



The Wye Waterway Plan 2011-2016

We are The Environment Agency. It's our job to look after your environment and make it **a better place** – for you, and for future generations.

Your environment is the air you breathe, the water you drink and the ground you walk on. Working with business, Government and society as a whole, we are making your environment cleaner and healthier.

The Environment Agency. Out there, making your environment a better place.

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Foreword

The Environmental Vision strategy published in 2000 is our 20 year vision aimed at creating a better place for people and wildlife, for present and for future generations.

Our current corporate plan 'creating a better place 2010-2015', explains how we will work towards that vision for the next five years through delivering outcomes in five key areas.

One of the key areas is to work with people and communities to create better places. Well managed opportunities to enjoy the outdoors can provide benefits to communities, people and the environment. In the year from April 2008 to April 2009, around 32 million people visited the rivers, canals and lakes of England and Wales. There is evidence that more would like to enjoy these places if they had the opportunity.

Water and the land around it provide a setting for sport, quiet reflection and specific pastimes. These places provide an affordable and accessible way for people to increase their level of physical activity and can play a role in combating poor mental health. Well-managed opportunities to enjoy the outdoors provide benefits to communities, people and the environment. Individuals enjoying the outdoors can help support local businesses. Environmental improvements can provide new opportunities to enjoy the outdoors.

The Wye Waterway Plan sets out our priorities and targets that will contribute to creating a better place. It explains our responsibilities for navigation on the Rivers Wye and Lugg and the wider responsibilities for the unique conservation of these rivers.

Over the next five years we have prioritised the work that we will aim to carry out. Where possible we will work with others to maximise outcomes.

We will be open to new ideas for delivering navigation and environment improvements that align with the same ideas set out in this Waterway Plan.

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1 Introduction

We are the navigation authority responsible for the Rivers Wye and Lugg. It's our job to look after the environment and the navigation for these rivers. We have produced this waterway plan, which addresses our responsibilities for recreation and navigation on these rivers (referred to below as 'the waterway').

Our vision

To develop and promote appropriate navigation and recreational activities for all waterway users, while protecting, maintaining and enhancing the unique conservation status of the waterway.

To achieve our vision we aim to:

- protect, maintain and enhance the unique conservation status of the waterway;
- manage, improve and enhance navigation opportunities for the waterway;
- protect the interests of those navigating and using the principal rivers;
- encourage the appropriate use and enjoyment of the waterway by walkers, anglers and other recreational users;
- promote better access and information for canoeists, rafters and users of small craft;
- contribute to enhanced biodiversity, heritage and landscape values of the waterway;
- develop the health, economic and social benefits of navigation, to the advantage of everyone.

We will do this by:

Working with all sectors to enhance the quality of the waterway and the services it provides – for business, anglers, the boating community and other waterway users; meeting our conservation responsibilities to protect the environment.

We cannot achieve our vision alone – this plan says what we will do and how we will work with others over the next five years.

We have produced this plan with advice from the many people who have an interest in the waterway. We are very grateful for this support and are well aware that achievement of many of the plan's objectives will only be possible through the actions of our partners many of whom are represented on the [Wye Navigation Advisory Committee](#) (WNAC).

2 Context

The river

The Wye is recognised internationally for its landscape and conservation values, and as an important salmon fishery. The waterway is an important local and national resource for many forms of recreation including canoeing and angling. A public right of navigation extends from Bigsweir Bridge upstream to Hay Town Bridge on the main River Wye, and on the River Lugg between its confluence with the Wye and Presteigne Town Bridge. The combined length of the non-tidal navigation on the Rivers Wye and Lugg (the part for which we are the navigation authority) is approximately 185 kilometres. The Gloucester Harbour Trustees are the navigation authority for the tidal section of the River Wye downstream of Bigsweir Bridge.

The River Wye has been used for navigation for many centuries. In the past the Wye was an important commercial waterway, but any infrastructure to support navigation, such as locks and weirs, has long since been removed. Today, boating is almost entirely recreational. Most is canoeing and rowing but there are also passenger sightseeing boats that operate around Symonds Yat.

Map 1 provides an overview of the Rivers Wye and Lugg navigation.

The entire River Wye is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The River flows through the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) which extends from the River Lugg downstream to Chepstow.

