

Detailed guide: Information to help boaters on the River Wye

Updated: Update to both upstream and downstream access information

The River Wye is 251km long. It drains a catchment containing a rich and varied landscape spanning the Welsh and English borders. It rises in the uplands of mid Wales, flowing past the towns of Rhayader, Builth Wells, Hay-on-Wye, Hereford, Ross-on-Wye and Monmouth, entering the Severn Estuary at Chepstow.

The Environment Agency is the navigation authority for the River Wye, from Hay to Bigsweir Bridge. Navigation on the tidal Wye, below Bigsweir, is the responsibility of [Gloucester Harbour Trustees](#).

The Wye Navigation Advisory Committee meets in spring and autumn, helping to maintain sustainable recreation and navigation on the River Wye.

For details of the committee and a copy of approved minutes, please email we-navigation@environment-agency.gov.uk.

River access for boaters

Boaters have confirmed legal access on the River Wye between Hay-on-Wye and Chepstow (where the River Wye enters the Severn Estuary). Upstream of Hay-on-Wye there are a number of negotiated access points.

Access upstream of Hay Bridge

- there is no confirmed legal right of navigation upstream of Hay Bridge
- access to navigate the upper Wye is disputed
- there are two arrangements to help facilitate shared access and river use between anglers and paddlers; please refer to the [Wye & Usk Foundation](#) website and the [Canoe Wye](#) website for further details
- much of the upper Wye isn't recommended for beginners, or boaters who don't have considerable experience of white water; please read the available guides before paddling
- it is recommended that you check and if necessary obtain permission from the owner(s) of the riverbed along your route before you access the river

Access downstream of Hay Bridge

- the public right of navigation doesn't give an absolute right of access to the river bank downstream of Hay Bridge, except in an emergency, or to prevent one
- other than at accepted public sites or where there is public access to the river bank, you should get permission from the owner of the

- riverbank/surrounding land before you launch or land your boat
- any use of the banks must be not only incidental to your navigation, but also reasonable and considerate to the needs of landowners and other users
- permission is needed to camp or picnic on the banks or neighbouring fields

River Wye event calendar 2018

There may be river restrictions around each event.

If you are participating in an event make sure you're aware of the [Wye Code of Conduct](#); a guide to using the river without reducing the enjoyment of others or damaging the environment:

Date	Event	Organiser
Sunday 16 September	A Trust Riverfest Qualifier – all waters	Hereford and District Angling Association
Sunday 23 September	Monmouth Autumn Head at Monmouth Rowing Club	Monmouth Rowing Club
Sunday 23 September	Wild Wye Swim – Lydbrook to Symonds Yat	Severn Area Rescue Association
Sunday 30 September	J Burrows Charity Match – all club waters	Hereford and District Angling Association
Sunday 7 October	Winter League – Belmont	Hereford and District Angling Association
Friday 12 October	Under 25's 2 Day Festival	Hereford and District Angling Association
Saturday 13 October	Under 25's 2 Day Festival	Hereford and District Angling Association
Saturday 13 October	Slalom at Symonds Yat rapids	Cheltenham Canoe Club
Sunday 14 October	Slalom at Symonds Yat rapids	Cheltenham Canoe Club
Sunday 28 October	56th Wye Championship on River Wye at all club waters	Hereford and District Angling Association
Sunday 4 November	Winter League – Belmont	Hereford and District Angling Association
Monday 5 November	Bonfire and Fireworks night at Monmouth Rowing Club	Rotary Club of Monmouth
Wednesday 7 November	Hereford 3 Day Festival – Belmont	Hereford and District Angling Association
Thursday 8 November	Hereford 3 Day Festival – Belmont	Hereford and District Angling Association
Friday 9 November	Hereford 3 Day Festival – Belmont	Hereford and District Angling Association
Saturday 17 November	Angling Trust Riverfest Final – Belmont	Hereford and District Angling Association
Sunday 18 November	Angling Trust Riverfest Final – Belmont	Hereford and District Angling Association

