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CANOEISTS' GUIDE TO THE River Wye



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CANOEISTS' GUIDE TO THE River Wye

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Unless stated otherwise, all photos are of the Symonds Yat stretch of the River Wye

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Introduction

This guide has been produced by Environment Agency Wales.

The guide provides useful information for canoeists using the River Wye. It contains a detailed itinerary of the river, together with other information to help you plan and enjoy your canoeing trips.

We 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 back in 1968 and the inspiration behind its publication. We would also like to express our thanks to the local access officers of both 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 from year to year.

Environment Agency Wales



The River Wye

The River Wye is one of the foremost canoeing rivers in the country. Between Glasbury and Chepstow, there are 161km (100 miles) of canoeing river flowing through some of the most attractive and varied countryside in Britain. For a river of its size, the Wye is remarkably unpolluted and natural in character. This contributes to its outstanding importance for nature conservation, a fact acknowledged by its designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC). Agriculture is the dominant land use in the area and there are several historic towns such as Hereford, Ross and Monmouth along the route.

From Hay to Whitney, the Wye flows between the Black Mountains and the Radnorshire Hills. Here the river is generally shallow, with minor rapids and several long pools. From Whitney to Hereford, the character of the river changes as it

The River Wye at Lydbrook



meanders through a broad floodplain. Below Bredwardine, the channel narrows and views are restricted.

The lower valley, below Hereford, has been recognised as one of the most important lowland landscapes in Britain and is a designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). From Hereford to Ross-on-Wye, the river again enters a wide valley with high banks.

After Ross-on-Wye, the river enters perhaps its most dramatic section, with spectacular views and deep wooded gorges down to Chepstow.

The Wye Valley is an important area for tourism, attracting many thousands of

visitors each year. The river is a unique resource for sport and recreation and is important for many activities in addition to canoeing, including game fishing (mainly for salmon) and coarse fishing, rafting, rowing, walking, bird watching and picnicking.

"Together the River Wye (Lower Wye) and the River Wye (Upper Wye) SSSIs and several of their tributaries represent a large, linear ecosystem which acts as an important wildlife corridor, an essential migration route, and a key breeding area for many nationally and internationally important species. The Wye is of special interest for its associated plant communities. Its character spans a range of types from an upland base-poor stream to an estuarine, silty lowland river. The river's overall diversity is a product of its underlying geology, soil type, adjacent land use and near natural fluvio-geomorphological regime." (River Wye SSSI Citation, English Nature)



Photograph compliments of Forestry Commission

Navigation Rights and Access

The River Wye has been used for navigation for many centuries. Today, boating is almost entirely recreational, but in the past the Wye was an important commercial waterway, used to transport the products of industry and agriculture. Acts of Parliament, passed in the 17th Century confirmed its status as a "free and open" navigation, though it is not established whether or not this applies upstream of Hay. As a result of these Acts, canoeists enjoy a legal right to canoe between Hay and Chepstow, where the Wye enters the Severn Estuary.

Upstream of Hay Bridge, the river can provide some good canoeing water but there is no established legal right of navigation and during the summer, parts are often very shallow. Permission should always be sought from the owner of the riverbed, usually the owner of the river bank, before canoeing. You should also note that permission to launch on a particular section does not entitle canoeists to pass over the bed of the river belonging to other owners downstream or upstream. To simplify these arrangements, the Welsh Canoeing Association and the fishery owners have negotiated an agreement to allow canoeing by members of the Association and the British Canoe Union, on parts of the upper river at certain times of the year and during periods of high water. Canoeists wishing to



use these stretches are advised to contact the W.C.A Access Officer for details of the access agreement and launching (see page 32 for details). Failure to respect the agreement may prejudice it in future years. The upper Wye is not recommended for beginners, nor canoeists who do not have considerable experience of white water.

The public right of navigation below Hay does not give a right of access to the river bank and other than at accepted public sites, permission



Photograph compliments of Forestry Commission

should be sought before canoes are launched or landed. Permission is also needed to camp or picnic on the banks or neighbouring fields.

The body that is, in law, the navigation authority for the Wye below Hay ceased to function many years ago when commercial traffic on the river switched to railways and canals. In 1996 the Environment Agency's predecessor, the National Rivers Authority, applied to government ministers to become the river's navigation authority. That application, which was the subject of a public enquiry in 1997, has still to be decided; one of its proposals is the creation of a Wye Navigation Advisory Committee, which would comprise representatives of all river users (including canoeists) and which is intended to assist the Agency in the development of sustainable recreation and navigation on the Wye.

Navigation on the tidal Wye, i.e. below Bigsweir Bridge, is the responsibility of the Gloucester Harbour Trustees. The Agency's proposals for the Wye below Hay would not affect this arrangement.

To avoid problems, it is essential that those using the river act responsibly and follow advice contained in the Wye Code of Conduct (see page 10).

Remember - there are many users of the River Wye. Please respect their wishes and needs !

Safety on the River

The Wye can be dangerous and has been the cause of many accidents. It is at its most dangerous when there are strong currents, high water levels or cold weather conditions. Do not take risks and never underestimate the power of the river. The Wye is a fast flooding river, which can rise after heavy rain at a rate of over 30cm an hour. When in flood, it is generally best to keep off the river altogether. The Environment Agency monitors water levels at all times and provides a recorded river levels service on 0930 107704.

Safety guidelines

Although common sense is the most important requirement, the risk of accidents can be minimised by following these simple guidelines:-

- Wear an approved buoyancy aid or life jacket and helmet.
- Inspect rapids before "shooting" them.
- If possible, never canoe alone, but if you must, let someone know where you are going and your estimated time of arrival, and let them know that you have arrived.
- Make sure that you can swim at least 50 metres in the type of clothing you will be wearing.
- Carry a repair kit for your canoe, and make sure that you know how to use it.
- Make sure that your canoe has built-in buoyancy or has inflated bags inside to prevent it sinking if you capsize.
- If you wear glasses, tie them with a piece of string round the back of your head in case of capsize.
- If you have not canoed before, ask someone with experience to go with you.
- If your canoe has not been used for some time ensure that it is river-worthy.

You should learn how to cope if an accident occurs. Ideally you should be able to:

- Help somebody who is in difficulty in the water or has capsized.
- Give first aid.
- Revive somebody who is unconscious.

