertain where to fish and how long they should spend in one spot. There are some old sayings that tell us we need patience to be an angler. That is probably true if the angler stays in one spot and doesn't move at all. In that case he is putting all his/her eggs in one basket and trusting his/her skill and luck. Persistence is not quite the same as patience and the persistent angler is sometimes rewarded. There is no golden rule about how long to spend in one spot, but common sense tells us that if you have not hooked a fish within a fairly short time you should either change your tactics or move on to another spot which may be more productive.

Beginners frequently ask when they should fish with a dry fly. The obvious answer is to fish with a dry fly if trout are surface feeding. This would be evident by large rings or surface disturbance caused by feeding trout. Other times to fish a dry fly would be to use a bushy dry fly as an indicator on a nymph rig, or as a prospecting fly in shallow, broken water such as a riffle or in pocket water. There should be evidence of hatching flies about, either coming off the water or seen flying over the surface. Prime times for hatching flies are during the warmest time of day, in the early part of the season, and always in the evening before dark, until well after dark, throughout the summer season.