

COUNTRYSIDE & RIVER CODE OF CONDUCT

Code of conduct overview

The code of conduct is intended to help people enjoy the river without reducing the enjoyment of others or damaging the environment. **It is expected that canoeists follow the code on all river trips.**

Care for Wildlife

One of the joys of a trip on the River Wye is watching its abundant wildlife. We have a responsibility to protect our countryside now and for future generations, so make sure you don't harm animals, birds, plants and trees.

Some fish species are particularly sensitive to disturbance, especially during the spawning seasons. During winter salmon spawn in the upper reaches of the Wye and between 1st April and 31st July Twait and Allis Shad use shallow gravel shoals for egg laying and many coarse fishing are breeding. Please do not land on gravel shoals during this period and at all other times try to:

- Avoid disturbing nesting birds along the river banks, particularly in spring time
- Avoid damaging beds of waterweed
- Stop your activity if you are clearly disturbing wildlife

The river habitat and many of the species it supports are protected by law. Ignoring this advice could result in a criminal offence being committed, and you may be subject to enforcement action

Stay Safe

You are responsible for your own safety and for others in your care, so be prepared for changes in the weather and other events. The river conditions can change rapidly we advise you to check the river level just prior to your trip via the Environment Agency's automated telephone service on 0906 6197755 (BT premium rate) or their website

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/riverlevels/120743.aspx?stationId=4017>

Alternatively the Wye and Usk Foundation provide river level information on their website
www.wyeuskfoundation.org/conditions/index.php

OR call the **want to canoe?** office for up to date river-level and weather information.

When planning or partaking in your river trip always consider:

- That you use the river in a safe fashion and that you have the appropriate

safety equipment

- That any groups of young novice boaters are led by suitably experienced responsible persons – preferably a qualified instructor
- That you don't drink alcohol during and just prior to your trip on the river
- That you follow instructions given to you by your canoe hire operator and/or group leader.

and finally. ...if in doubt, don't!

Help Keep a Healthy River

The River Wye boasts excellent water quality in a largely unmodified water course. You can help maintain a healthy river by:

- Taking your rubbish away with you
- Avoiding damage to banks, the riverbed and bank-side vegetation - this can lead to erosion. You can help by only launching and landing at purpose made access points (marked clearly on your **want to canoe?** map)
- Avoid dragging boats and equipment over rock slabs and boulders

Be Fishing Friendly

Canoeing and kayaking can have a bigger impact on anglers than any other river users, particularly if you are in a large group. By following a few simple guidelines you can limit the effect your boating will have on the enjoyment of anglers. If you are travelling in a group please keep together and pass anglers in one go to prevent prolonged disturbance, and in all instances try to:

- Pass anglers with as little noise and disturbance as possible
- Keep away from banks being fished and fishing tackle
- Avoid loitering in pools if anyone is fishing
- Comply with reasonable directional requests

Please also note that fishing from a boat is not allowed unless you have a valid rod licence and permission from the owner/tenant of the fishery rights.

Consider Other People

- Showing consideration and respect for other people makes the countryside a pleasant environment for everyone. Pay particular respect to local residents and avoid situations that may result in argument and remember to always:
- Park sensibly without causing obstruction, do not block gateways or load and unload vehicles in awkward places
- Keep noise to a minimum

want to canoe?

www.canoehire.co.uk
01497 820604

- Get changed out of public view
- Whenever possible come ashore at recognised landing places; do not trespass on private property or moorings
- When canoeing have special regard for beginners, as you would for learner drivers on the road;
- Remember that larger boats are less manoeuvrable and cannot use such shallow waters as canoes, rafts and rowing boats;
- Give way to those engaged in organised competition and have regard to any instructions given by officials;
- Hail to draw a person's attention to a situation which might otherwise result in inconvenience, damage or collision. Please treat a hail as a friendly warning and not as an insult;

want to canoe? operates on the Lower Wye only but there is an agreement for canoeing on the upper river. Details can be found at www.wyeuskfoundation.org/navigation/index.php;