Most of the above may seem so obvious that they should not need mentioning, but it is surprising how often they are overlooked and lead to a great deal of trouble, not only for the canoeist, but also for other people.

The river is tidal below Bigsweir Bridge, and can be very dangerous, particularly below Tintern. If you decide to use this stretch, leave Tintern not later than one hour after high water and travel straight through without stopping. High water at Tintern is four hours before Dover.

Finally ...when in doubt, don't !

Health and Hygiene

The quality of water in the River Wye is generally good, but unlike tap water it is untreated and contains natural bacteria and other micro-organisms. Although the risk of contracting an illness is small, there are sensible precautions which those involved in water sports can take to stay healthy.

Health and Hygiene Guidelines

- Do not swallow river water.
- Cover any cuts or sores with gloves or waterproof plasters.
- Where possible, wash or shower after taking part in water sports, especially if you have capsized.
- Wash your hands before eating.
- See your doctor if you feel ill after having taken part in water sports, particularly if you experience flu-like symptoms.

For detailed advice on the health aspects of rivers, contact your local Council's Environmental Health Officer.

Leptospirosis (Weil's Disease)

Leptospira bacteria is often carried by rats and excreted in their urine thus contaminating water and muddy soil. The bacteria can enter the human body through cuts, grazes, mouth or mucous membranes such as those which line the nose and ears.

The symptoms are similar to those of influenza - temperature, muscle aches and nausea. Most people with leptospirosis (41 cases in England and Wales in 1997) don't go on to develop the more serious Weil's Disease. However, the earlier leptospirosis is treated the better, so consult your doctor if you feel ill after coming into contact with water anywhere near or in the river.

Following the precautions already given will greatly minimise any possible risk.

Code of Conduct

The Agency has published a Code of Conduct intended to help people enjoy the river, without reducing the enjoyment of others or damaging the environment. Canoeists are asked to follow the relevant sections of the code below, which are supported by all the main user groups.

General Guidance

- Try at all times to be courteous to other river users.
- Look after the environment and avoid damaging the banks and bankside vegetation.
- Do not pick up, uproot, or trample wild plants.
- Take special care not to disturb beds of waterweed and gravel beds.
- Do not disturb birds and other wildlife you find along the river. Keep clear of nesting birds and areas important for breeding fish.
- Never throw rubbish into the river or leave it in on the banks.
- Please be as quiet as possible. Do not spoil the enjoyment of others.
- Have regard to those engaged in organised competition and follow instructions given by officials.
- Competitors and organisers should take into account the effects on other river users.
- Have special regard for the problems of those new to a sport, as you would for learner drivers on the road.
- Hail to draw a person's attention to a situation which might result in inconvenience, damage or collision. Treat a hail as a friendly warning and not as an insult.
- Display warning notices at each end of a stretch of river being used for competitions.
- Observe the Country Code having regard for others property.

Guidance for Canoeists

- Look out for all anglers. Whilst assuring your own safety keep a good distance from them and avoid their lines. Pass by 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.
- Do not sit on fast flowing water and remain stationary if there are anglers fishing nearby.

- Except in an emergency, launch or land only at recognised access places. Do not trespass on private banks.
- Keep clear of gravel shoals and islands during the spring when birds may be nesting.
- Groups of young or inexperienced canoeists should be accompanied by a suitably experienced, responsible person; preferably a qualified canoe coach.
- Park vehicles and trailers responsibly so that they do not cause a nuisance. Do not enter or park on private land without permission.



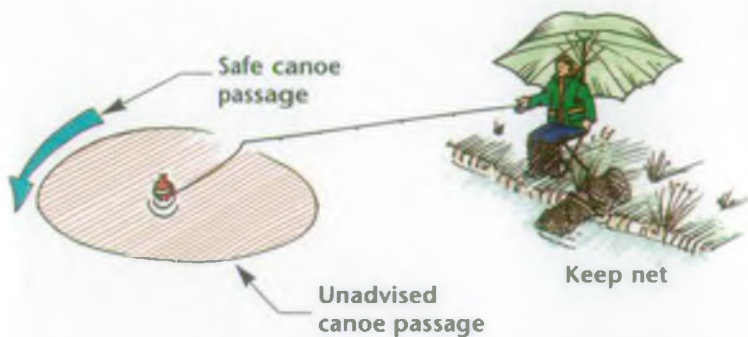
- Do not get in the way of other craft by suddenly changing course. Remember that larger boats are less manoeuvrable and cannot use such shallow water as canoes.
- Keep clear of rowing craft and rafts, particularly when they are racing or serious coaching is taking place. Remember that it is sometimes difficult for others to see canoes.
- Salmon and trout lay their eggs in gravel. During the period October to April inclusive, trampling and launching canoes on gravels used by salmon may damage unhatched eggs and young fry. This is of particular concern upstream of Glasbury and when the water level is low. Game stocks are now a scarce resource so please do not canoe if the risk of disturbance is high. While coarse fish stocks are not in danger it is worth remembering that they spawn between April to July, and on their behalf unnecessary disturbance of gravels should be avoided.
- It is an offence to wilfully disturb breeding fish or spawning beds. Please leave the water if requested to do so by an Environment Agency Inspector. Such a request will only be made where there is a real risk of disturbance.
- Avoid trampling and launching/landing on or near sensitive otter sites, especially in the Clifford and Whitney sectors of the river.

Illustrative guidance

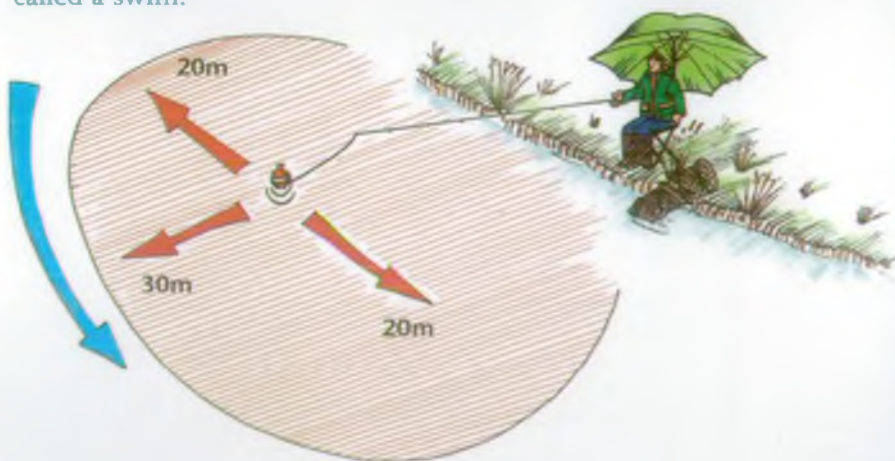
COARSE FISHERMAN

Often seated, with umbrella.

