

# Water~Lines

## Fair Special Issue from the Haddon Estate Fisheries

### Published by:

Haddon Publishers  
Raper Lodge  
Conksbury Lane  
Youlgrave  
Derbyshire  
DE45 1WR

info@haddonhall.co.uk

### Printed by:

Ambrose Printing Ltd  
Granby  
Bakewell Derbyshire  
DE45 1ET

### Useful information:

**Season: April 1<sup>st</sup> - October 7<sup>th</sup>**

Day Ticket fishing on 7½ miles of  
the Derbyshire Wye

High Season (Mayfly).....£60/day

Before and After Mayfly...£30/day

The Peacock at Rowsley

Matlock

Derbyshire

DE4 2EB

UK

T: +44 (0)1629 733 518

F: +44 (0)1629 732 671

reception@thepeacockatrowsley.com

Syndicate fishing available on Rivers  
Lathkill and Bradford.

Head River Keeper

Mobile: 0780 1457225

Please note that Water~Lines content  
belongs either to the publishers or to  
the individual contributor.

Haddon is a Country Estate of some three and a half thousand acres in the Derbyshire Peak District. Haddon is owned by Lord Edward Manners, whose ancestors have probably fished the rivers of Haddon for more than four centuries.

### Dry Fly

You can see from the story of James Ogden that we consider our rivers to be the home of dry fly. A policy still firmly held today.

### Wild Rainbow Trout

In the 1890's a small shipment of rainbow trout was received and placed into an inline dam on the Wye. After four years a flood caused some fish to escape downstream. The Wye was almost an exact copy of their home river. They were first generation fish bred from wild stock so they spawned and multiplied. They now complement our fishery in large numbers and provide a sporting chance to the fly during the bright summer daytime while our native browns and grayling rise well either side of noon. You will only find these superb fish in the Derbyshire Wye.

### Wild Trout

We ended a 150-year-old tradition of fish farming when we moved over to wild-trout-only, some time ago. Our management policy now revolves around river restoration and boosting habitat and spawning opportunities for our native trout.

### Catch & Release

Of course our fishing needs to sustain itself. All fish are returned alive after capture. This has led to the release of many specimen fish, the likes of which were rarely seen before our changeover.

