# Visitors warned of invasive demon shrimp at Hartshill Hayes nature reserve



A warning has been issued to visitors of Hartshill Hayes, a popular nature reserve near Nuneaton, after the discovery of "demon shrimp" at the site. These crustaceans are considered among the most damaging invasive species in Europe and were found in the nets of one local angler.

In response to the find, the rangers at Hartshill Hayes have taken to social media to alert the public and stress the importance of preventing the spread of invasive plants and animals. The warning was posted on the site’s official Facebook page, urging visitors to take certain precautions when visiting the park or other natural sites, particularly those involving water.

The message to park visitors reads: "All park visitors can help us by remembering the following whenever visiting us or any of our sites, particularly at those with water. Check your equipment and clothing (from wellies to boats) after leaving the water for mud, aquatic animals, or plant material. Remove anything you find and leave it at the site."

Visitors are further advised to thoroughly clean all equipment as soon as possible, paying particular attention to damp or hard-to-reach areas, with hot water recommended where possible. The appeal also advises drying everything for as long as possible, preferably in full sunlight, before using it elsewhere, because "some invasive plants and animals can survive for over two weeks in damp conditions."

Hartshill Hayes is well known for attracting visitors not only from the local Nuneaton and Bedworth area but also from further afield, prompting the rangers to emphasise the role that all visitors play in protecting the park’s wildlife and environment. The warning concludes with gratitude to the public: "Thank you for helping look after our park and its wildlife."

The Coventry Telegraph reports that this alert follows the ongoing effort to monitor and control invasive species that pose a threat to local ecosystems across the region.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/things-to-do/canal-and-river-wildlife/canal-and-river-invasive-species/killer-and-demon-shrimp> - This URL corroborates the damaging impact of invasive species like the 'demon shrimp' on European waterways. It highlights the need for 'Check, Clean, Dry' procedures to prevent their spread.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dikerogammarus_haemobaphes> - This URL provides detailed information on Dikerogammarus haemobaphes, known as 'demon shrimp,' including their origin, habitat preferences, and invasive impact.
* <https://etheses.whiterose.ac.uk/id/eprint/28699/1/Warren_DA_Biology_PhD_2020.pdf> - This thesis explores the ecological impact of invasive species, although it focuses on 'killer shrimp,' it discusses the broader ecological threats posed by invasive crustaceans in the UK.
* <https://phys.org/news/2014-02-demon-shrimp-threaten-british-species.html> - This article highlights the threat posed by 'demon shrimp' to British species, explaining their origin and how they disrupt local food chains.
* <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prevent-the-spread-of-invasive-non-native-species> - This government guidance on preventing the spread of invasive species explains the importance of cleaning and drying equipment to prevent the spread of invasive species like 'demon shrimp'.