Look out for float 20-30m out.

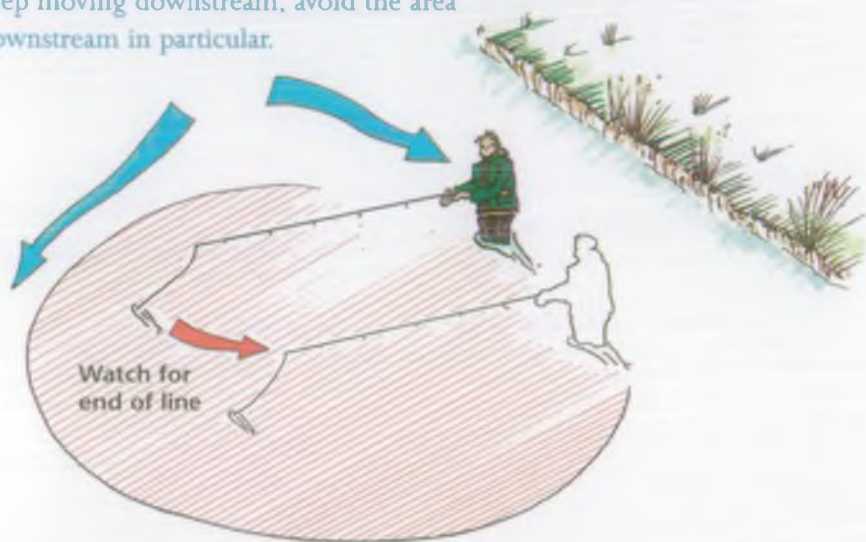


Try to avoid their fishing area called a swim.



FLY FISHERMAN

Usually standing, wading or on bank. Avoid area opposite and, as they keep moving downstream, avoid the area downstream in particular.



GAME FISHERMAN/FLY FISHERMAN

Sometimes best to paddle behind them after acknowledgement



Wye Management Advisory Group (WyeMAG)

WyeMAG has been in existence since 1993 and has the aim of ensuring co-operation by public bodies with an interest in management of the River Wye. Its membership includes:

Countryside Commission

Countryside Council for Wales

English Nature

Environment Agency

Gloucestershire County Council

Herefordshire County Council

Monmouth County Council

Powys County Council

Sports Council for Wales

Sports Council – West Midlands Region

Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

– and representatives of boating, fishing, conservation and landowner interest from the user group, the Wye Forum.



Itinerary

For convenience, the river between Glasbury and Chepstow has been divided into seven sections, each with a corresponding map. The sections are not intended as day runs and canoeists should decide for themselves how far they can travel comfortably in a day.

The first column in the itinerary is the distance from Glasbury in kms, the second the distance in miles and the third is the distance between points (miles).

Key to Itinerary and Maps

PH Public House close to river
i Tourist Information Centres
NGR National Grid Reference
SH Shop

CS ★ Camp Site
LP ● Launch/Land Point
WC Toilet

Launching and Landing

Canoeists may launch or land at the points listed without needing to get express permission, unless stated otherwise.

Landing may also be made, with permission, at certain riverside campsites and through individual arrangements with some landowners.

Reference to right or left bank refer to the river as viewed looking downstream.

Be aware of the designated water skiing zone between Livox Quarry (ST 543979) to Chepstow Castle (ST 531946). Chepstow Railway Bridge to Beachley Point on the Severn is designated for a range of Aquaplaning activities.

Bibbys Youth Campsite launch point
Photograph compliments of Forestry Commission



Glasbury – The Scar, Brobury



Glasbury to The Scar, Brobury

km	miles				
0	0		Glasbury	LP CS SH PH WC	NGR 179394
Village with post office, shops and inn. Many small rapids, usually shallow over the next few miles. These may have to be waded. Launch on the left bank above bridge on Glas-y-Bont Common. A small fee, to be paid at the post office, is charged for launching by Glasbury Community Council, who lease the land. Canoeists are requested to launch between 10.00am and 4.30pm to avoid disturbing anglers. Car park at junction of A438 and A4350.					
5	3	3	Hollybush Inn	CS PH	NGR 198404
8	5	2	Boatside Weir		NGR 222427
Natural weir at right hand bend, normally passable right , but inspect at low water.					
9	5.5	0.5	Hay-on-Wye	LP CS SH PH WC i	NGR 229426
See plan on page 16. Welsh border and market town with post office, stores, hotels and inns. Castle ruins, but not open to the public. For 200m below the bridge there are shallows and no clear course. Immediately below the landing place, beware of iron stakes in river bed on right , where Dulas Brook joins the river. These may be just below the surface. Landing on right bank 100m below bridge. Steps. No permission required. Small car park.					
13	8	2.5	Clifford		NGR 242458
Ruins of Clifford Castle on right bank. Formerly an important border castle. Interesting remains of railway embankments. Do not launch/land on or near Clifford Common, sensitive wildlife site.					
14.5	9	1	Rhydspence		NGR 243473
The border between Wales and England. The old inn on the main road (A438) left bank is the 'first house' in Engiand.					
16.5	10.25	1.25	Whitney-on-Wye	LP CS SH WC	NGR 259475
Demolished railway bridge. Beware of underwater obstructions. Closely followed by toll road bridge, built in 1802 and one of the few private bridges left in the country. Land on left bank just upstream of bridge. Private. Fee payable. Apply to Toll Bridge Cottage (Tel. 01497 831669). Car parking.					
17.5	11	0.75	Boat Inn	PH	NGR 270473
There is a small rapid which sets into the left bank. From here, for four miles the river takes several large meanders and there are some shallows which may have to be waded.					
19.5	12	1	Locksters Pool	CS	NGR 269462
Deep pool on sharp left-hand bend. Large catches of salmon have been recorded in the series of salmon pools on this stretch.					
25.5	16	4	Turner's Boat	CS	NGR 313460
The name of an island passable on the left . Some small rapids during the next few miles to Bredwardine Bridge.					
31.5	19.5	0.5	Bredwardine	LP SH PH	NGR 337446
Brick built six-arched bridge. Small village with post office, store and inn. Landing on left bank below bridge. Prior permission should be sought from the landowner, Mrs Leonora Weaver at Brobury House (Tel. 01981 500229). Limited parking.					
34	21	1.5	The Scar, Brobury		NGR 352445