Map 1 Rivers Wye and Lugg navigation



Achieving sustainable development

Sustainable development is about ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for future generations to come. This means making sure that our waterway is managed in a way that maintains a fair balance between the various uses. We recognise the full range of benefits that rivers can provide, for boaters, water supply, fisheries, walkers and cyclists and for the wildlife that depends on the natural river environment.

The Environment Agency's document '[An Environmental Vision](#)' sets out our contribution to sustainable development. This outlines fundamental goals that we want to help achieve. Included in these is 'a better quality of life' and 'an enhanced environment for wildlife'. People will have peace of mind from knowing that they live in a healthier environment, richer in wildlife and natural diversity – an environment that they will care for and can use, appreciate and enjoy. We have developed this plan in a way that contributes to our long-term goals.

On the Rivers Wye and Lugg, sustainable development will mean working with others to make improvements for the benefit of wildlife and people. It's our job to promote waterside and water-based recreation and also to promote sustainable use of our waterways. It will mean balancing the sometimes conflicting demands between different uses of the waterways and encouraging communities to value and care for them.

The River Wye flows into the Wye Estuary which then flows into the Severn Estuary. Many organisations and individuals help to protect and improve this water environment for the benefit of people and wildlife. The Environment Agency has developed a River Basin Management Plan for the Severn River Basin District that focuses on the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. Our Waterway Plan will aim to interact with such plans and strategies at a local level. This should ensure that any development is done in an integrated and sustainable way, maximising the benefit of partnership working.

Social inclusion

Government policy is to make waterways accessible to all parts of society. It supports the greater recreational use of waterways (including the waterside paths where practical) for all. As the navigation authority, we are encouraged to increase access to the waterways for the young, disabled and disadvantaged.

The Environment Agency is fully committed to the above. This is reflected in our policy statements¹ that support initiatives for greater social inclusion.

¹ Navigation and waterway policy statements are included in Appendix 1

3 Implementing the plan

Some of the actions that we plan to carry out over the next five years can only be achieved in partnership with others. There is a small budget available for this work but current funding is insufficient to carry out all our planned actions. Part of future partnership work will therefore concentrate on developing projects and associated funding, designed to meet the multiple objectives of different funding partners.

Our planned actions can be subdivided under the headings 'maintain', 'improve' and 'develop'.

Maintain

We will work with landowners to ensure that the waterways are free from obstructions and potential hazards.

We will continue to produce the [Calendar of Major Events on the River Wye](#) on our website. This aims to promote annual events that take place on or alongside the waterway and minimise conflict between them.

'Wye Canoe? The Canoeists' Guide to the River Wye' has been produced by the Environment Agency. The guide provides useful information for canoeists on how to plan and enjoy trips. It also gives advice on navigation rights, access, health and safety on the river, and the code of conduct².

Improve

The successful promotion of leisure use of the Rivers Wye and Lugg needs to take account of customer expectations. In navigation terms this means examining the supply of boating facilities such as canoe portage points, camping and car parking provision. The waterway has distinctive features and characteristics that are particularly suited to canoeing, rafting and other non-powered craft. However, where the waterway is not limited by width, depth and environmental sensitivity, rowing activity and recreational motor boating do take place. We will determine through experience, consultation and research, a consensus of what is right for this navigation.

Develop

We recognise the contribution that waterways can make to leisure and recreation, tourism and sport. The Government encourages greater use of waterways for recreation; increased access for the young, disabled and disadvantaged; and better communication with the widest possible range of users. We wish to maximise the opportunities that our waterway offers for all, in a sustainable way while protecting its unique conservation status.

² Code of conduct is included in Appendix 2

4 Sport and recreation

Angling

The salmon recreational fishery remains an important contributor to the rural economy of the catchment, even though catches have declined substantially in the last 30 years. Good uptake of fishing has continued at the more productive fisheries downstream of Monmouth and, when conditions permit, at some of the upper fisheries between Glasbury and Builth Wells.

The enjoyment of privately owned fishing rights and the apparent disturbance created by some boating practices has in the past given rise to conflict. It is clear, however, that both can co-exist. For example, on the upper rivers and tributaries there are various access agreements and codes of conduct. These seek to encourage both anglers and boaters to enjoy their recreation in a mutually considerate way. The success of previous agreements, some of which are still in use, leads us to believe these are the way forward to minimise potential conflict between river users.

Coarse fishing occurs throughout the area, particularly in the lower main river at Hereford, Ross-on-Wye, Symonds Yat, and on its tributaries (the Rivers Lugg and Monnow are particularly well known). Coarse fish are also present in the middle and upper Wye between Newbridge-on-Wye and Hay-on-Wye.