Date	Event	Organiser
Saturday 24 November	Angling Trust Riverfest Final – Belmont (reserve date)	Hereford and District Angling Association
Sunday 25 November	Angling Trust Riverfest Final – Belmont (reserve date)	Hereford and District Angling Association
Sunday 9 December	Monmouth Winter Head at Monmouth Rowing Club	Monmouth Rowing Club
Sunday 2 December	Winter League at Belmont	Hereford and District Angling Association
Sunday 16 December	Winter League at Belmont	Hereford and District Angling Association

If you are planning an event or know of an event which isn't on the Environment Agency calendar, please email we-navigation@environment-agency.gov.uk.

If you would like more information about an event please contact the event organiser:

Organisation	Contact	email
Canoe Camping Club	Tim Wheeler, 01302 851316 / 07528 373387	holidaymeet@canoecampingclub.co.uk
Cheltenham Canoe Club	Alison Longhurst	yatslalom@cheltenhamcanoeclub.com
Committee for Herefordshire Amateur Rafters	Mrs P C Hales, 07977 388120	phales@horizontraining.org.uk
Hereford and District Angling Association	John Pembridge, 01432 359 701	johnpembridge@talktalk.net
Hereford Kayak Club	Tony Spencer or Andrew Wibmer	spencertony1951@gmail.com andrewwibmer@hotmail.com
Hereford River Carnival	Mrs P C Hales, 07977 388120	phales@horizontraining.org.uk
Hereford Rowing Club	01432 273915	hrcsecretary@btconnect.com
Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre	Andy Oughton, 07929 196 569	andy@soarpaddler.co.uk
Madsat Raft Race	Madsat Raft Team, 07935 204176	
Monmouth Rowing Club	Eric Froggatt, 01600 772799 or 07810 483466	regatta@monmouthrc.org.uk
Monmouth School Sports Club	Iain MacDonald	I.MacDonald@monmouthschool.org
Monmouth Triathlon Club	Richard Newhouse, 07584 287887	richardnewhouse42@gmail.com

Organisation	Contact	email
Open Canoe Association	Andy Oughton, 07929 196569	andy@soarpaddler.co.uk
PaddlePlus Canoe Club	Andy Oughton, 07929 196 569	andy@soarpaddler.co.uk
Ross Rowing Club	Niki Ryan Contact for Walk the Wye and Bonfire and Fireworks –	chairman@rossrowingclub.co.uk
Rotary Club of Monmouth	Norman Williams, 01291 680 016. Contact for Monmouth Raft Race – David Forbes, 01600 712 665	monmouthrotaryclub@gmail.com or monmouthrafrace@sky.com
Severn Area Rescue Association, Wild Wye Swim	Richard Newhouse, 07584 287887	richardnewhouse42@gmail.com
Wye Float 2018	Matthew Taylor, 07784 281525	wyefloat@gmail.com

Canoe facilities

To help you plan and enjoy your canoe trip on the River Wye the Environment Agency produced a detailed guide to the River Wye, [Canoeists' guide to the River Wye](#) or you can buy a hard copy online or in bookshops near the River Wye. Updates for the 2009 and 2011 editions of the canoeists guide are available online [Updates to Canoeists' guide to the River Wye, July 2012](#)

The guide contains practical information to help plan your journey, featuring:

- a series of 12 maps, based on Ordnance Survey data
- navigation and recreational advice
- health and safety guidelines
- where you can launch and land
- river grades for the Wye
- tourist information on local parking, refreshments, camping, useful addresses and telephone numbers
- Code of Conduct for the River Wye

The Environment Agency are indebted to Ron and Ruth Shoesmith who wrote previous editions of this guide and to the late Allen Greenhill who was the co-author of the first edition in 1968 and the inspiration behind its publication. The Environment Agency would also like to thank the local access officers of the British Canoe Union and the Welsh Canoeing Association, who provided advice on the contents of this guide.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this guide is accurate. No liability can be accepted for any errors, inaccuracies

or omissions. In particular, readers should note that details such as land ownership, camp sites and landing places can change