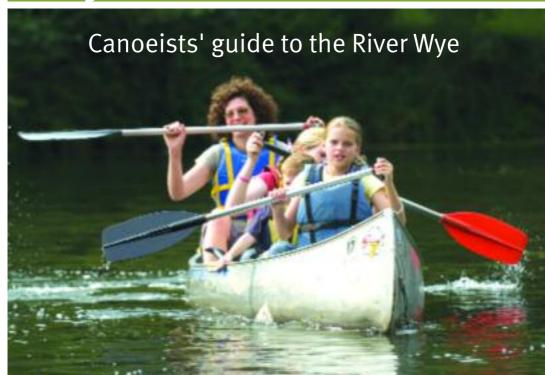


Wye canoe?



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This guide is also available in Welsh.

Mae'r cyfeirlyfr hwn ar gael yn Gymraeg hefyd.

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Cover photograph - canoeing at Ross-on-Wye

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Introduction

We are the navigation authority responsible for the Rivers Wye and Lugg. It's our job to look after the environment and the navigation for these rivers.

The Wye Navigation Advisory Committee (WNAC) assists us in developing sustainable recreation and navigation on the river. The group was set up in 2003 and operates under an independent chairperson. Members represent a wide range of user interests, including pleasure craft operators, canoeists, rowers, landowners, local authorities and those with angling wildlife and conservation interests.



The River Wye

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. It is important for many activities as well as canoeing, including game fishing (mainly for salmon), coarse fishing, rafting, rowing, walking, bird watching and picnicking.

The River Wye is about 250km long and one of the longest rivers in Britain. It is mostly unaltered with no large man-made structures such as weirs on the main stem of the river or on most of the tributaries. The Wve rises in the Cambrian Mountains on Plynlimon before meeting the Severn Estuary at the fortress town of Chepstow. Close to its source, the river is characterised by still, shallow, gravelly stretches mixed with rocky cascades. The river is narrow and fast flowing through the high hills and rugged terrain towards Hay-on-Wye. 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 meanders through a broad floodplain. Below Bredwardine, the channel narrows before entering a wide valley with high banks upstream of Ross-on-Wye. From here, the river enters perhaps the most dramatic section, with spectacular views and deep wooded gorges down to Chepstow where it enters the Severn Estuary.



Conservation of wildlife

The River Wye is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the European Habitats Directive. Also the lower river from Mordiford to Chepstow is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and is regarded as one of the finest lowland landscapes in Britain. Some of the plants and animals found along the river are of international importance. Below are just some of the species that you might see along your journey.

Otter

Otters now range all over the River Wve catchment and its main tributaries, including the River Lugg. They can grow to the size of a medium-sized dog, and are largely nocturnal mammals. A lot of patience and luck is required to spot one. However, you can see signs of otters as you canoe down the Wye and the Lugg: footprints at the edge of muddy banks and droppings ('spraints') on rocks are the obvious signs to look out for. It is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to kill, injure or take an otter from the wild without a licence; to damage or obstruct an otter's den (holt) or disturb an otter in its resting place. You should take care not to disturb any dense vegetation, tree roots or rocky cavities that might harbour an otter, especially during the daytime and when looking for a suitable entry or exit point to the river.





White clawed crayfish

These are the UK's only native freshwater crayfish and the River Wve system is the best site known in Wales for them. Crayfish are naturally found amongst stones in the river bed and bank, and amongst tree roots and in other cavities such as stone walls. They favour clean water habitats and are therefore sensitive to pollution.

There are some serious threats to the survival of this native species by the introduction of the North American signal crayfish. This non-native crayfish competes for food and habitat, and carries the crayfish plague. This fungal plague is also carried in water and on equipment such as wetsuits, canoes and fishing equipment that have been in contact with infected water or crayfish. It's important that you make sure all

equipment is dried thoroughly before you use it again in another river to kill the infection.

It is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act to take or sell native freshwater crayfish from the wild.

Water-crowfoot

There are several different species of this aquatic plant found along the upper and lower reaches of the river. In the summer, the plant can form extensive mats, and produces flowers that add to the beauty and character of the river.

Water-crowfoot forms part of a habitat that helps give the River Wye its SAC Status. It is illegal to remove it without consent from Natural England or the Countryside Council for Wales. If you are experiencing problems navigating the river as a result of extensive



growth of this plant, please contact one of the Environment Agency's Biodiversity Officers on 029 2024 5256 for advice; they will be happy to help.

