



## Surveys have shown Barbel numbers have started to decline in the park

Barbel is a bottom dwelling fish closely associated with stretches of clean gravel and weed beds. They feed predominately on insect larvae and molluscs, rooting them out from the gravel beds. These gravel beds are also important for spawning.

They're a good indicator of habitat quality and are very sensitive to changes in their habitat. The Lee Valley has long been considered to have one of the best Barbel rivers in the country and the stretch of the Old River Lea at Fishers Green still provides excellent habitat.

Adopting this iconic species could help with the following specific actions or projects for this species:

- Jet washing gravel riverbeds
- Rearing young fish for release

The key actions for this species your support could go towards are:

- Understand the current population and distribution of Barbel and their associated habitat in the Lee Valley
- To maintain and expand the current distribution and abundance of Barbel in the Lee Valley through targeted habitat management of key watercourses
- Raise awareness of Barbel and best practice conservation management amongst landowners, anglers and public.