

Where to Fish EXTRA

CATCH YOUR

There's never been a better time to bag



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News reporter

LANDING a new personal best of most species can prove tricky during the depths of winter, but when it comes to perch there has never been a better time to catch a huge specimen.

The cold and clear conditions are perfect for the predators to feed, and Angling Times this week reveals the UK's most prolific specimen perch stillwaters.

1 Thorpe Lea, Egham, Surrey

The big perch can turn up anywhere, although the channels between the islands, in the margins and tight against the features could produce a specimen over 4lb.

07934 000559, Sat Nav: TW20 8PG

2 Hartleylands Farm, Cranbrook, Kent

Nick's Lake is home to lots of fish over the 3lb mark and the nearside margins with worms and casters could produce a new personal best.

01580 720319, Sat Nav: TN17 3PS

3 Lake John, Waltham Abbey, Essex

The Top Lake is renowned for its bream and tench, but once winter arrives perch over 3lb are caught frequently. Fish either down the edge or 5m out.

07958 938153, Sat Nav: EN9 2BJ



Lake John produces perch to 3lb in the winter.

4 Stafford Moor, Dolton, Devon

The vast majority of the waters here have produced perch over 3lb, although Pines Lake is without a doubt the pick of the bunch at the moment.

01805 804360, Sat Nav: EX19 8PP

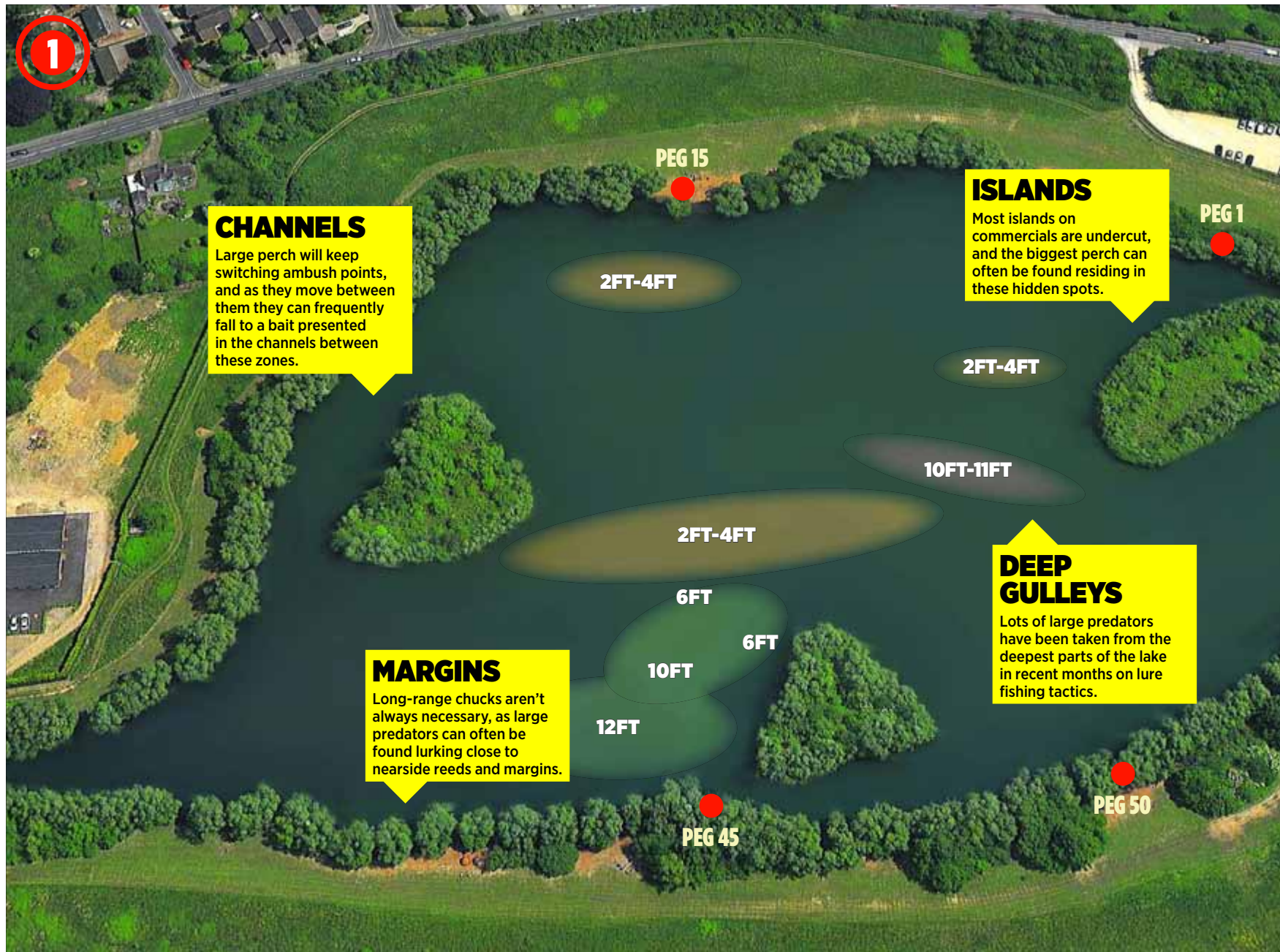
5 Woodside Fishery, Kidderminster, Worcs