Salmon

The Wye Atlantic salmon population is of considerable importance in UK terms and, historically, the river is the most productive in Wales for this fish. Modification of the river has been kept to a minimum, thereby protecting important spawning habitat.

Salmon require a good flow of clean water over an exposed gravel bed for spawning. Migration up the river generally occurs between October and January, with spawning usually occurring in late winter. Eggs are buried in the gravel in nests known as "redds", with fry emerging in May.

During these months, you should take care not to disturb or damage areas of gravel bed that may appear to have been recently disturbed, as these are likely to be redds.

Other species that are found in the River Wye, and which also give the river its SAC status, include: sea lamprey, brook lamprey, river lamprey, twaite shad and bullhead.

If you require any further information on any of the above species, you can contact your local Biodiversity Officer on 029 2024 5256 or Fisheries Officer on 029 2024 5289. Natural England and the Countryside Council for Wales can also provide information on the SSSI and SAC designation and designated features.

Navigation and recreational advice

Navigation rights and access

The River Wye has been used for navigation for many centuries. In the past the Wye was an important commercial waterway but, the infrastructure that supports this, such as locks and weirs, has long since been removed. Today, boating on the river is mostly canoeing and rowing, but with some passenger sightseeing boats operating around Symonds Yat.

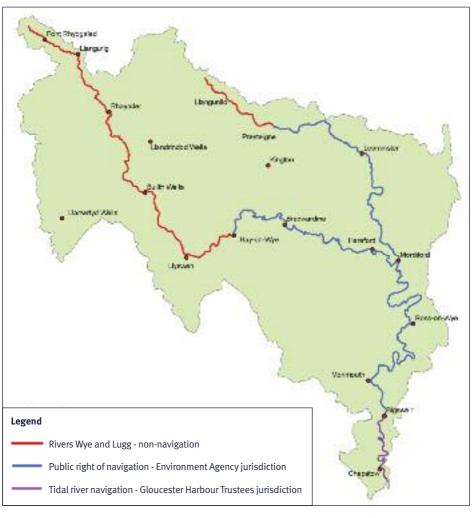
A public right of navigation extends from Bigsweir Bridge upstream to Hay Town Bridge on the main River Wye, and on the River Lugg between its confluence with the Wye and Presteigne Town Bridge. The combined length of the non-tidal navigation on the Rivers Wye and Lugg (the part for

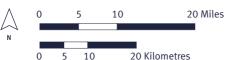
which we are the navigation authority) is approximately 185 kilometres. The Gloucester Harbour Trustees are the navigation authority for the tidal section of the River Wye downstream of Bigsweir Bridge.

The public right of navigation below Hay does not give a right of access to the riverbank and other than at accepted public sites, you must get permission from the landowner before launching and landing canoes. Permission is also needed to camp or picnic on the banks or neighbouring fields.



The Rivers Wye and Lugg navigation





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Canoeing on the River Wye

On the main river above Hay-on-Wye, the boating activity is almost exclusively canoeing. You can canoe continuously for 133km (the length of the public right to navigate from Hay Town Bridge to Bigsweir) which makes the Wye a great river for long distance touring. For this reason it is popular with Duke of Edinburgh expeditions as well as many canoe enthusiasts.

White water canoeing is enjoyed on parts of the upper river catchment. The rapids at Symonds Yat are a nationally important canoeing site owned by the British Canoe Union (BCU). There are a number of commercial canoe hire firms and adventure holiday companies based on the Wye, offering canoe and kayak trips.

Upper Wye Canoe Access Agreement

Upstream of Hay Bridge, the river can provide some good canoeing water but there is no established public right of navigation. An agreement exists that facilitates shared access. between the anglers and paddlers.

Canoeing these upper reaches is considered at its best during the high flows of autumn and winter, while fishing takes place during drier months, giving the opportunity for an amicable sharing of the river. The agreed dates for canoe access are 18 October to 15 March inclusive for the upper Wye. However, under the agreement, canoeing is possible outside these dates when river levels are above the red markers on two gauges, which you can check on the Wye and Usk Foundation website www.wyeuskfoundation.org/ **conditions/index.php.** This allows for paddling every day when water conditions are best for adventurous canoeing. The agreement secured access and egress points and provided signage and maps.

Representatives from local Outdoor Centres, riparian owners, Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency Wales, and the British Outdoor Professionals Association,



led by the Wye and Usk Foundation, were responsible for delivering the arrangements.

The upper Wye is not recommended for beginners or canoeists that do not have considerable experience of white water.

To avoid problems, it is essential that everyone who uses the river acts responsibly and follows advice in the Wye code of conduct.

