

General description of the bathing water in non-technical language

Heidesee is a lake located around 20km south of Königs Wusterhausen in the Zossen-Teupitz Plateaus and Highlands and belongs to the Dahme Heathland Lakes Nature Park.

Heidesee is the largest in a group of clay pits which are in the south-western area of Halbe. Clay extraction was begun in 1817. In 1912 there was a sudden inrush of water, clay extraction had to be abandoned and today's Heidesee was created. Recently, divers have found the remains of what used to be a two storey building and a wooden machine house on the bed of the clay pit, along with old tracks, wagons and a large drive wheel.

Heidesee is fed solely by groundwater. An early inflow and outflow, the Löptener Hauptgraben, no longer exists.

The lake has an oval water surface area of 56.1ha. The maximum depth of 26m is large for a lake of this size. Stable temperature layering forms during the summer and lasts until well into the autumn.

Clay pit lakes, in particular when they are still new, are mainly clear, nutrient-poor lakes, as they are fed by groundwater and are mainly deep enough so that stable temperature layering forms during the summer. In addition, the clay substrata can bond with nutrients to a certain extent. Heidesee has also been able not to accumulate excessive amounts of nutrients during its 100 year history, despite its location in the middle of a residential area. In research which was carried out at the start of the 1990s the lake was categorised as moderately nutrient-rich. Its great depth ensures stable summer temperature layering which lasts for a long time, so that nutrients entering the lake sink and are not available to feed plankton growth. The water is thereby very clear. In the bathing area the water transparency levels are above 2m throughout the entire season. The lush underwater vegetation predominantly consists of Shining Pondweed and chickweed.

Heidesee has an almost complete reed belt, but which is only narrow due to the steep sides. The fish population predominantly consists of carp and diverse species of white fish. Pike are only present in low numbers.

Due to good water transparency, Heidesee is also popular with divers who are able to use a diving station in Halbe.

The "Halbe" bathing area at Heidesee is tested every four weeks by the local office for health as per the Brandenburg Bathing Water Regulations. 2015 and 2019 there was a singular exceedance of the microbiological parameter intestinal enterococci. Further exceedances of the microbiological parameters e.coli and intestinal enterococci were not measured. The bathing area is evaluated with "excellent". Blooms of blue-green algae have not been observed.

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Sources

Berliner Zeitung of 27/04/2010

Fuhrman, Burghard, Chairman of the Halbe Angling Association