A number of large angling clubs control water for coarse fishing on the river; however, the majority of salmon, trout and grayling angling remains in private hands and is leased on a local basis.

Commercial and motorised boating

All commercial navigation is linked to tourism, with passenger carrying boats at Symonds Yat, and canoe hire and adventure enterprises at several locations. In the past large commercial craft have also operated at Ross-on-Wye and Hereford.

The majority of boating on the waterway is non-motorised. However, sea-going motor cruisers may occasionally navigate the tidal section to Tintern under appropriate conditions and sometimes another eight kilometres upstream to Bigsweir. The tidal section downstream of Bigsweir is managed by the Gloucester Harbour Trustees. Smaller craft use various lengths between Bigsweir and Hereford. The River Wye's natural physical state means that navigation by larger vessels is not normally practicable. Navigators with local knowledge occasionally make passages as far upstream as Hereford, depending on the river conditions.

There is currently only one location on the River Wye between Hay-on-Wye and the Severn estuary, at Chepstow, where trail boats and other heavy rowing boats can be launched. However, use of this ancient slipway is restricted due to the build up of mud and the presence of flood gates; consequently such boating is limited.

Due to the nature of the River Wye there is little, if any, sailing activity. However, sailing does occur in many of the still waters within the catchment.

Canoeing

On the main river above Hay-on-Wye, boating activity is almost exclusively canoeing. The ability to canoe continuously for approximately 133 kilometres (the length of the public right to navigate from Hay Town Bridge to Bigsweir) makes the Wye popular for long-distance touring. For this reason it is popular with Duke of Edinburgh expeditions as well as the many canoe enthusiasts.

White-water canoeing is a popular activity on parts of the upper river catchment. The rapids at Symonds Yat are a nationally important canoeing site owned by the British Canoe Union (BCU). There are a number of commercial canoe hire firms and adventure holiday companies based on the Wye, offering canoe and kayak trips.

Rafting

The River Wye is ideal for rafting, because of the extensive length of navigable water available. Most rafting on the waterway is done for organised charity events.

Rowing

There are three principal rowing stretches on the River Wye. These support rowing clubs based at Monmouth, Ross-on-Wye and Hereford. All three clubs hold major annual regattas.

Heritage

The lower Wye valley contains a significant number of historic features and is designated as a Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest. These landscapes, monuments, artefact scatters and buildings reflect the continued human exploitation of the river valley since the last Ice Age.

The Rivers Wye and Lugg were thriving industrial rivers until about 150 years ago and were used for transporting cargo down to the Bristol Channel from a number of centres of population including Hereford and Monmouth.

A number of wharves, dating back several centuries, have been identified in books and documents. Some of the main sites can still be clearly seen today. They offer an historic perspective but also represent a potential opportunity for future generations of boaters to access the river legitimately from a public landing place.

Walking, cycling and other recreation

There are many footpaths near and alongside the waterway, although public access to some of the Wye tributaries is limited. Often visitors walk these paths to further their interests in bird watching and wildlife appreciation.

There are two long-distance trails, the Wye Valley Walk and sections of the Offa's Dyke Path, which together give the public access to the Wye between Hereford and Chepstow. The Wye Valley Walk is 218 kilometres long and follows the river valley from Chepstow to the slopes of the Plynlimon. The Offa's Dyke Path, classified as a National Trail, starts at Chepstow and follows the Wye valley to Monmouth before

heading north-west along the edge of the Black Mountains. Between Chepstow and Monmouth, the Offa's Dyke Path runs parallel to the Wye Valley Walk.

One project developed by Sustrans in the Wye valley is the creation of a cycle route called the Peregrine path which links Monmouth and Symonds Yat. The route has provided a safe and sustainable alternative to the busy main roads through this area of the Wye valley.

5 Climate Change

Global warming is likely to have an increasing effect upon our climate. The severity will depend on the amount of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere from now on, and how the climate system responds.

However, we are likely to experience:

- more frequent and dangerous extreme weather events;
- heavier winter rainfall;
- warmer summers.

Warmer, drier and sunnier summers could benefit domestic tourism. But they could also result in low river flows, hampering recreation and damaging wetlands and aquatic habitats. Temperature increases will result in growing demand for water-related recreation activities – this may have a negative impact on the resource with greater demand, congestion, competition for water space and pressure on services. A reduction in dilution of effluents could cause poor water quality and increase the likelihood of harmful algal blooms. Hotter weather will lead to increased importance of green spaces as people seek open-air recreation. Heavier rainfall would increase the risk of flooding and make dangerously strong stream conditions more frequent.