The Scar – Hampton Bishop



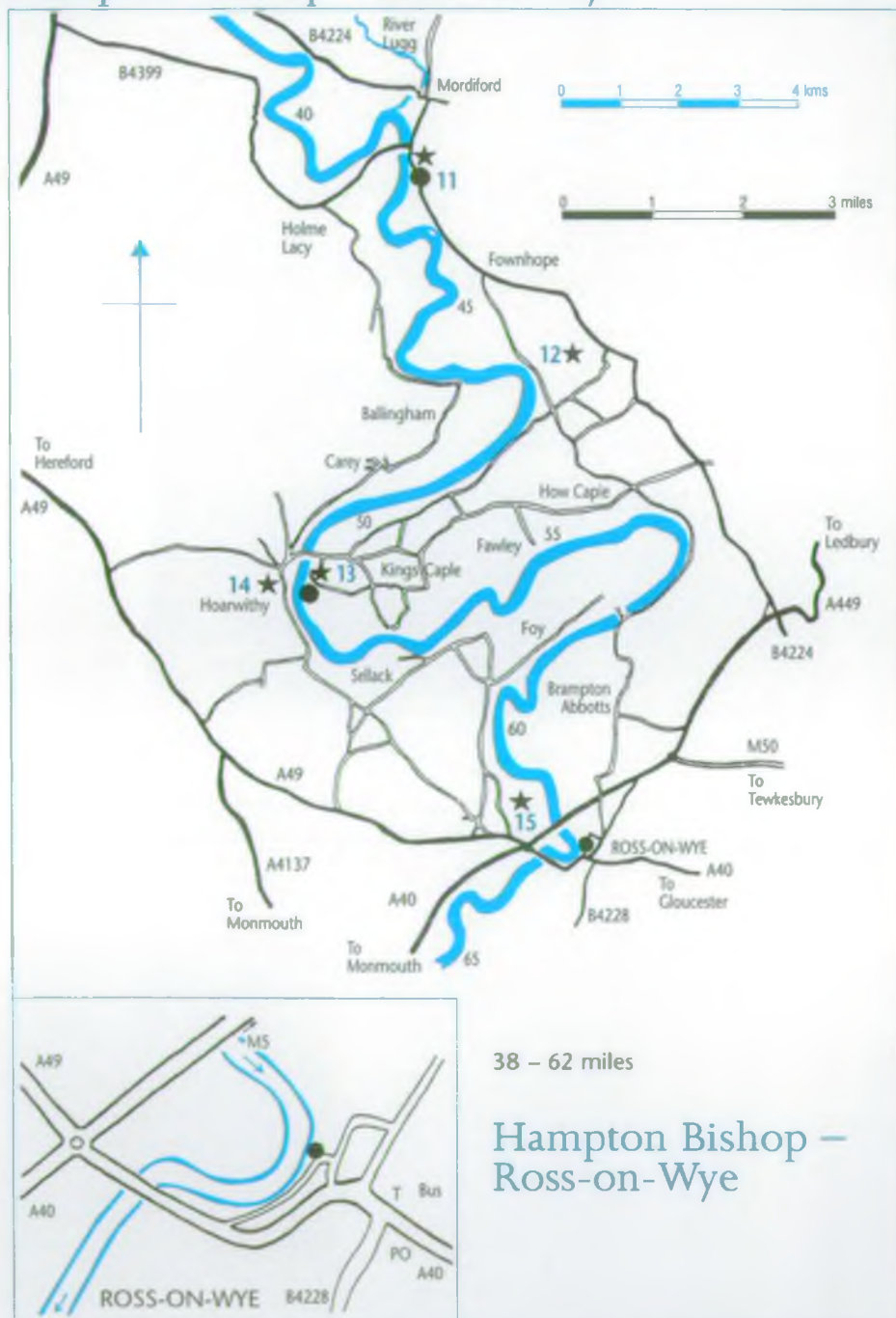
21–38 miles

The Scar –
Hampton Bishop

The Scar – Hampton Bishop

km	miles	miles		
34	21	1.5	The Scar, Brobury High sandstone cliff on left bank, clothed with beeches. Look out for several large boulders in river bed, often just below the surface.	NGR 352445
34.5	21.25	0.25	Moccas Court Large mansion in Queen Anne style on right bank, built in 1783. The grounds around the house were landscaped by Capability Brown.	NGR 358435
35	21.75	0.5	Moccas Abutments only remain of Moccas Toll bridge, which stood from 1868 to 1960 when it was damaged by floods and not restored. Beware stones close to surface.	NGR 365433
36.5	22.5	0.75	Byecross CS	NGR 374425
37	22.75	0.25	Monnington Falls See plan on page 26. Land on gravel bank on left for inspection of falls only. The channel, except in flood conditions, is to the left of the island with a small fall at the top. Inspect the whole run of fast water for obstructions and fallen trees.	NGR 375429
37.5	23.25	0.5	Preston on Wye CS Church near right bank.	NGR 382426
38	23.75	0.5	Byford LP Few houses on left bank. Weedy shallows as far as Bridge Sollers. Landing on left bank 200m below pumping station, in front of black and white cottage. Overgrown area. Site of old ford. Access from road down narrow lane. No permission required. No parking or facilities.	NGR 400425
40	24.75	1	Bridge Sollers Bridge across river.	NGR 413425
43	26.75	2	Cannon Bridge Few houses on right bank. No bridge.	NGR 432412
44.5	27.5	0.75	New Weir No weir now. Large attractive walled garden on left, well maintained by the National Trust, with surviving masonry and a cistern from the Roman period. Gardens are open to the public from March to October.	NGR 434419
47.5	29.5	2	Breinton Common Left hand channel round island.	NGR 451401
54	33.75	4.25	Hereford CS LP SH PH WC I See plan on page 18. Hereford grew up around an ancient river crossing, which explains its name, meaning 'ford of the army'. Among the many places of interest are the cathedral and medieval chained library, the Old House museum, Museum of Cider, city walls and the old castle site at Castle Green. A variety of river crossings include the disused iron railway bridge at Hunderton, the modern Greyfriars Bridge, the Wye Bridge built in 1490 and the elegant Victorian suspension bridge of 1898. Landing on right bank below old road bridge. No permission required. Car parking nearby.	NGR 509396
56.5	35	1.25	Bartonsham Sewerage outfall on left and private road bridge, followed by railway bridge. Small rapid below railway bridge, passage to right.	NGR 523387
61	38	3	Hampton Bishop	NGR 550382