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

River gradings

The following classifications are used by the Welsh **Canoeing Association (WCA)** on the canoewales.com website to describe the level of difficulty. The grading of rivers is very difficult, with differing opinions amongst paddlers, and as a result any classification is very subjective and dependant on conditions.

Grade I - Easy: moving water with the odd disturbances in the shape of small, regular waves and slight meanders.

Grade II – Moderate: the water is faster and rapids are more frequent; rocks, waves and small stoppers are found but always with an obvious channel.

Grade III – Harder: the pace quickens with fairly big waves and stoppers which are quite capable of holding a boat firmly. Rapids are much more continuous and, although the route is fairly obvious, it is necessary to be able to manoeuvre the kayak well.

Grade IV – Difficult: long stretches of heavy rapids and falls with irregular waves and often powerful holding stoppers. The route is not obvious from the water, and bank inspection is usually necessary. A mistake or swim could be serious.

Grade V – Extremely difficult: longer rapids, large drops with very big waves, dangerous stoppers and rocks to negotiate. This is a challenge to any canoeist. Although never absent in the lower grades, in grade V, substantial danger is always a possibility. Continual inspection and/or protection are often necessary.

Grade VI – Limit of navigation: a line down exists - just. Luck may often play a part. There is always a real risk to life. Very favourable water conditions and protection may make rapids of this grade feasible. Very skilful paddling and the ability to pick the ideal days are also involved. Most of the time, they are too dangerous to canoe.

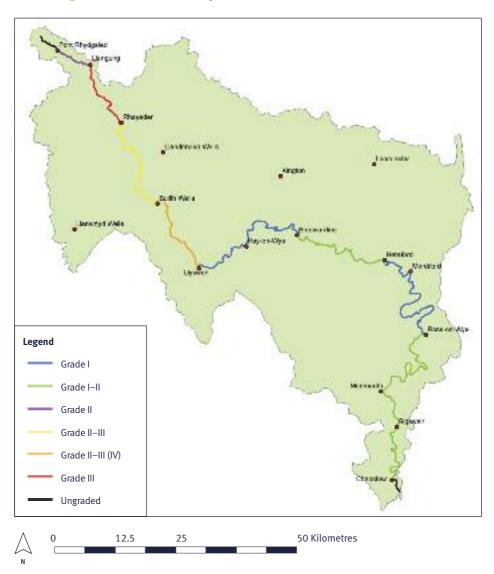


Gradings for the River Wye

A description of the river gradings for the various stretches of rivers as described in the canoewales.com website is summarised below.

Stretch	Length	Grade	Notable Features
Pont Rhydygaled to Llangurig	8 km	II	
Llangurig to Rhayader	17 km	III(IV)	
Rhayader Falls		III or IV (IV in high water)	Rapids/falls
Rhayader to Builth Wells	26 km	II - III	Rapids
Builth Wells to Llyswen	20 km	II – III (IV)	Rapids, no portages
Llyswen to Hay-on-Wye	16 km	1	
Hay-on-Wye to Brewardine	25 km	1	
Brewardine to Hereford	27 km	1-11	
Hereford to Ross-on-Wye	49 km	1	
Ross-on-Wye to Monmouth	39 km	1-11	Symonds Yat Rapids
Monmouth to Chepstow	33 km	1-11	

Gradings for the River Wye



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BCU and WCA contacts

WCA Regional Officer:

Pam Bell, Rose Cottage, Llanelli Hill, Upper Cwm Nantgam, Abergavenny, NP7 ORF Tel: 01873 831 825

BCU Local River Advisor:

(Hay-on-Wye to Symonds Yat): Stephen Phillips, 1 Knights Way, Newent, Gloucester GL18 1QJ Tel: 01531 822 614 steve@sandmphillips.fsnet.co.uk

BCU Local Access Officer:

(downstream of Monmouth) Graham Symonds, 7 White Hill Close, Monmouth, NP5 4FG Tel: 01600 713 461

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 local Tourist Information Centres.



Good practice guidelines

Our aim is to see the river used respectfully by all parties and in a way that is sensitive to the many environmental designations. In order to achieve harmony we have produced a code of conduct. Below is some general information included in the code.

Salmon and trout lay their eggs in gravel between October and April. Trampling and launching canoes on gravels used by salmon may damage their 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 and July, and so unnecessary disturbance of gravels should be avoided at these times.