Incorporating well-designed public access into what we do to address climate change can help enjoyment of an area.

6 Visitor safety and satisfaction

Visitor safety is important to us. We also want visitors to the river to return home happy and satisfied with their experiences.

We have a legal and moral obligation to consider visitor safety, and protect them from unnecessary or unreasonable risk. Successful risk management demands a partnership between the manager, the visitor and other groups (such as governing bodies of sport), recognising that each carries a share of the responsibility for safety, dependent on the type of activity and location.

River users have a broad range of expectations: from white-water canoeists seeking adventure, difficulty and challenge, to parents of young children wanting safe picnic and play areas. In guarding against risks, we must avoid implementing safety measures that conflict significantly with our access, recreation, landscape, heritage and environmental responsibilities. Our aim is to provide people with information and guidance which will help them to safely enjoy their recreation without taking away the sense of freedom and adventure the waterway offers.

7 Targets, monitoring and review

It is important to be able to judge how successful we are in meeting the plan's core objectives to:

- protect, maintain and enhance the unique conservation status of the waterway;
- manage, improve and enhance navigation opportunities for the waterway;
- protect the interests of those navigating and using the principal rivers;
- encourage the appropriate use and enjoyment of the waterway by walkers, anglers and other recreational users;
- promote better access and information for canoeists, rafters and users of small craft;
- contribute to enhanced biodiversity, heritage and landscape values of the waterway;
- develop the health, economic and social benefits of navigation, to the advantage of everyone.

We will know the plan is succeeding when:

- there are more and better opportunities for people to enjoy the environment
- more people, from all backgrounds, take part in water-related sport and recreation;
- surveys show that our customers are happy with our services;
- there is enhanced biodiversity, heritage and landscape value.

In our last plan we identified the need to establish good baseline data and measure changes. We still need to find ways to measure levels of participation in sport and recreation (e.g. the number of oarsmen, canoeists, walkers, anglers and cyclists). And we will need to measure user satisfaction that identifies the extent to which use is socially inclusive.

Key areas of uncertainty or areas that require further data include:

- levels of current use in terms of areas used/visited, types of use and numbers of users;
- predictions and actual figures for future levels of use, again in terms of areas used/visited, types of use and numbers of users;
- identification of sensitive areas where restriction of access might need to be considered;

- information on carrying capacity of areas (e.g. levels of access that can be absorbed without incurring significant or irreversible adverse environmental effects).

Planned actions

The table lists our prioritised action plan for the navigation team. These are actions that we will aim to complete within the next five years. Some actions will require us to work with partners in order to achieve them.

Table 7.1

	Wye Waterway Plan actions	Target date
1	develop a new access/egress point to the river between Hay-on-Wye and Hereford (this will provide the third additional access point carried over from the previous Waterway Plan)	2012
2	work with Wye Valley AONB to finalise baseline criteria for assessing the impact of the plan	2011
3	produce calendar of events	Annually
4	monitor craft numbers and assess impact	Annually
5	promote and encourage use of code of conduct	Annually
6	raise awareness of protected species and habitats	2012
7	foster the development of a canoe hire association	Ongoing
8	establish who visits the Wye to canoe and raise educational awareness for all	Ongoing
9	work with landowners to promote and improve tree management	Ongoing
10	Explore partnership opportunities for hosting www. visitwye.com	2011
11	use the Strategic Environmental Assessment to assess the new plan and review as necessary	2011
12	improve Kerne and Ross-on-Wye access points	2011
13	publish waterway plan summary document	2011
14	implement outcome of craft identification consultation (consultation to be discussed with WNAC and way forward agreed)	2012
15	assess management systems (with regard to safety and compliance with code of conduct) of the commercial canoe hire companies	2012
16	implement a combined licensing scheme for construction and/or dredging works	2011
17	review and develop further navigation standards of service	2013
18	update and reproduce the canoeists' guide in line with current Government guidelines	2014
19	develop a new access/egress point between Ross-on-Wye and Bigsweir	2015
20	develop 2 access/egress points on the River Lugg	2016

Periodic reviews of the plan will measure how successful we are in meeting our objectives. We will continue to review our priorities and our ways of working to ensure that we maximise the value for money we deliver in creating a better place for people and wildlife. During any review, we will look again at the priority of each action to ensure that it is still appropriate. Any changes in legislation, circumstances and/or demand may require additional policies together with potential actions. Any changes would be made in consultation with the WNAC. An annual report will be presented to the WNAC detailing our progress in implementing the plan.