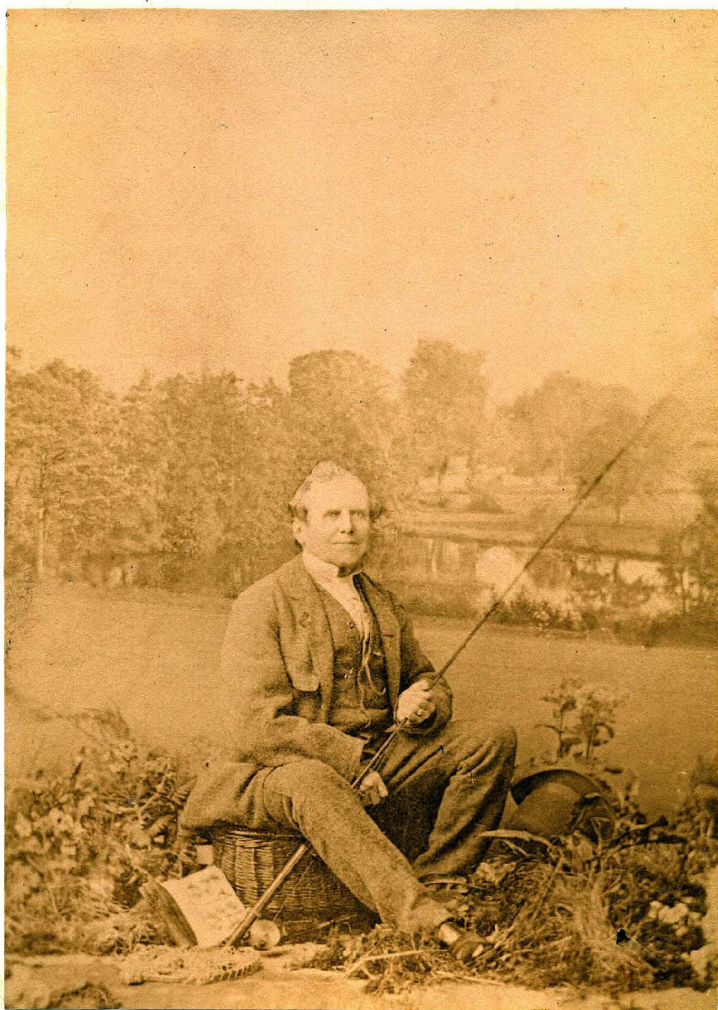


*Wild trout fishing promotes healthy rivers with more fish and larger specimens*

## Dry Fly – a Short, Local and very Early History

So how did Haddon's cast-iron rule of “*single dry fly only*” come about? When was it introduced? Why? Who made it possible? The answers to these questions all pertain to a remarkable man who came from Derbyshire and loved to fish the Derbyshire Wye around Bakewell and Rowsley on the Haddon Estate.

James Ogden grew up in Derbyshire and learned the art of traditional wet fly fishing from his father Frank during many visits to the Derbyshire Wye. James loved the Wye and all its surroundings. He was a very observant man and his own observations led him to try new ways to trick the fish of Derbyshire's streams and rivers. He noticed that the most likely time a fly would be taken was at the first cast with the fly floating before it became wet and sank. He began the first steps of what would lead, over the next forty years, to nothing less than a total revolution in fly-fishing.



In 1839, after many experiments, James Ogden introduced his special flies to the world. These were the first flies dressed deliberately to float with innovations such as cork and straw as body materials. Throughout the 1840's he used his floating flies on the Wye and other Derbyshire rivers, making more innovations and improvements based on his results. Having reached the stage where he could, with confidence, offer his floating flies for sale James moved to Cheltenham in the 1850's to begin his fishing tackle business.

His business was a success and he became, justifiably famous. He loved to take trips back to Derbyshire to fish his mother river, the Wye. In October 1864, whilst on one such trip in search of Sport with the grayling, he stayed “at that delightful inn, The Peacock, Rowsley Bridge”. The Duke's steward met up with him and knowing of his floating flies, he asked James whether his floating “May flies” would work on the Haddon Estate's waters. The fishery was being depleted of its bigger fish by use of the live fly every year during the Drake. The steward was hoping to find an alternative that might work well enough to give anglers sport, but get away from the slaughter of so many of the best fish.

Ogden knew his flies would certainly work and said as much. The steward's response was an invitation to return the next year, in time for the Drake.

Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> June 1865 saw James Ogden staying again “at that delightful inn, The Peacock, Rowsley Bridge”. He headed for Bakewell where the fly starts a little earlier than downstream at Rowsley. In Bakewell, on learning of the intended attempt at using artificial “May flies” and after they had all viewed the contents of his fly box, the anglers laughed at him. They gathered on the bridge to look down on Ogden, the steward and the head keeper as he began to cast. In a short time he caught nine trout!

A large trout was rising in mid-river just above the weir. Wading was strictly forbidden and had been for years, but the steward was determined to ascertain whether these “floating May flies” would work with even the largest fish. He asked Ogden to wade in to have a better chance of reaching the big fish. In he went, wetting his legs, as waders were unheard of on this water. After a long cast the big fish was hooked but Ogden had one leg stuck in the silt and mud. He lost his balance, falling headlong into the Wye and dropping his rod. After regaining his feet he picked up his rod and found the fish still on but in a weed bed. He managed to coax the big fish out of the weed bed and the head keeper netted it.

A voice from the crowd on the bridge called over: “If he hadn't fell in, he'd a caught every fish in the water!”

The very next day, Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> June 1865 the single artificial floating fly rule was introduced on Haddon Estate's waters. This made Haddon the first place to have “dry fly only” as the rule and the first place where all the fish have sanctuary whenever they are not feeding at the surface. James Ogden and the steward created a new world order for fly-fishing that first spread South and from there, across the World.

The rest is history...

Regular Rod