Hampton Bishop – Ross-on-Wye



38 – 62 miles

Hampton Bishop – Ross-on-Wye

Hampton Bishop – Ross-on-Wye

km	miles	miles		
61	38	3	Hampton Bishop Road (B4224) behind floodbank on left. The village inn, the 'Bunch of Carrots', takes its unusual name from a salmon pool nearby. No launching or landing permitted here.	NGR 550382
67.5	42	4	River Lugg River Lugg joins the Wye from the left.	NGR 565372
68	42.5	0.5	Holme Lacy Bridge CS LP Modern bridge at the junction of the B4399 and the B4224. Landing at Lucksall Caravan Site downstream on left, but only with prior permission of owners (Tel. 01432 870213).	NGR 568364
74	46	3.5	Mancell's Ferry Fishing croy on left. Follow signs to keep to the right around bend.	NGR 575327
75.5	47	1	Capler Hill Steep wooded slope on left bank, leading up to the double ramparts of Capler Camp, an Iron Age hill fort. A variety of birds inhabit these woods and dappled fallow deer may be sighted. From here to Ross, the river follows several large meanders.	NGR 588327
78	48.25	1.25	Carey Wood Group of islands with rapids in between. The best course is normally to the right of the first island.	NGR 573307
79	49	0.75	Carey Demolished railway bridge. One of three railway bridges crossing the Wye between Ross and Hereford which were dismantled when the Hereford to Gloucester line closed in 1964.	NGR 570306
82	51	2	Hoarwithy CS SH LP Road bridge with village on right bank. Post office, inn and the prominent 'Italianate' church of St Catherine's which has featured in at least three films. Landing on left bank about a quarter of a mile downstream of bridge. Prior permission should be sought from Mr Jenkins at Lower Ruxton Farm (Tel. 01432 840223).	NGR 549295
85.5	53	2	Sellack Suspension footbridge.	NGR 565280
87	54	1	Strangford Demolished railway bridge on the old Hereford to Gloucester line.	NGR 578286
88.5	55	1	Fawley Chapel Interesting chapel on left bank.	NGR 591295
89.5	55.75	0.75	How Caple The Inglestone Estate. For 2 miles downstream, the salmon pools are indicated by red and green discs fixed to the trees. Please observe these and paddle on the green side of the river	NGR 600298
91.5	57	1.25	Hole-in-the-Wall	NGR 611286
92	57.25	0.25	Foy Elegant suspension footbridge, built after an earlier structure was swept away by floods in 1919. Current restricted by small islands. Channel varies according to level. Church on right after 0.25 miles.	NGR 605284
94.5	58.75	1.5	Backney Common A simple metal cross sits on the left bank. This commemorates an act of bravery by the rector of Brampton Abbots in 1904, who died saving his son and his daughter's friend from drowning. Demolished railway bridge 400m downstream at Backney. Weedy shallows.	NGR 589269
99.5	61.75	3	Ross-on-Wye LP SH PH WC I	NGR 596244

Ross-on-Wye – Redbrook



Ross-on-Wye – Redbrook

km	miles	miles			
99.5	61.75	3	Ross-on-Wye	LP SH PH WC I	NGR 596244
			See plan on page 20. Long curve on river from motorway bridge to Wilton Bridge. The market town of Ross sits above the river with a market house, plague cross and museums. Landing on left bank below the Hope and Anchor pub. Steps, no permission required. Car parking nearby. Please do not land or launch at Wilton Bridge.		
100	62.25	0.5	Wilton Bridge		NGR 590243
			13th Century castle on right before bridge, closed to public. Use middle arch of stone bridge and channel to the right of the island.		
107.5	66.75	4.5	Goodrich Castle		NGR 577199
			Impressive Norman fortification set against the skyline on the right , managed by English Heritage and open daily throughout the year		
108.5	67.5	0.75	Kerne Bridge	LP PH WC	NGR 581192
			Picnic site and car park. Landing on left bank 800m below road bridge. Steps at end of picnic site. No permission required but contributions requested in honesty box. Goodrich village 800m to the right . Please do not land/launch at the bridge.		
112	69.5	2	Lower Lydbrook	LP PH	NGR 596170
			Inn on left bank above rapids. Keep to left of island down Lydbrook shallows. Landing on left bank at steps to the picnic site/car park. No permission required, small charge (20p) requested in honesty box.		
112.5	70	0.5	Welsh Bicknor	CS	NGR 591177
			Church and youth hostel on right bank followed by a railway bridge, now used as a footbridge. This is an important fishing stretch. Please observe the red and green discs fixed to the trees and paddle on the green side of the river. Please pass through quietly and do not linger.		
116	72	2	Symonds Yat Rock		NGR 551172
			Start of the long loop in river. The 500ft high limestone bluff of Symonds Yat Rock is visible on the left.		
121.5	75.5	1.75	Symonds Yat West	LP CS PH	NGR 557164
			Small passenger carrying pleasure boats and a 'rope and cable' ferry for crossing the river based here. Landing at Ye Olde Ferrie Inne on right bank. Permission required from the Inn (Tel. 01600 890501).		
122.5	76	0.5	Symonds Yat East	LP CS PH	NGR 562159
			Grade 2 rapids below Yat can be inspected from old railway track. Large waves in the lower parts and congestion possible. Landing and launching from the steps on the left bank at the Wydean Canoe Centre (Tel. 01594 833238). Car parking available. Fee payable. A waymarked footpath can be followed from here up to Yat Rock.		
124.5	77.5	1.5	Biblins	CS	NGR 549145
			Narrow suspension bridge across river. Waymarked footpath route to King Arthur's Cave and Seven Sisters Rocks.		
127.5	79.25	1.75	Hadnock Island	NGR 538155	
			Pass either side of island. Left side usually less weedy.		
132	82	2.75	Monmouth	LP CS WC SH PH I	NGR 512128
			See plan on page 22. River runs alongside main road with market town to right with a ruined castle, market, Nelson Museum and the Naval Temple on Kymin Hill. Landing at steps on right immediately downstream of rowing club by car park. No permission required.		
132.5	82.5	0.5	Junction of River Monnow		NGR 512122
			River Monnow joins the Wye from the right . Beware of underwater obstructions. Rocky shallows in this area.		
135	84	1.5	Redbrook	SH PH	NGR 536100