The plan will be reviewed by 2016.

8 Appendices

8.1 Policy statements

Navigation policies

These policies have evolved from our Wye Navigation Order duties. They apply to the principal rivers.

We will:	
N1	manage the principal rivers for the purposes of protecting the interests of those navigating and using them and promoting their navigation and use whilst protecting their unique status;
N2	maintain the principal rivers for the purpose of their navigation and deal with any issues that inhibit navigation, in line with Environment Agency standards;
N3	preserve, manage and improve the principal rivers for their appropriate navigation and use;
N4	apply the principles of the Environment Agency's Enforcement and Prosecution Policy when enforcing the powers within the Order;
N5	aim to make vessels adrift safe and seek owner as required;
N6	seek to remove vessels that represent a health and safety risk to other users or are a hindrance to navigation. Appeals will be dealt with as outlined in the Order. We may enter vessels to inspect their safe condition. If vessels are considered unsafe, a notice will be served requiring remedial works to be undertaken. Such vessels should not be used until deemed to be safe;
N7	require the marking, modification or removal of significant obstructions subject to environmental constraints: this would be if the obstruction has a significant impact on the public right to navigate, or; it hinders an access facility ,or; if in the opinion of an Environment Agency Officer, it represents a risk to safety of other users. An assessment of significance of any proposals will be undertaken in line with guidance provided within the document Applying the Habitats Regulations to New Environment Agency Permissions and Activities (2003) and an Appropriate Assessment undertaken if significant impacts are identified. Appeals will be dealt with as outlined in the Order;
N8	protect as far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety of those who navigate and use the rivers; carry out regular health and safety risk assessment surveys with respect to existing structures and embankments and general navigational use of the principal rivers. We may give notice requiring structures and embankments to be repaired.
N9	seek to manage events such as regattas and races by the production of 'The Wye Calendar of Major Events'; keep under review the need for additional byelaws for preventing obstructions to the navigation or use of the principal rivers. We currently have no intention to seek additional byelaws; keep under review the need for byelaws for prescribing navigational rules controlling vessel dimensions. We currently have no intention to seek byelaws; not be promoting byelaws for prescribing precautions for the prevention of fire; not be promoting byelaws for preventing or controlling pollution. We will use the

	<p>Water Resources Act 1991 as amended by the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010;</p> <p>keep under review the need for additional byelaws for regulating the launching of vessels but currently have no intention to seek byelaws;</p> <p>keep under review the need for additional byelaws for regulating the passage of vessels. We currently have no intention to seek byelaws as collision regulations apply;</p> <p>keep under review the need for additional byelaws for the purpose of safety, but currently have no intention to seek byelaws;</p> <p>for regulating the display of advertising – this may be effected under the Transport and Works Act Order;</p> <p>consult and consider through the period of the plan whether the registration of vessels is required – subject to the Transport and Works Act Order;</p>
N10	develop a policy on the use of our powers to control unsafe vessels working in collaboration with other enforcement agencies;
N11	minimise the impact of temporary closure of the principal rivers on navigation through the Wye Calendar of Major Events and use of the website;
N12	seek to limit interference to the navigation using the powers to direct vessels as and where necessary;
N13	only consider dredging that is localised and for the purpose of safe navigation;
N14	regulate the construction of works and/or dredging through a combined licence approach such that a works licence as well as a flood defence consent will be required;
N15	Will keep under review the need to introduce a charging scheme within the next 5 years;
N16	periodically review the need for navigation byelaws in consultation with the advisory committee;
N17	work in partnership with local authorities, landowners and action groups to improve existing services and develop new facilities where desirable;
N18	try to ensure that river users consider the interests of other activities competing for time and space. We will seek to facilitate an amicable solution for all parties should conflict arise;
N19	monitor the impacts from implementing the Wye Navigation Plan and report any significant issues to the Wye Navigation Advisory Committee;
N20	work with the Gloucester Harbour Trustees to ensure effective management of navigation on the River Wye between the tidal and non-tidal waters.

