

## Canoe Access Agreement Rivers Greta and Middle Derwent

### River stretches covered by agreement:

- River Greta (Cumbria)
- Middle Derwent (Cumbria) between Derwent Water and Bassenthwaite Lake

### The Agreement.

The Derwent and Greta river system is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). This agreement aims to conserve and protect this environment and its wildlife taking account of seasonal changes, whilst allowing responsible canoe access at all other times:

- 1st January to and including 31st October - Access agreed subject to the following general conditions defined below
- 1st November to and including 31st December - Canoeing may take place on the River Greta, Middle River Derwent in spate conditions as defined below.

### Spate Conditions

Spate conditions are defined as indicated by white painted lines on river level markers situated at:

- Greta - Threlkeld Bridge on central bridge pillar downstream side [GR NY 315247]
- Middle Derwent – Portinscale Foot Bridge on East foundation under bridge [GR NY 253238]

### General Conditions

#### 1. Permitted Access and Egress Points. [Subject to Owners Permission]

- River Greta at Threlkeld Bridge [GR NY 315247], Fitz Park [GR NY 267237] and Pencil Mill [GR NY 263239] areas in Keswick Town
- Middle Derwent at Portinscale Foot Bridge [GR NY 253238] and at Low Stock Bridge [GR NY 236268] egress only

- Bassenthwaite Lake at Blackstock Point [GR NY 223273] and at Peel Wyke Harbour [GR NY 203308]. A permit is required on Bassenthwaite Lake at all times
- At any public access or canoeing club launch sites on Derwent Water. Note Kettlewell car park on Derwent Water [GR NY 267195] is a useful point

### 2. Review of Agreement/Issues

This agreement will be reviewed on an annual basis and any issues or problems should be raised in the first instance with BCU River Information Advisor Steve Lenartowicz ( Tel: 017687 72005 work and 015394 34859 home)

### 3. Code of Conduct

Canoeists need to be welcome to enjoy their sport. They can best achieve this by following the BCU code of conduct, maintaining good relations with land owners, respecting others and generally causing minimum disturbance to wildlife and other river users.

See also overleaf [page 2] for additional supporting information to this agreement

### 4. Signal Crayfish

Non-native Signal Crayfish have recently been discovered in the Derwent and Greta system at St John's Beck. The Environment Agency [EA] has therefore issued specific information and guidance on this threat to the native wildlife. River users are requested to disinfect/dry their equipment to avoid spreading this non native species to other river systems – see [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk) for further details

As the crayfish plague spores remain viable only when damp, complete drying of equipment that has been in contact with water or sediments is an effective way of killing them. Spores can also be killed by Iodine-based (iodophors) disinfectants

**Canoe Access Agreement**  
**Rivers Greta and Middle Derwent [Additional Supporting Information]**

**Salmon and Sea Trout Conservation.**

These fish species are in decline on the Greta and Derwent Systems as in many other parts of the U.K. The Derwent and Greta rivers and their tributaries are key spawning and nursery areas for these fish and essential to their survival. The Environment Agency, Keswick Anglers and other conservation bodies are working together to improve habitat [e.g. prevention of bank erosion and avoidance of silting of gravels]. KAA also hatch indigenous fry and release these to assist spawning. These measures contribute to the Bassenthwaite Lake Restoration Project a major partnership, one of whose aims is "To improve ecological integrity and enhance biodiversity in the area".

Canoeists can help and support these aims by adhering to this agreement and keeping to the BCU Code of Conduct below.

**Wildlife**

The River Derwent & Tributaries is one of the finest large river systems in Europe. The quality and importance of the wildlife and habitats along the river is widely recognised and they are protected under European law as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The river is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Nationally rare fish and water plants are found in the waters and the lack of pollution means that mosses and lichens are abundant. The fish populations are particularly special, including salmon and all three species of lamprey. Derwent Water and Bassenthwaite Lake contain populations of vendace, a rare fish found nowhere else. Otters are also found in the catchment and many birds nest and over-winter on the rivers and lakes.

As with all other people, individuals and groups of canoeists are fortunate to use and enjoy this beautiful area. When on the river, please enjoy the environment and be respectful of all plants and wildlife.

**BCU 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
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**Many Thanks**

Many thanks go to Keswick Anglers, the Environment Agency, the BCU, Cumbria Canoeists, the Calvert Trust, English Nature, Lake District Park Authority and the National Trust who helped put this agreement together.