Island Pool is a popular hotspot for specimen anglers in pursuit of perch over the 4lb mark. Fresh prawns are a fantastic bait when presented at close range.

01299 270565, Sat Nav: DY14 0BU

6 Cudmore Fisheries, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs

Tara Lake is stocked with big pike and catfish, but it is the huge perch that are



CHANNELS

Large perch will keep switching ambush points, and as they move between them they can frequently fall to a bait presented in the channels between these zones.

ISLANDS

Most islands on commercials are undercut, and the biggest perch can often be found residing in these hidden spots.

DEEP GULLEYS

Lots of large predators have been taken from the deepest parts of the lake in recent months on lure fishing tactics.

MARGINS

Long-range chucks aren't always necessary, as large predators can often be found lurking close to nearside reeds and margins.

attracting the most attention. Small lures fished close to any cover, such as reedbeds or overhanging bushes, will score for fish to 4lb.

01782 680919, Sat Nav: ST5 5HW

7 Messingham Sands, Scunthorpe, East Yorks

Pole, waggler or leger tactics will account for perch over 3lb on the North Day Ticket Lake. Feed maggots to attract the small roach, which will in turn draw in a big predator.

01724 763647, Sat Nav: DN17 3AX

8 Oakfield Fishery, Aylesbury, Bucks

Most visitors look for carp in Swallow Lake, but those who have targeted perch have been rewarded with fish to 3lb. Worms, maggots and casters are the top trio of baits.

01296 770899, Sat Nav: HP18 0SN

9 Elphicks Fisheries, Horsmonden, Kent

Fishing just a few metres out from the

bank on Sandwich Lake is currently the killer tactic for perch over 3lb. Large pieces of prawn or whole lobworms will prevent the nuisance silvers attacking your bait.

01580 212512, Sat Nav: TN12 8EL

10 Framfield Fishery, Uckfield, East Sussex

Huge carp weights in excess of 400lb are taken every summer on Spring, but during the winter the water's big perch become the primary target for many visiting anglers. Pegs in the mid-60s are the flyers, but perch can come from anywhere on this venue.

01825 890948, Sat Nav: TN22 5QJ

11 Four Seasons Fisheries, Blackpool, Lancs

Fishing tight to the far bank or into the nearside margins has been working well for perch anglers on Newton's Lake, with specimens to 3lb falling foul of worm and maggot hookbaits.

01253 894357, Sat Nav: FY3 0AY

12 Meadowlands Fishery, Coventry, Warks

Head to Warren Pool to put yourself in with the chance of banking a 3lb specimen. Snaggy pegs, including 12, 14, 15 and 18, are worth trying.

01216 030127, Sat Nav: CV8 3EG

13 Chestnut Pool, Biggleswade, Beds

The big perch are getting plenty of attention from visitors at the moment and 3lb specimens are being taken every week. Avoid feeding heavily or the carp will most likely invade your swim.

01462 701865, Sat Nav: SG18 9QT



Chestnut Pool in Biggleswade is hot for perch.

14 Viaduct Fisheries, Somerton, Somerset

Campbell Lake is usually reserved for matches, but in winter perch anglers are allowed to target fish that over 4lb. Fish worms or prawns just off the end of the platform or towards the reed beds.

01458 274022, Sat Nav: TA11 6LJ

15 Whitmore Fisheries, Preston, Lancs

Island Pond, The Basin and Club Canal have all produced perch over 4lb in the past. Use straight lead tactics or the long pole over minimal feed of red maggots to draw in small prey fish.