Waterway policies

These policies apply to the entire waterway. They have largely been developed from our national navigation strategy 'Your rivers for life'.

We will:	
W1	support initiatives aimed at encouraging environmentally friendly access to the waterway whilst protecting the unique conservation status of the catchment;
W2	support initiatives aimed at encouraging adequate provision for those needing access to the waterway by car whilst protecting the unique conservation status of the catchment;
W3	support initiatives to improve access to the waterway for the disabled and where we have control, we will ensure access is available to all whilst protecting the unique conservation status of the catchment;
W4	support initiatives aimed at encouraging land based recreation alongside the waterway where permitted whilst protecting the unique conservation status of the catchment;
W5	look at areas of sporting, recreation and social deprivation and will be particularly concerned with actions to improve opportunities for young people, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities and women;
W6	support initiatives that increase the use of the waterway for participation in sport, recreation and physical activity;
W7	encourage angling along the waterway;
W8	aim to encourage low cost non-motorised boating;
W9	aim to improve the experience for the visitor;
W10	help to identify the special characteristics of landscape and heritage value along the waterway and suggest actions to protect and enhance them;
W11	maintain and enhance the biodiversity along the Wye and its corridor, working with local biodiversity groups and other organisations;
W12	support initiatives to control invasive plant species in accordance with the code of practice;
W13	maintain and improve quality standards where feasible whilst ensuring no significant increase in water, noise or air pollution (including litter);
W14	facilitate use of the upper rivers and tributaries by seeking voluntary agreements between the riparian owners and waterway users;
W15	use soft bank protection, with hard edge works introduced only as a last resort;
W16	protect valuable in-stream features such as gravel shoals;
W17	manage river levels to ensure key water dependent sites are protected;
W18	ensure that works and activities do not result in the transfer and colonisation of invasive non-native plants, animal species and diseases;
W19	where we facilitate access outside of the Principal Rivers we will promote safety information and guidance.

8.2 Code of conduct

The code of conduct is intended to help people enjoy the river without reducing the enjoyment of others or damaging the environment.

General guidance for all river users

- Be courteous to other river users at all times.
- Look after the environment - avoid damaging the banks and bankside vegetation.
- Take special care not to disturb beds of waterweed and gravel beds.
- Avoid dragging equipment over rock slab and boulders.
- Don't disturb birds or wildlife - keep clear of nesting birds, areas important for breeding fish, and salient otter sites.
- Protect native species and habitats – use dry or disinfected equipment if used in other freshwater bodies.
- Don't trespass on private banks or moorings.
- Never throw rubbish into the river or leave it on the banks.
- Park sensibly without causing obstruction.
- Get changed out of public view.
- Be patient with those new to a sport, as you would for learner drivers on the road.
- Hail to draw attention to a situation which might result in inconvenience, damage or collision. Treat a hail as a friendly warning and not an insult.
- Be as quiet as possible - don't spoil the enjoyment of others.
- Be friendly and polite to local residents and try to avoid arguments.
- Competitors and organisers should take into account the effects on other river users.
- Event organisers should display warning notices at each end of a stretch of river being used for competitions.
- Observe the [countryside code](#) and have regard for others' property.

General guidance for boaters

- All boaters must use the river in a safe fashion and have appropriate safety equipment.
- Park vehicles and trailers responsibly so that they do not cause a nuisance.

- Except in an emergency, launch or land only at recognised access places.
- Don't land on gravel shoals and islands between 1 April and 31 July when birds may be nesting.
- Avoid trampling and launching / landing on or near sensitive otter sites, especially in the Clifford and Whitney sectors of the river.
- From October to April inclusive, trampling and launching on gravels used by salmon and trout may damage unhatched eggs and young fry. This is of particular concern upstream of Glasbury and when the water level is low.
- Obey the general rules of navigation and local byelaws.
- Give way to those engaged in organised competitions and have regard to any instructions given by officials.
- Groups of young and inexperienced boaters should be led by a suitably experienced responsible person – preferably a qualified instructor.
- When boating in a group try to keep together, especially when passing anglers.
- Don't get in the way of other craft by suddenly changing course.
- Remember that larger boats are less manoeuvrable and cannot use such shallow water as canoes, rafts and rowing boats.
- Upper Wye access agreement - there is a public right to navigation downstream of Hay-on-Wye, and on the upper river there are a number of negotiated access points for canoeing. Details can be found at: www.wyeuskfoundation.org/navigation.

