

DRAFT / MOCK-UP

Paddlers' Code for the River Wye, Glasbury-on-Wye

Powys County Council has granted permission for paddlers to launch craft from – and to use the river adjacent to and downstream of – Glas-y-Bont Common, provided they follow this code, designed to respect and protect the river environment, landowners and other river users.

NB organised groups (those with a designated leader, whether paid or voluntary), organisations or businesses (whether commercial, educational, military or voluntary, - including all hire operators) may only launch here after signing-up to a concordat arrangement operated for the Council by South Wales Outdoor Activity Providers Group, or by making alternative arrangements with the Council.

The River Wye is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), environmentally important and strictly protected by law. Several habitat sites on the river are sensitive to potential disturbance by paddlers, so particular care is required in these areas (shown on the map – which also shows areas on the river where landing is permitted or prohibited).

The following 'good practice' guidelines have been adapted from [The Paddlers Code](#) and the [Countryside Code](#) as they apply specifically to this section of river:

Respect

- Launching of canoes, kayaks and paddleboards (but no other type of craft) is permitted **only between 10am and 4pm**.
- If you need to drive, team up with others.
- There is limited parking space at the access points in Glasbury and Hay. Don't cause obstruction – and leave space for emergency vehicles. If there's no space, unload quickly and park respectfully elsewhere (in Hay, the town car parks are only a few minutes' walk away).
- Unload and load equipment and change in a discreet and considerate way.
- Minimise noise and avoid offensive language near others – both on the river and at the access points, which are close to residents' homes.
- Keep group sizes small and discreet where possible – but do stay together as a group to minimise disturbance to others.
- Keep a look-out for other users, including swimmers and anglers (and their fishing lines). Give other users space and avoid lingering and causing a disturbance near anglers.
- Be friendly, be welcoming and respectful of those you meet along the way. Follow directions from anglers who may signal how, which side and when they want paddlers to pass them. Be nice, say hello and share the space!
- Don't paddle under the influence of alcohol or drugs, nor consume alcohol on your journey downriver – this could put you and your companions in danger.
- Use toilet facilities (at Glasbury and at Hay-on-Wye) rather than the riverbanks, except in emergencies.

Protect

- Take your litter home: keep it securely in your craft until you can dispose of it; and secure all loose items so they don't become litter if you capsize: no glass bottles, please!
- Don't light fires on the common at Glasbury or anywhere along the river.
- Be kind to nature, minimise noise and keep a distance – including at the Glasbury launch site, where wildlife takes refuge in the opposite bank.
- Take special care (follow any directions you may be given) not to disturb sensitive habitats (shown on the map) – which could be considered a criminal act:
 - beds of gravel or waterweed used by spawning and juvenile fish: avoid grounding, trampling or landing on these – or using paddleboards with long fins – when water levels are low, particularly from 1 April to 30 June; and
 - gravel banks used by nesting birds: avoid landing on these between 15 March and 15 August.
- Avoid walking on riverbanks, which can be sensitive to erosion or home to vulnerable species: use only the agreed landing and launching points shown on the map (except in emergencies); and don't pick plants!
- Avoid dragging or sliding craft on the bankside. Try to float your craft for launching and landing.
- Always check, clean, & dry your kit after each trip. Inspect for plant fragments and critters. Washing and drying all equipment is key to helping stop the spread of invasive, non-native species.
- Fishing from canoes is not permitted without a valid Environment Agency rod licence, landowner consents and the relevant fishing permits for the stretch of river concerned.

Enjoy

- Be prepared! Always wear a buoyancy aid and carry a means of contacting the emergency services on your person
- Check your craft/equipment before each trip – and that you have a waist leash for the river environment if paddling SUP
- Plan your adventure! The weather can change rapidly due to rain or wind. Check the [Wye at Glasbury - River levels](#)
- Ensure you are equipped for the trip and that it is within the capabilities of you and your group.
- Be aware of potential hazards such as overhanging trees and the weir at Hay Warren.
- Look out for bacteria, viruses or toxic algae. Don't enter water that looks or smells bad. [Report to Natural Resources Wales](#) (0300 065 3000)
- Leave no trace, take only photographs and leave only ripples.

All paddlers launching at Upper Glas-y-Bont Common must follow this code, designed to respect and protect the river environment, landowners and other river users.

Organised groups, organisations or businesses may only launch after signing-up to a Concordat arrangement with South Wales Outdoor Activity Providers Group (<https://swoapg.com>) or by making alternative arrangements with Powys County Council.

First bend after bridge: avoid shallow areas beside main flow throughout the S-bend, especially April-June

Access to launch & land (left bank) at Upper Glas-y-Bont Common, Glasbury
[W3W unclaimed.display.gear](#)
Toilets, limited parking.
Keep access gate clear.
Launching permitted 10am-4pm

Powys County Council has granted permission to launch paddle-craft at Upper Glas-y-Bont and to use them on the river downstream of this point (where the Afon Llynfi meets the Wye)

Site of 'oxbow lake': bird breeding habitat – **DO NOT LAND IN THIS AREA** from 15 March to 15 August

Llowes bend: avoid shallow areas and route, especially April-June

Middle Gro: landing permitted on right (advertised by sign 200m upstream)

'Oxbow bend': avoid shallow areas as flow again bends left then right, especially April-June

Access to land & launch (right bank) at The Gliss, Wyeford Road, Hay-on-Wye
[W3W scornful.chipper.messy](#)
Limited parking on site; car parks & toilets in town

Digeddi campsite: avoid shallow areas both sides, especially April-June

Sheephouse fishery: avoid shallow areas, especially April-June

[For Information only] The Warren: small weir around corner (deepest route far right)

RESPECT

- Launch canoes, kayaks and paddleboards **only between 10am and 4pm**

- Avoid obstructing parking areas and access gates
 - Move equipment and change discreetly
- Minimise noise and avoid offensive language
- Keep group sizes small – but stay together
- Give other users space; avoid lingering near anglers
 - Be friendly, welcoming and respectful
 - Avoid alcohol or drugs

PROTECT

- Take litter home, don't light fires
- Be kind to nature – especially at the sensitive sites
- **Avoid walking and dragging on riverbanks and gravel beds; land & launch only where shown (except in emergency)**
 - Check, Clean & Dry your kit after use

ENJOY

- Be prepared with the right equipment and plan
- Beware of hazards such as trees, rapids and weirs
 - Leave no trace



To recognize the deepest water channels in shallow areas, look generally for the largest waves and the 'V' of smoothest water pointing downstream

- **Sensitive fish habitat:** avoid grounding esp. 1 April-30 June
- **Sensitive bird habitat:** NO LANDING 15 March-15 August
- **Permitted landing site**