Redbrook – Chepstow



Redbrook – Chepstow

km	miles	miles			
135	84	1.5	Redbrook	SH PH	NGR 536100
Village with shops on left and inn on right . Large boulders in river above disused railway bridge now used as a footbridge. It was at Redbrook that the last recorded act of piracy took place on the River Wye when men came down from the Forest of Dean and seized two barges. There is no record of their arrest.					
141	87.5	3.5	Bigsweir Bridge		NGR 539051
Narrow road bridge on the A466. Note that this is the upstream limit of tidal water. Rapids 0.5 miles downstream of bridge.					
142	88.5	1	Llandogo	SH PH	NGR 526041
Village with shops and inn on right . There are some rapids between this point and Tintern and the banks become muddy from here.					
147	91.5	3	Brockweir Bridge	LP SH PH	NGR 539011
Village on left with shops and inn. Landing at restored stone landing on left bank just upstream of bridge, although this can be awkward and muddy at low tide. No permission required. Very limited car parking in village. Alongside the river are the remains of old quays where supplies from sailing barges were loaded and unloaded in the past. Rapids below bridge when tide is out.					
149.5	93	1.5	Old Railway Station, Tintern		NGR 536006
Cafe, Information Centre and picnic area on right .					
150.5	93.5	2	Tintern	SH WC PH i	NGR 535000
Village on right with shops and inns. Footbridge across river. Ruins of a magnificent 12th century Cistercian abbey and now popular tourist attraction on the right . Important: From this point, the river should only be used by canoeists with reasonable experience. There is currently no landing site at Tintern or downstream after Chepstow as dangerous weirs are exposed at low water. The tide is considerable and canoeists should leave Tintern not later than one hour after high water and travel straight through to Chepstow. High water at Tintern is 4 hours before high water at Dover.					
161	100	6.5	Chepstow	LP CS SH WC i	NGR 535944
Walled market town with extensive remains of a 11th century Norman castle and town gate. Landing on Chepstow Boat Club's floating pontoon on right bank. If gate is locked key is obtainable from Boat Inn opposite. Please show appreciation for this generous offer. No permission required. Limited car parking nearby. See plan on page 24.					

Canoeists are recommended not to attempt to canoe below Chepstow as the junction with the River Severn has very dangerous currents.

Monnington Falls

Land on gravel bank above falls on the left for inspection of falls only. You should hear the fall as you canoe round the corner. The fall and channel can be inspected as shown, by courtesy of the owner. Look carefully for the flat rocks, especially if the river has risen at all, and make sure that you can recognise the approach. Check the channel next to the island for fallen or overhanging trees. Parties should tackle the fall individually and land on the right bank below the island or return up the right hand channel to land on the flat rocks.



Symonds Yat

A straight fast rapid, just below the ferry, stretches the length of the island. This can be inspected from the disused railway track. Watch particularly for standing waves at the lower end of the rapid. A waymarked footpath can be followed to Yat Rock. The views are worth the climb and there is a cafe at the top.



Seven Sisters Rocks

A waymarked footpath (yellow arrows) can be followed from the Biblins footbridge past the rocks, to King Arthur's Cave.



Accommodation

The list below is intended as a guide to camping facilities bordering the Wye. While attempts have been made to ensure that the list is as accurate as possible, it is not intended to be definitive and sites will change from year to year. You are strongly advised to check details in advance, especially for groups.

Facilities vary and some sites are no more than a farm field with a water supply. Further information about camping and other accommodation is contained in the 'River Wye Handbook' which can be obtained from Tourist Information Centres.

Key

F Field only

Sh Shop

Wb Washbasins

W Water

D Drying Facilities

C Canoe Launching

T Toilets

S Shower

Campsites

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Mr G H Thomas
 Brooklyn
 Glasbury
 ☎ 01497 847673</p> | <p>NGR: 173392
 Access: Left, Before wall of Glasbury.
 By road: Over Glasbury bridge, left at toilets, past Maesllwch Arms on left.
 Facilities: F</p> |
| <p>2. Mr C Lewis
 Hollybush Inn
 Hay on Wye
 Hereford
 HR3 5PS
 ☎ 01497 847371</p> | <p>NGR: 198404
 Access: On right bank, grounds adjoining river.
 By road: On Hay to Glasbury road.
 Open: All year
 Facilities: T S Wb W C</p> |
| <p>3. G. R. Terry
 Forest Park
 Clyro
 HR3 5SG
 ☎ 01497 820156</p> | <p>NGR: 197437
 By road: Off A438 – Pains Castle Road, 0.5 mile from Clyro.
 Open: All year
 Facilities: S W T Wb D</p> |
| <p>4. Mr & Mrs S Davies
 Radnors End Campsite
 Radnors End
 Hay on Wye
 Hereford HR3 5RS
 ☎ 01497 820780</p> | <p>NGR: 224431
 Access: 300 yards from left bank.
 Open: March to October
 Facilities: T S Wb D</p> |
| <p>5. Mrs S Mason
 Oakfield Farm
 Locksters Pool
 Clifford
 Hereford HR3 5HJ
 ☎ 01497 831373</p> | <p>NGR: 269462
 Access: On right bank at left hand bend (small shingle beach).
 By road: Via Clifford village.
 Open: All year
 Facilities: W (B&B at farmhouse)</p> |
| <p>6. Mr G Huxtable
 Whitney Toll Bridge
 Whitney on Wye
 Hereford
 ☎ 01497 831669</p> | <p>NGR: 259475
 Access: Left bank up concrete steps just upstream of bridge.
 Open: All year
 Facilities: T Wb W C</p> |