Guidance for boating near anglers

- Look out for all anglers. Whilst assuring your own safety keep a good distance from them and avoid their lines.
- Pass anglers quickly and quietly, creating as little disturbance as possible and do not loiter in fishing pools.
- Keep well clear of wading anglers or anglers in boats and leave enough room in front and behind for them to cast.
- Comply with any signals anglers make to indicate whether they wish you to pass by or to wait a moment. Hail if you think your approach has not been noticed. It is an offence to wilfully disturb breeding fish or spawning beds. Please leave the water if an Environment Agency Officer asks you to. Such a request will only be made where there is a real risk of disturbance.
- Fishing from a boat is not allowed unless you have a valid rod licence and permission from the owner/tenant of the fishery rights. If you are boating upstream of Hay-on-Wye you also need permission from the riparian owner.

- The following descriptions can help you identify the various types of fishing and how best to share the river with anglers:

Types of fishing:

Coarse fishing - These anglers are often seen with an umbrella. Look out of the float 5-10m out and try to avoid their area called a 'swim'.

Fly fishing - Usually standing, wading or on bank. Avoid area opposite and, as they keep moving downstream, avoid downstream in particular. Watch out for end of line.

Game / fly fishing - Sometimes best to paddle behind them after acknowledgement.

Fishing seasons:

Salmon and Sea Trout - 3 March to 17 October, except above Llanwrthwl Bridge where the season runs from 3 March to 25 October. **Non Migratory**

Trout - 3 March to 30 September.

Coarse - 16 June to 14 March.

9 List of abbreviations

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
WNAC	Wye Navigation Advisory Committee

10 Glossary

Term used	Explanation/definition
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Area designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 with the primary purpose of designation to conserve natural beauty.
Biodiversity	The common term for 'biological diversity', the variety of life and the natural processes of which living things are a part.
Byelaws	Regulations made by a local authority or other government body.
Catchment	The area of land draining to a defined point.
Coarse fish	Freshwater fish other than salmon and trout, many belonging to the carp family (cyprinids).
Habitat	Place in which a species or community of species live, with characteristic plants and animals.
National Trail	Routes based on Public Rights of Way through the nation's finest and most characteristic countryside, allowing an extensive journey on foot, horseback or by bicycle.
Principal rivers (Wye Navigation Order 2002)	That part of the River Wye from the downstream face of Bigsweir Bridge (reference point SO 538051) to Hay Town Bridge (reference point SO 228426); and that part of the River Lugg from its confluence with the River Wye to Presteigne Town Bridge (reference point SO 316646).
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Area identified by Countryside Council of Wales and English Nature under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 for protection by reason of the rarity of its nature conservation, wildlife features or geological interest.
Sustainable development	Usually defined as 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'.
Sustrans	A sustainable transport charity, working on practical projects to encourage people to walk, cycle and use public transport in order to reduce motor traffic and its adverse effects.
Upper rivers	The River Wye upstream of Hay Town Bridge and the River Lugg upstream of Presteigne Town Bridge.
Waterway	A navigable channel.
Waterway standards	Standards which provide a clear framework of service levels offered to waterway users.
Weir	A dam built across a river to raise upstream water levels.
Wharf	A level quayside area to which a boat may moor.
Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	One of the 50 AONBs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Covers 326 square kilometres of south Herefordshire, eastern Monmouthshire and western Gloucestershire.

11 More information

This is a summary of our Wye Waterway Plan. If you would like to look at the plan in more detail, we have produced a full document called 'The Wye Waterway Plan' Incorporating the Wye Navigation Plan, April 2006.

Other associated publications produced by the Environment Agency

Your Rivers for Life: our national navigation strategy 2004-2007

[A Better Place to Play: our strategy for water-related sport and recreation 2006–2011](#)

[An Environmental Vision, 2000: our 20-year aspiration for the environment of England and Wales](#)

[Creating a Better Place: Corporate Strategy 2010-2015](#)

[Creating a better place 2010-2015: Angling, navigation and recreation supporting strategy](#)

Creating a better place: Corporate Plan 2010/11

[Water for life and livelihoods: River Basin Management Plan, Severn River Basin District](#)

[River Ancholme Waterway Plan](#)

[Great Ouse Waterway Plan](#)

[Medway Waterway Plan](#)

[River Nene Waterway Plan](#)

River Stour Waterway Plan

Thames Waterway Plan

[River Welland and Glen Waterway Plan](#)

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