

# Haughton Castle



*Haughton Castle is based in Northumberland and is steeped in history. The estate has 1.75 miles of right bank fishing on the North Tyne which has an excellent run of Atlantic Salmon every year and holds an equally impressive catch average. The fishing here comprises of your stereotypical easy to read fishing through to some more complicated wading where you have to really hunt for the fish. There are some excellent holding pools throughout the beat.*

## *Introduction*

*Throughout this brochure we are going to overview each pool. Each pool is going to have a breakdown consisting of 'how best to approach' the pool, 'tackle bag' and 'water height wading advice'.*

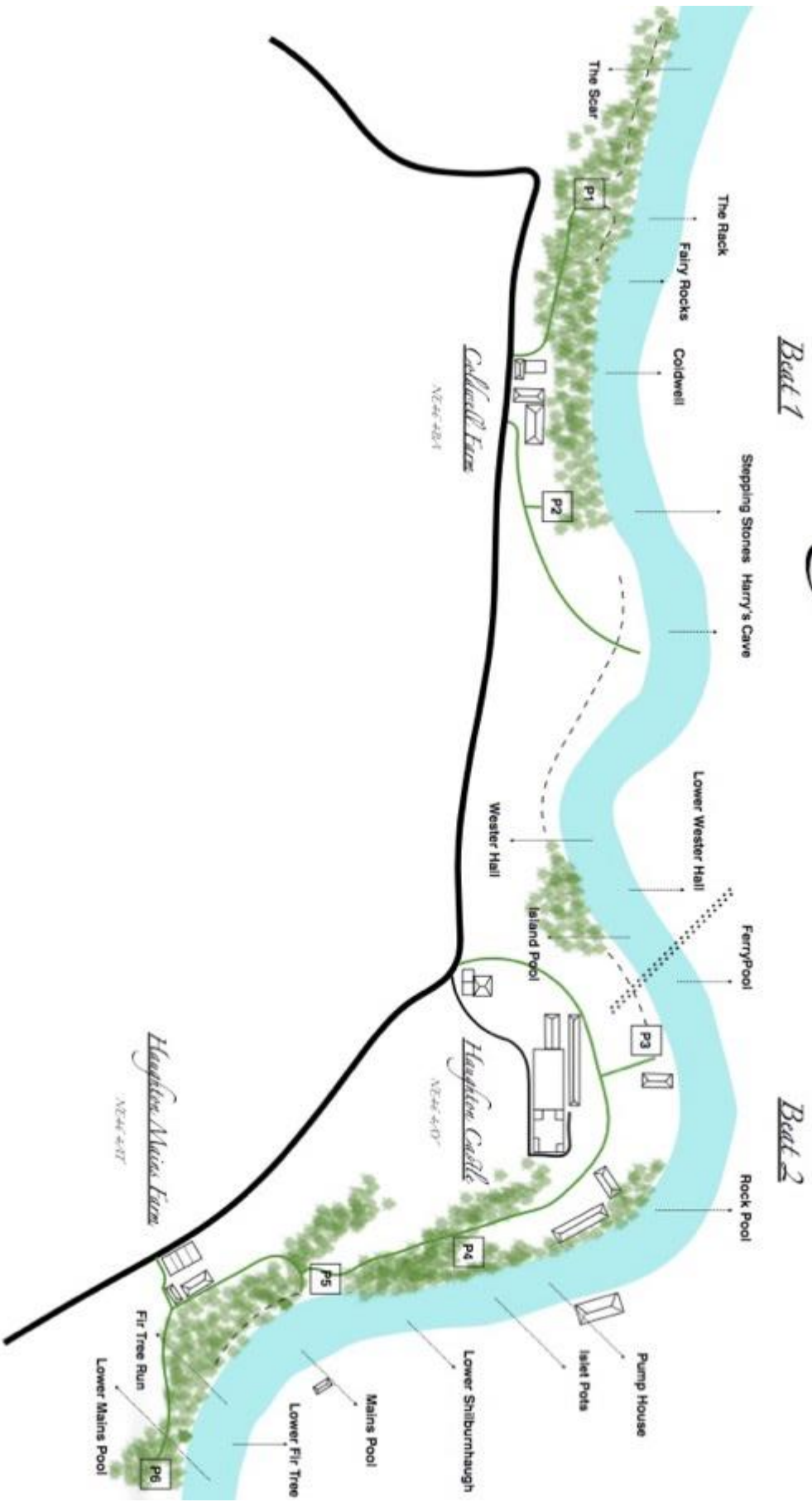
*The beat has 18 pools in total which all have their own little quirks and ways of fishing. All the pool on the beat have a good history of producing fish and all are worth taking your time with all be it some more than others.*

*The owner Antony's 'Beat Choice Fly' is the Simply Red Cascade and even though it can be difficult to find in a fishing shop is not too tricky to tie for the keen flytier.*



*Each pool on the beat is clearly signposted with a green headed name post with the pool numbers starting with Pool - 0 'The Scar.' These can all be accessed simply and accesses are shown on the beat map highlighting the relevant parking areas.*