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>7. Mr D Price
The Weston
Bredwardine
☎ 01981 500396</p> | <p>NGR: 311459
Access: Shingle beach, top end of Turner's Boat.
By road: 0.5 mile east of Merbach
Open: All year</p> |
| <p>8. Mr T Dale
Byecross Farm
Moccas
HR2 9LT
☎ 01981 500284</p> | <p>NGR: 376425
Access: 300 yards upstream of Monnington Falls on right
By road: Moccas/Preston-on-Wye road, 1 mile from Preston-on-Wye.
Open: End May-September
Facilities: W</p> |
| <p>9. Mr J Price
New Court Farm
Preston on Wye
Hereford
☎ 01981 500349</p> | <p>NGR: 384424
Access: On right bank, 1km below Monnington Falls.
By road: Turn into farmyard immediately after church
Open: All year
Facilities: F W C T in summer</p> |
| <p>10. Hereford Racecourse
Roman Road
Hereford
☎ 01432 272364</p> | <p>NGR: 500415
By road: On A49, 2 miles north of river
By Starting Gate public house
Open: April to September
Facilities: T W Wb S</p> |
| <p>11. Lucksall Camp Site
Lucksall
Mordiford
Hereford
☎ 01432 870213</p> | <p>NGR: 568364
Access: On left, 200m below Holme Lacy Bridge
By road: Adjoining the B4224
Open: Easter to October
Facilities: T W Wb S C Sh (milk and eggs)
Please book for groups of 10 or more</p> |
| <p>12. Mrs Williams
Caplor Farm
Fownhope
Hereford HR1 4PT
☎ 01432 860260</p> | <p>NGR: 597332
Access: 1.5 miles south of Fownhope, 300yards off the B4224.
Open: All year
Facilities: W Wb (B&B)</p> |
| <p>13. Mr H Jenkins
Lower Ruxton Farm
Kings Caple
Hereford HR1 4TX
☎ 01432 840223</p> | <p>NGR: 549294
Access: On left, 400m below Hoarwithy Bridge
By road: First right east of bridge, second farm.
Open: Mid July to end August
Facilities: F W C</p> |
| <p>14. Mrs Roberts
Tresseck Farm
Hoarwithy
Hereford
☎ 01432 840235</p> | <p>NGR: 547292
Access: On right
By road: Turning after New Harp Inn.
Open: All year
Facilities: F W C</p> |
| <p>15. Mr and Mrs Brewer
Benhall Farm
Wilton
Ross on Wye
☎ 01989 563900</p> | <p>NGR: 589249
Access: 800m before dual carriageway bridge.
Open: April to October
Facilities: T W</p> |

16. Youth Hostel Welsh Bicknor Ross on Wye ☎ 01594 86030	NGR: 591177 Access: On right bank above church. Private landing stage marked with YHA triangle. No road access. Open: March to October. YHA members and bona fide youth groups only. Facilities: T S W Sh
17. Symonds Yat Caravan Park Symonds Yat West Nr Ross on Wye Herefordshire HR9 6PY ☎ 01600 890883	NGR: 556174 Access: On right of river close to rapids. By road: Turn left off A40 to Symonds Yat West. Open: March to October Facilities: T W Wb S C
18. Mr and Mrs Howells Wydean Canoe Centre Symonds Yat East Nr. Ross on Wye ☎ 01600 890129	NGR: 561159 Access: On left bank above Saracen's Head Ferry. By road: From A40/B4229 over Huntsham Bridge to Symonds Yat East. Open: March to December Facilities: T W Wb S C
19. The Biblins Campsite Forest Enterprise Coleford Gloucestershire GL16 8BA ☎ 01594 833057	NGR: 549145 Access: On right bank by suspension bridge (for campers only). By road: From A40, via The Doward. Open: March to end October Facilities: T W Wb S C Sh (Organised groups only, advance booking essential)
20. Christchurch Campsite Forestry Commission Braceland Drive Christchurch Gloucestershire GL16 7NN ☎ 01594 833376	NGR: 567128 By road: Follow B4432 and signposted minor road at Berry Hill. Not accessible from river. Open: March to January Facilities: T W Wb S Sh
21. Monnow Bridge Campsite Drybridge Street Monmouth ☎ 01600 714004	NGR: 504124 Access: On bank of River Monnow. Open: All year Facilities: T W Wb S
22. Mr and Mrs Ward Oak Cottage The Common St Briavels Gloucestershire ☎ 01594 530440	NGR: 538035 Access: 1 mile from either Bigsweir or Brockweir on the Offa's Dyke Path. Open: April to October Facilities: F W
23. Mrs M Cracknell Beeches Farm Tiddenham Chase Brockweir Chepstow NP6 7LZ ☎ 01291 689257	NGR: 548006 By road: Via B4228, 2 miles from river Open: All year Facilities: T W Wb

Youth Hostels

The following list of hostels are those within easy reach of the river. Distance from the river and route by vehicle to the hostel are also given. Meals are provided at most of these hostels and advance booking is advised, particularly during the holiday periods.

Welsh Bicknor

Address: Youth Hostel, Welsh Bicknor Rectory, Welsh Bicknor,
Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire HR9 6JJ
☎ 01594 860300

Location: 2 miles south east of Goodrich Village on river bank (NGR 591177).

St Briavels

Address: Youth Hostel, The Castle, St Briavels, Lydney,
Gloucestershire GL15 6RG
☎ 01594 530272

Location: In village opposite church (NGR 558046). Nearest point on river is
Bigsweir Bridge, 2 miles away.

