

**Canoe Access Agreement  
Lower River Derwent (Cumbria) – Below Bassenthwaite Lake**

**River Stretch covered by agreement –**

River Derwent (Cumbria) lower reaches from outflow at Bassenthwaite Lake to tidal limit at Workington.

**The Agreement**

**1<sup>st</sup> November to and including 31<sup>st</sup> January** – Canoeing can take place subject to the **conditions** set out below.

**1<sup>st</sup> February to and including 31<sup>st</sup> May** – No Access from Bassenthwaite Lake to Isel Bridge. Canoeing downstream from Isel Bridge can take place **with** prior notification to Castle Fisheries (Telephone: 01900 826320) and subject to the **conditions** set out below.

**1<sup>st</sup> June to and including 31<sup>st</sup> October** – No canoeing on the river except for special events with prior permission from Derwent Owners Association and subject to the **conditions** set out below.

**The Conditions**

1. The water level must be at **or above the red lines on all river level gauges.**  
Ouse Bridge river level gauge location: 30m downstream of Bridge, River right – access through field via public footpath.
2. Registering of intent of use is required prior to canoeing, stating the date and number of canoeists using the river.  
Please telephone the **Calvert Trust** on: 017687 72255 (message service available 24hrs / day, 7 days / week).

Please leave the following information:

- Date
- Contact details
- Time
- Organisation
- N<sup>o</sup> in group
- Trip (access and egress points)

**3. Access / Egress**

**No Access to the River other than from designated points, listed below.**

**Peel Wyke Harbour, Bassenthwaite Lake (NGR: NY 2035 3085)**

This is situated on the north-western shores of Bassenthwaite Lake.

This is the only access point for the River upstream of Isel Bridge. Permit required for any other use on Bassenthwaite Lake.

*Or*

**Isel Bridge (NGR: NY 1642 3330)**

This is downstream of Isel Bridge, river left. Walk along field edge (National Trust land). Parking in lay-by.

*Or*

**Harris Bridge (Millers Footbridge) (NGR: NY 1180 3079)**

This is situated within Cockermouth, river right through Public Park.

*Or*

**Penny Bridge – Nr Broughton Cross (NGR: NY 0756 3071)**

This is situated south of Great Broughton. Access river left (opposite farmhouse) along grassy track. Parking below A66.

*Or*

**NGR: NY 0099 2920**

River Right before Yearl Weir

*Or*

**Mill Fields (NGR: NY 0099 2920)**

River left 300m above road bridge

4. Large groups (more than 10) or outdoor centre groups are asked to avoid the river from Bassenthwaite to Cockermouth due to its sensitive wildlife and access the river from Cockermouth.

## **Review of Agreement**

This agreement will be reviewed on an annual basis.

At a first instance, any issues about the agreement should be raised with the representative from the appropriate interested party (i.e. BCU River Information Advisor / Derwent Owners rep) for resolution at an early stage.

## **General**

Leaders of groups and individuals should ensure that:

- Each person is sufficiently trained to make a reasonably trouble free passage to minimise disturbance on passage and minimise need to use banks to empty boats etc.
- Straight through, quiet passage is requested.
- Landing other than at the agreed sites must only be in the case of an emergency
- Groups should be sufficiently well equipped to deal with any emergencies that may arise.

## **Wildlife**

This river is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) as well as being designated under European legislation as a candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC) for lamprey (sea, river and brook), salmon, otters, marsh fritillary (butterfly), floating vegetation with *Ranunculus* species (water crowfoot) and *Luronium natans* (floating water plantain) Canoeists must take care and make as little disturbance as possible to the wildlife and habitats present.

Consideration should also be made to wintering wildfowl, such as goldeneye, found on the river and banks in the upper reaches, between Bassenthwaite and Isel Bridge. These can be found in large numbers (300+) during the months of January, February and in particular March and are important bird species. Hence no access to

this part of the river between 1<sup>st</sup> February to, and including, 31<sup>st</sup> May. Extra care should be taken at all other times.

Any problems or questions regarding this agreement please contact:  
BCU River Information Advisor: John Crosbie  
(Telephone – work: 017687 71921 home: 017687 73040) **or**  
Derwent Owners Association: (Telephone - 01900 826320)

## **Many Thanks**

Many thanks go to BCU, Castle Fisheries, Calvert Trust, Cumbria Canoeists, English Nature, Environment Agency, Lake District National Park Authority, National Trust, West Cumbria Canoeists and Mr Stan Payne.

## **Code of Conduct: Earning a welcome**

To enjoy their sport canoeists need to be welcome:

- Be friendly and polite to local residents
- Drive slowly with care and consideration
- Park sensibly without causing any obstruction
- Be as quiet as possible
- Unload kit tidily and take all litter home
- Get changed out of public view
- Get permission before going onto private property
- Avoid wildlife disturbance and environmental damage
- Be considerate to other water users
- Avoid being an intrusion on local life
- Support local businesses if you can
- Say "Thank You" for any help you receive
- Leave no trace of your visit
- Follow the Countryside Code