# Haughton Castle



## *The Beats*

*From the beat map you will notice that this large stretch of water has been split into 2 Beats, named Beat 1 and Beat 2.*

### *Beat 1*

*This beat covers the top section of the Haughton Castle stretch starting at Pool 0 and ending at Pool 8. The access to the top pools are via Coldwell Farm and to the bottom pools there is river side parking at Ferry Cottage.*

### *Beat 2*

*This beat covers the bottom section of the Haughton Castle stretch and starts at Pool 9 and ends at Pool 17 which also marks the end of the available water. There are parking spots along the river which are marked on the beat map and can be accessed via the Castle road or via the forestry track through Haughton Mains Farm. This is also the best access to the hut overlooking Mains Pool.*

## Beat 1

### *Pool 0 - The Scar*

*This pool is newly acquired by the estate and is exceptional in high water. The access to this pool is a little tricky however well worth the effort.*

*HW - No need to wade as it can be fished easily from the bank. The fish will cling to the bank so worth retrieving the line prior to re-casting.*

*MW & LW - There is no need to wade any deeper than knee height as the fish are most likely to run up this side of the river.*

*Tackle Tip - A sinking tip will fish well here and a tube fly will often take a running fish.*



## *Pool 1 - The Rack*

*This pool is 150 yards long and worth taking your time over.*

*HOW - No need to wade and fish all the way down from the bank. In high water it can be fished almost to the corner.*

*HOW & LOW - A safe and easy wade. Don't go in further than mid-shin / knee height.*

*Hot Spot - The hot spot for this pool is under wires!*



## *Pool 2 - Fairy Rocks*

*Due to the lack of current here this is only suitable for spinning. This is an excellent holding pool so worth persevering with several spinners.*

*Tackle Tip - Use various weights of Toby and Flying 'C'*



### *Pool 3 - Caldwell*

*Great access for this pool with an exciting exit via a rope to help you ascend the bank back to the path at the tail of the pool.*

*HOW & MW - Good chance for a Salmon when fishing through to the tail where the two bushes sit in the middle of the river. Dangerous to wade and no need as fish are taken from the bank.*

*LW - Excellent taking pool for Sea Trout and they get very big in the North Tyne indeed. Cannot fish the whole pool however pockets will fish with the fly and worth covering. Main focus should be at the tail.*

*Tackle Tip - If low water try out the Mallard and the Dunkeld for a Sea Trout.*



## *Pool 4 - Stepping Stones*

*Aptly named pool as you literally fish off the Stepping Stones.*

*MW & LW - Excellent chance of a fish!! This is a good opportunity to practice line control starting with a short line and building up to a long line retrieving prior to recasting.*

*Tackle Tip - Tube flies can work wonders - try a heavy Monkey or Sunray Shadow.*



## *Pool 5 - Harry' Cave*

*A pool fished in 2 halves! Upper Harry' Cave and Lower Harry' Cave.*

*HW - In high water Lower Harry' Cave is the only part that fishes well due to the current. This starts in front of our picnic bench. If wading then no need to go beyond 5 yards out.*

*MW - Upper Harry' Cave fishes better at the bottom part of the main run however be very cautious when wading here as the river bed can be treacherous. Worth taking your time with the bottom half as the fish will take the fly in the slack water when retrieving prior to re-casting.*

*LW - Take your time on the top section as this is your best chance. Go in at the stile and fish down to the bench covering the far bank.*

*Safety Tip - A wading stick is essential on this pool.*



## *Pool 6 - Wester Hall*

*Very good chance of a catch - persevere!*

*HW - Difficult to fish in high water however small pockets will hold the fly and worth retrieving up the bank.*

*MW - Best height to fish this pool. Start at the croy and fish with a short line and build up to a longer line covering the whole run.*

*LOW - Best fishing in this height. Start above the croy and cover the run retrieving a little prior to re-casting. Also 30 yards below the croy are 2 groups of rocks which can be fished the same way.*

*Tackle Tip - Vary tippets and fly weights for best chance.*



## *Pool 7 - Lower Wester Hall*

*A pool with a mixture of fly and spinning water. Use caution when descending the roped access.*

*HOW - This pool can fish all the way down from the bank. With a spinner you will be able to cover the 2 prolific taking spots accessed by the steps in the steep bank halfway down the pool.*

*HOW & LOW - As above no need to wade and can be fished all the way down from the bank. Start 30 yards up from the roped steps. There are a couple of known lies at the tail of the pool so take your time here.*

*Tackle Tip - Try fishing the entire pool through with the fly before spinning the centre hot spots so you don't disturb the lies at the tail.*



## *Pool 8 - Island Pool*

*Fishes well in all heights of water but wade with care and read the current before attempting to cross.*

*HOW - When wading across to the island make sure you wade above the rocks as the river bed is more even and firm here. Fish it all the way down or as far as you can covering the far side. At the bottom of the island it gets very deep, very quickly and the best way to exit the pool is by retracing your steps.*

*MW & LW - As above however wading is a little easier and you can start fishing slightly higher up. Main spot at this height is at 'The Lip' at the bottom section of the pool as running fish are often taken at this point.*