Useful Information

Tourist Information Centres in the Wye Valley

Rhayader	Leisure Centre, North Street, Rhayader ☎ 01597 810591
Builth Wells	Groe Car Park, Builth Wells ☎ 01982 553307
Hay-on-Wye	Oxford Road, Hay-on-Wye ☎ 01497 820144
Hereford	1 King Street, Hereford ☎ 01432 268430
Ross-on-Wye	The Swan, Edde Cross Street, Ross-on-Wye ☎ 01989 562768
Monmouth	The Shire Hall, Agincourt Square, Monmouth ☎ 01600 713899
Chepstow	Castle Car Park, Bridge Street, Chepstow ☎ 01291 623772

Canoe Hire and Instruction

Several companies in the Wye Valley offer canoes for hire and instruction, and will guide groups of canoeists. For details, contact the local Tourist Information Centre.

Maps

Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 Series

Sheet 161	Glasbury to 3km below Hay-on-Wye	0-11kms
Sheet 148	Hay-on-Wye to 1km above Bredwardine	9-30kms
Sheet 149	1km above Bredwardine to 2 kms below Hoarwithy and bend around Foy	30-84kms and 87-92kms
Sheet 162	1km below Hoarwithy to Chepstow excluding the bend around Foy	84-87kms and 92-161kms

Ordnance Survey Outdoor Leisure 1:25,000 Series

No.14	Kerne Bridge to the Severn Estuary
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Fishing Seasons

Salmon	26 January to 17 October except that part of the River Wye above Llanwrthwl Bridge where the season is 26 January to 25 October
Trout	3 March to 30 September
Coarse	16 June to 14 March following

Telephone Information Services

Environment Agency recorded
river levels message

☎ 0930 107704
Calls cost 50p per minute at all times

Useful Addresses

Environment Agency Wales

Rivers House, St Mellons Business Park,
St Mellons, Cardiff CF3 0LT
☎ 01222 770088

Countryside Council for Wales

3rd Floor, The Gwalia, Ithon Road,
Llandrindod Wells, Powys
☎ 01597 824661

Wye Valley AONB

Hadnock Road, Monmouth, NP5 3NG
☎ 01531 638500

English Nature

Bronsil House, Eastnor, Ledbury HR8 1EP
☎ 01531 638500

Welsh Canoeing Association

Canolfan Tryweryn, Frongoch, Bala LL23 7NU
☎ 01678 521199

British Canoe Union

John Dudderidge House, Adbolton Lane,
West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 5AS
☎ 01159 821100

BCU/WCA Local Access Officers:

Wye from Hay to Symonds Yat

John Westlake, 33 Golden Vale, Churchdown,
Gloucester GL3 2LU
☎ 01432 531218

Wye from Monmouth
downstream

Graham Symonds, 7 Whitehill Close,
Monmouth, NP5 4FG
☎ 01600 713461

Useful Publications

Information for river canoeists

Environment Agency Wales

River Wye Handbook

WyeMAG

Wye Calender of Events (Annual)

Environment Agency Wales

Wye Valley Walk,
Official Route Guide

Powys County Council, Monmouth County
Council, Hereford County Council,
Countryside Commission, CCW
& Wye Valley AONB

Trails of Discovery, Collector's Pack

Monmouthshire County Council

Citation for River Wye SSSI (Upper)

CCW

Citation for River Wye SSSI (Lower)

English Nature

River Wye – Newbridge-on-Wye
To Glasbury Access Agreement

Welsh Canoeing Association

Canoeists' update

The information within this guide requires constant updating. If you wish to be informed of significant alterations to the guide please fill in the brief section below and information, when available, will be sent to the named respondent. Thankyou.

Name _____

Contact Telephone No _____

Address _____

Post code _____

What stretch of the River Wye do you intend/did you canoe?

Are you a member of a canoeing club? (eg. BCU/WCA)

**Are you aware or have you experienced any problems en route?
(Please be as detailed as possible)**

Any other comments?

Data Protection Notice

The information that you provide will be processed by the Environment Agency to fulfil its regulatory and monitoring functions. The information will not be disclosed to any third parties other than in connection with the statutory functions of the Environment Agency. Completion of this form is voluntary and you do not have to answer every question. You have the right to apply for a copy of the personal information that we hold about you and to correct any inaccurate information, in accordance with data protection regulation.

Environment Agency Wales
Fisheries, Ecology, Recreation
Rivers House
St Mellons Business Park
St Mellons
Cardiff
CF3 0LT

Affix
stamp

MANAGEMENT AND CONTACTS:

The Environment Agency delivers a service to its customers, with the emphasis on authority and accountability at the most local level possible. It aims to be cost-effective and efficient and to offer the best service and value for money.

Head Office is responsible for overall policy and relationships with national bodies including Government.

Rio House, Waterside Drive, Aztec West, Almondsbury, Bristol BS32 4UD
Tel: 01454 624 400 Fax: 01454 624 409

Internet World Wide Web www.environment-agency.gov.uk
www.environment-agency.wales.gov.uk

ANGLIAN
Kingfisher House
Goldhay Way
Orton Goldhay
Peterborough PE2 5ZR
Tel: 01733 371 811
Fax: 01733 231 840

MIDLANDS
Sapphire East
550 Streetsbrook Road
Sollihull B91 1QT
Tel: 0121 711 2324
Fax: 0121 711 5824

NORTH EAST
Rivers House
21 Park Square South
Leeds LS1 2QG
Tel: 0113 244 0191
Fax: 0113 246 1889

NORTH WEST
Richard Fairclough House
Knutsford Road
Warrington WA4 1HG
Tel: 01925 653 999
Fax: 01925 415 961

SOUTHERN
Guildbourne House
Chatsworth Road
Worthing
West Sussex BN11 1LD
Tel: 01903 832 000
Fax: 01903 821 832

SOUTH WEST
Manley House
Kestrel Way
Exeter EX2 7LQ
Tel: 01392 444 000
Fax: 01392 444 238

THAMES
Kings Meadow House
Kings Meadow Road
Reading RG1 8DQ
Tel: 0118 953 5000
Fax: 0118 950 0388

WALES
Rivers House/Plas-yr-Afon
St Mellons Business Park
St Mellons
Cardiff CF3 0LT
Tel: 01222 770 088
Fax: 01222 798 555



For general enquiries please call your local Environment Agency office. If you are unsure who to contact, or which is your local office, please call our general enquiry line.

**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
GENERAL ENQUIRY LINE**

0645 333 111

The 24-hour emergency hotline number for reporting all environmental incidents relating to air, land and water.

**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
EMERGENCY HOTLINE**

0800 80 70 60



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