West of Prosperous

This guide covers a 15 km - long section of the Grand Canal, West of Prosperous from Ticknevin Lock to Lowtown. Four match sections, which can accommodate up to 300 anglers in total, are located within the area covered by this guide. While no permanent swims have been incorporated into these sections, virtually the full length of the canal is fishable. Occasionally, laybys are provided for car parking. There is excellent access to the stretches although care should be taken if driving along the towpath, due to marshy conditions after rain. Pleasure catches regularly exceed 9kg (20lb), and much large catches are known.

The canal banks are lined with tall, dense reed beds in many places. The reeds provide refuges for young fish while also providing vantage locations for predatory pike. These reeds also provide a diversity of substrates on which coarse fish can deposit their egg masses during spawning.

An International Festival and a large number of club opens are held annually, with a top individual catch in excess of 45kg (100lbs) recorded from the Ticknevin match stretch.
Grand Canal
The Grand Canal in the Prosperous area is between 13 and 16 m wide and averages 1.7 m deep. The water is normally coloured and is generally static or very slow flowing. The vegetation is carefully managed and does not pose an obstruction for anglers. Boat traffic density along the canal is low.

Fishing Tackle and Bait
Pole tackle is the most productive fishing method. Float fishing with a small waggler can also prove effective. It is recommended that, beginning a session, the angler targets the middle of the canal, approximately 6 to 9m from the bank. Baits should be fished on the bottom. Small amounts of ground bait should be introduced at the start of the session, between four and eight small balls, and loose feed thereafter. The most productive baits include maggots, worms and sweetcorn. Fish with No. 4 or 8 elastic, 1.4kg main line to a 0.9kg hook length, for small to medium sized fish. Heavier grade elastic, together with stronger line and hook length will be required if bigger bream and tench are encountered. Hook sizes should be from 12 to 20 depending on the size of bait used. If a good shoal of bream or hybrids are encountered, a good supply of groundbait laced with casters, dead maggots, sweetcorn, and chopped worm will be needed. Good pike are available in the canal and can be fished using deadbaits or artificial lures. Basic pike tackle incorporating suitable wire trace should be employed whether spinning or deadbaiting for pike.

For advice contact Sean Ward, Chairman, Prosperous Coarse Angling Club at Tel:+353 (0)86 8115526.

Fish Stocks
The Grand Canal near Prosperous supports a wide array of coarse fish species. Stocks are excellent, and species present include roach, bream, hybrids, tench, rudd and perch. Eels, pike and gudgeon are also available. While the canal boasts large stocks of small and medium sized fish, it also harbours large specimens. Principal angling species are bream to 2kgs, tench to 2.5kg and hybrids to 1.5kg. The latter species was first stocked into the canal here in the 1960’s and has since thrived in this ideal environment.
Prosperous Village, is situated in rural Kildare, just 37km from Dublin. It is close to the summit of the Grand Canal at Lowtown, which links Dublin to the River Shannon in the West and Barrow Navigation in the South.

A catch and release policy is in operation on this canal.
The 15km section of the Grand Canal included in this brochure is covered by two maps highlighting the stretches west of Prosperous. The maps are labelled 1-2, and go from East to West. Use map 2 to leave Lowtown to reach the stretches indicated in map 1.

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Fishing is free of charge on the Grand Canal.
Directions

Directions to Prosperous
From Dublin City Centre, follow signs for the M50/N4 or Sligo. Take R403 and proceed to Celbridge. From here follow signs for Clane. Prosperous is signposted from here.

(map 1)
Hamilton’s / Ticknevin Stretch
From the Allenwood Crossroads (see map 2) travel westwards for a further 5 km on R403 and turn left for Hamilton’s Bridge (see map 1). The towpath is driveable from here all the way to Ticknevin Bridge where there is good parking.

(map 2)
Lowtown Stretch
From the Black Stick Crossroads, Prosperous, travel westwards along (R403) for approx 6.7 km to the Allenwood Crossroads and take a right turn for Bond Bridge (see map 2). Take a left turn before the bridge where there is a driveable towpath to Fenton Bridge at Lowtown.

Shee to Lifting Bridge
Again leaving the crossroads in Prosperous, travel on R403 for approx 8 km and turn left over Shee Bridge onto R414, and take a right turn to rejoin the canal to the Lifting Bridge.