*Safety Tip - Not a good place to go for a swim so take your time when wading.*



## Beat 2

### *Pool 9 - Ferry Pool*

*Wading is essential on this pool yet is a safe wade if you pick the right line. The start of the pool is some 50 yards above where you access the river bank.*

*HOW - It is imperative that you cover the far side so wade across to the middle judging the current and cover the far bank retrieving the fly prior to re-casting.*

*MW & LW - An easy wade to the middle and can be fished down a long way covering the far bank. The tail of the pool can be fished by the cottage off the bank however if you need to wade then no need to go more than mid-shin height as the fish run off the other side of the current.*

*Tackle Tip - Vary retrieving speeds as this can draw a fish.*



## *Pool 10 - Rock Pool*

*Historically an attractive but not particularly successful pool as it's under-fished. It used to be a deep run this side of the river however over time has back filled with gravel making it shallow and uneven causing eddys to form making it difficult to hold the fly.*

*HOW & HOW - Worth having a go from the bank with a few casts and even try varying speeds of retrieval to draw a fish. Allow the fly to come in to the bank before preparing to re-cast.*

*Top Tip - Even though historically under-fished worth having a few casts as there are fish here.*



## *Pool 11 - Pump House*

*This is an excellent pool and produces plenty of fish in all heights of water. Another pool that fishes in 2 halves with wading being essential for the top section.*

*LOW - The top section fishes best at this height of water. Walk out over the stones and fish down the wall on the far side. The best part is the bottom 25 yards with a known lie where to wall ends. This can be fished all the way down to the large rock on the far side of the river visible in all heights of water. At this point exit the water and re-enter at the Larch Tree and fish to the point before exiting the pool. Wade no more than waist height.*

*Ghillies Tip - All be it a low water pool, as there are known lies then worth covering these using heavier tippetts and a slight up stream cast to slow the fly down.*



## *Pool 12 - Islet Pots*

*The main channel is in the middle of the river and there are 4 main lies. These are the run out to the Pump House pool on the far side, the pot in the centre of the fast running water, the far side of the grassy islet and 10 yards below this.*

*All Heights of Water - These pots fish in all heights of water and are easy to read.*

*Tackle Tip - Try a large tube fly here to cover the river bed.*



## *Pool 13 - Lower Shilburnhaugh*

*A pool with boils and eddys but worth covering as there are some terrific fish taken here.*

*All Heights of Water - A tricky pool in any height and the boils and eddys move accordingly. Fish the pool through and focus on the tail where there are a few known lies. Very easy to spook the fish.*

*Ghillie's Tip - Use a heavy tippet and large tube to cover the river bed however vary your approach to cover all depths of water.*



## *Pool 14 - Mains Pool*

*This is a good 150 yard pool and perfect fly fishing water.*

*All Heights of Water - Obvious pool to read and a nice easy wade. The only variance for the heights of water is to make sure you wade no deeper than waist height however covering the far bank shouldn't prove too tricky. If wading to waist height then in HW a stick is advised and fish down as far as the current and depth allows.*

*Top Tip - The known taking spot here is opposite the aptly named Shark Fin Rock so worth having a few extra casts at this point.*



## *Pool 15 - Fir Tree Run*

*This pool is essentially the tail of Mains Pool*

*HOW - No need to wade here and fish off the bank. It is only a short stretch however worth covering with a few casts above the break water.*

*MON & LOW - As above however if required no need to enter the water further than mid-shin height. Focus on covering the tail from 10 yards above the break-water.*

*Tackle Tip - Worth trying a few Sea Trout flies.*



### *Pool 16 - Lower Fir Tree*

*Unfortunately, this pool fishes better from the far bank. On this side the water tends to be shallow and fast flowing.*

*All Heights of Water - It can be fished in all levels yet controlling the fly can prove tricky. Excellent chance of a Sea Trout due to the current.*

*Ghillies Tip - The North Tyne has some big Sea Trout so don't be afraid to fish with light tackle and some smaller flies for some excellent sport.*

## *Pool 17 - Lower Mains Pool*

*Due to it being at the bottom of the beat it is historically under-fished.*

*HOW - This pool can fish all the way down to the electric wires. The end of the beat is the Humshaugh Burn. The first 50 yards aim to cover all the water however after this a long line is not essential as the main run is in the middle of the river highlighted by the green area on the picture below.*

*MW & LW - As above however the top section can be waded, yet a stick is advised due to a very uneven river bed. The pool is shortened in these heights as the current will run too slow short of the wires. Worth persevering and retrieving the fly in the slacker water prior to re-casting.*

*Ghillies Tip - Take your time when fishing this stretch as it is under-fished and plenty of fish can be seen here. Focus on the green areas on the pictures.*



## *How to fish at Haughton Castle*

*(2 beats - change at lunchtime)*

*Only one beat for two rods is let and the fishing for the let rods commences on each day as follows:-*

*Monday - beat 1*

*Tuesday - beat 2*

*Wednesday - beat 1*

*Thursday - beat 2*

*Friday - beat 1*

*Saturday - beat 2*

*Sunday - beat 1*

*All pools have white posts marking the top and bottom of the fishing stretches.*

### *Contact Details:*

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