In May and June, two rare and protected species of migratory fish, Allis and Twaite shad, are present and breeding in fast flowing gravelly areas of the river. It is an offence to damage or destroy these spawning areas, so canoeists must avoid trampling or dragging canoes across these parts of the river during these months.

The Wye is also an important habitat for a variety of birds and mammals. Keep clear of gravel shoals and islands between 1 April and 31 July

(particularly at dawn and dusk) to minimise disturbance of breeding birds and otters. Avoid trampling and launching/landing on or near sensitive otter sites, especially in the Clifford and Whitney sectors of the river.

Some of our native species and habitats are facing a challenging future but recreational water users including canoeists and anglers, can help protect them. There is a risk of unknowingly spreading undesirable species and disease with serious consequences. Spores and parasites can survive in damp or wet conditions for 5 to 6 days on clothing and equipment such as canoes and fishing tackle. You can help prevent harm to our wildlife by ensuring all equipment used in other freshwater bodies is thoroughly dry or disinfected with a saline solution before reusing on the River Wve.

All river users are encouraged to navigate in a way which avoids endangering or injuring other people. their boats and the bed and banks of the river. The river is there for all to enjoy so please show consideration for people, wildlife and property.

You should be aware that ignoring this advice could result in a criminal offence being committed, and you may be subject to enforcement action.

Code of conduct

The code of conduct is 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 for all river users

- look after the river environment and avoid damaging banks and bankside vegetation, waterweed and gravel beds;
- avoid dragging equipment over rock slabs and boulders:
- do not disturb birds and other wildlife you find along the river. Avoid areas used by wintering wildlife, nesting birds and spawning fish in the appropriate season. Stop your activity if you are clearly disturbing wildlife;
- protect native species and habitats – use dry or disinfected equipment if used in other freshwater bodies:
- do not trespass on private banks or moorings;
- never throw rubbish into the river or leave it on the banks:
- park sensibly without causing obstruction;
- get changed out of public view;

- have special regard for beginners, as you would for learner drivers on the road:
- hail to draw a person's attention to a situation which might otherwise result in inconvenience, damage or collision. Please treat a hail as a friendly warning and not as an insult:
- please be as quiet as possible have respect for other river users and avoid spoiling the enjoyment of others:
- be friendly and polite to local residents and try to avoid arguments:
- follow the Countryside Code and have regard for others' property.

Specific guidance for those out on the water in a boat

- all boaters must use the river in a safe fashion and have appropriate safety equipment;
- whenever possible come ashore at recognised landing places;
- do not land on gravel shoals and islands between 1 April and 31 July;
- there is an agreement for canoeing on the upper river. Details can be found at

www.wyeuskfoundation.org/navig ation/index.php;

- obey the general rules of navigation and any local byelaws;
- in particular, remember that larger boats are less manoeuvrable and cannot use such shallow waters as canoes, rafts and rowing boats;
- give way to those engaged in organised competition and have regard to any instructions given by officials:
- canoeists should take care when approaching rowing boats training in the vicinity of Hereford, Ross and Monmouth. Please comply with the Collision Regulations and stay to the right hand side of the river (when going up or downstream):
- when boating in a group try to keep together, especially when passing anglers:
- groups of young novice boaters should be led by suitably experienced responsible persons - preferably a qualified instructor;
- if in doubt about where to pass or any other query, group leaders should try to:
 - keep away from banks being fished:
 - comply with reasonable directional requests;
 - keep well clear of fishing tackle;
 - avoid loitering in pools if anyone is fishing;
 - pass anglers with as little noise and disturbance as possible.

fishing from a boat is not allowed unless you have a valid rod licence and permission from the owner/tenant of the fishery rights. If you are boating upstream of Hay on Wye, then permission will also be required from the riparian owner.

Guidance for specific activities

The following descriptions can help identify the various types of fishing.

Coarse fishing: These anglers are often seen with an umbrella. Look out for the float 5-10m out and try to avoid their area called a 'swim'.

Fly fishing: Usually standing, wading or on bank. Avoid area opposite and, as they keep moving downstream, avoid area downstream in particular. Watch for end of line.

Game/fly fishing: Sometimes best to paddle behind them after acknowledgement.

Fishing seasons

Salmon and Sea Trout:

3 March to 17 October except above Llanwrthwl Bridge where season is 3 March to 25 October.

Non Migratory Trout:

3 March to 30 September

Coarse:

16 lune to 14 March



Safety on the river

The Wye can be dangerous and has been the site of many accidents. It is at its most dangerous when there are strong currents, high water levels or cold weather conditions. Don't 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 best to keep off the river altogether.