01253 836224, Sat Nav: PR4 3HQ

16 Buttonhole Lake, Wisbech, Cambs

Virtually everything that gets stocked in here grows enormous, and that is definitely true for the perch, which have been banked to almost 4lb. Worms fished close to any reed beds should get you bites all day long.

01945 430629, Sat Nav: PE14 8EY

BIGGEST-EVER PERCH

a personal-best stripey from a stillwater fishery on your doorstep



Fins bristling, a specimen perch is returned to the depths.

17 Hampton Springs, Hampton Malpas, Cheshire

Fishing close to the islands on Alice Springs will put you in with a chance of a perch nudging 4lb. Try the straight lead or waggler with maggots and worms.

01948 820789, Sat Nav: SY14 8AD

18 White Springs Fishery, Swansea, South Wales

A 5lb perch is a dream specimen, but visit the Old Canal and it could become a reality. Snags down the margins and against the island provide the perfect cover for the resident predators.

01792 885699, Sat Nav: SA4 8QG

19 Tanyard Fisheries, Uckfield, East Sussex

Carp Free Pool is in fantastic form, and big perch up to 3lb can show up at any time. The open water areas close to the café offer the deepest water.

07833 532842, Sat Nav: TN22 3RL

20 Angel of the North Lakes, Chester-le-Street, County Durham

Lookout Lake is stocked with just about every coarse fish species you can think of, but a big bunch of maggots or a large juicy lobworm is likely to be devoured by a 3lb perch.

07867 557974, Sat Nav: DH3 1RF



Tanyards holds perch to 3lb in its Carp Free Pool.

21 Tricklebrook Fishery, Five Oak Green, Kent

The Main Lake is the place to head to for perch over 4lb, and any areas providing cover are worth trying. Worms, casters and maggots should all be in your bait bag.

07743 955812, Sat Nav: TN12 6SH

22 Bury Hill Fisheries, Dorking, Surrey

It can be tough to get a swim at times on Milton Lake as anglers go in search of a 3lb-plus perch, so plan to arrive early in the day. Prawns glugged in a pungent liquid have produced some astonishing catches this winter.

01306 883621, Sat Nav: RH4 3JU

23 Golden Pond Fishery, Andover, Hants

Locate overhanging trees and underwater patrol routes and the perch are sure to be lingering nearby. Fish to 4lb can be taken here on pole or waggler tactics.

07734 669738, Sat Nav: SP11 7LA

24 Alderwood Ponds, Steyning, West Sussex

A small tub of fresh prawns from the supermarket will be enough to tempt a raft of fish to over 3lb from the Island Pond. Fish no more than a couple of rodlengths out.

01903 816377, Sat Nav: BN44 3AA

25 Woodhouse Grange Fisheries, Doncaster, South Yorks

Carp have backed off the feed because of frosts, but perch to 3lb are still taking maggots or worms on Lily Lake.

07936 647588, Sat Nav: DN7 6DU

26 Woodland Waters, Ancaster, Lincs

Small coarse deadbaits are favoured by anglers in the know. Fish to over 3lb have been recorded from the Specimen Lake in recent weeks.

01400 230888, Sat Nav: NG32 3RT

27 Decoy Lakes, Whittlesey, Cambs

This fishery is highly regarded for its carp action, but it also has a reputation for perch to over 3lb. Fish close to the dead lily beds on Horseshoe Lake.

01733 202230, Sat Nav: PE7 2AD

28 Makins Fishery, Wolvey, Warks

Fish the deep water on Anchor Lake for a 3lb-plus perch. Feed maggots

and pinkies to draw in the prey fish.
01455 220877, Sat Nav: CV11 6QJ

29 Wansford Fishery, Driffield, East Yorks

The Coarse Lake with its dense reedbeds, holds perch to 5lb. Worms coated in Van Den Eynde Predator Plus give an edge.

07887 662796, Sat Nav: YO25 8JJ

30 Athersley Memorial Lake, Barnsley, South Yorks

Tiny sections of worm fished alongside a few casters will produce perch over 3lb. Pegs in the mid-teens close to the reedbeds are the hotspots.

07402 682899, Sat Nav: S71 3JU

MORE PERCH FEATURES

Martin Bowler says try the feeder when fishing for perch in coloured water, rather than go drop-shooting – Turn to page 22.
Phil Spinks reveals the simple stillwater tactic that's tricking big perch right now ...prawns on the float – Turn to page 30.