Daily river level information

We offer an automated telephone service called River Call which provides information on levels for the River Wye. The telephone number for this service is **0906 619 7755** (BT premium rate).

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:
- you should never canoe alone, but if you must, let someone know where you are going, your estimated time of arrival, and let them know when you have arrived;

- make sure that you can swim at least 50 metres in the type of clothing you'll 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 around the back of your head in case you capsize;
- if you have not canoed before. make sure someone with experience goes with you;
- if your canoe has not been used for some time ensure that it is riverworthy.

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 obvious, but it is surprising how often they are overlooked and lead to a great deal of trouble, not only for the individual, but also for other people.



Tides

Below Bigsweir Bridge the Wye is tidal and can be very dangerous, especially below Tintern. If you wish to canoe this stretch, leave Tintern no later than one hour after high water and travel down without stopping. Inexperienced canoeists are advised to avoid this stretch and should on no account travel below Chepstow, as currents in the Severn Estuary are extremely dangerous.

In an emergency phone 999 and ask for Coastguard (coastal areas) or Police (inland areas).

Finally ... if 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 you 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 flulike symptoms.

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

Leptospirosis (Weil's Disease)

Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection caused when bacteria carried in the urine of infected animals enters the blood stream. The severity can vary from mild flu-like symptoms with severe headache, to jaundice and meningitis associated with Weil's disease.

The infection is caught by direct contact with bacteria in urine or a polluted environment. The bacteria can enter the human body through cuts, grazes, mouth or mucous membranes such as those which line the nose and ears. The usual incubation is 2 to 12 days. The illness resolves in 2-3 weeks. A few cases develop jaundice, and then the condition is known as Weil's disease.

Leptospirosis is very rare, and the deteriation into Weil's Disease even rarer. Weil's Disease is a very serious illness, and must be swiftly diagnosed and treated. The earlier leptospirosis is treated the better, so consult your doctor if you feel ill after coming into contact with water anywhere in or near the river.

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

Itinerary

We hope this guide provides useful information to help you plan and enjoy your canoeing trips.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information 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.

For convenience, the river between Glasbury and Chepstow has been divided into 12 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 kilometres; the second the distance in miles and the third is the distance between points in miles.

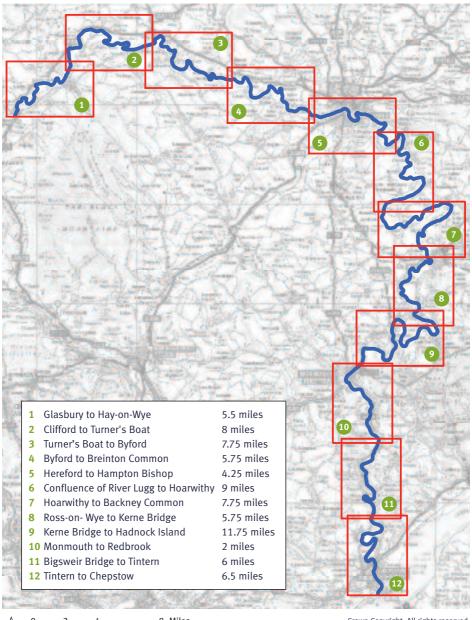
Launching and landing

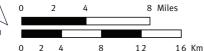
Canoeists may launch or land at the points listed without needing to get express permission, unless stated otherwise. Landing may also be made, with permission, at certain riverside campsites and through individual arrangements with some landowners.

References 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 all similar aquaplaning activities.

Overview of map sections

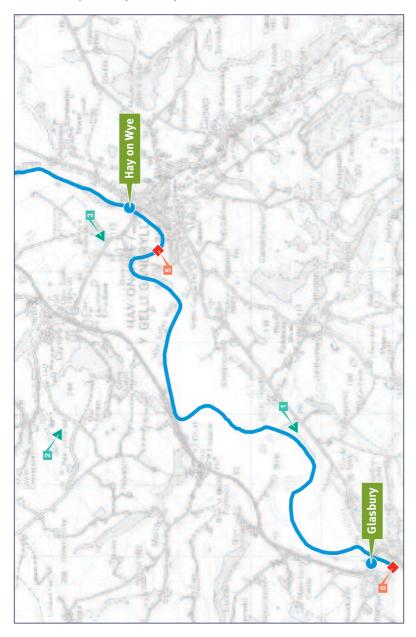




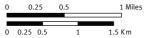
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Map 1 Glasbury to Hay-on-Wye







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Map 1 Glasbury to Hay-on-Wye

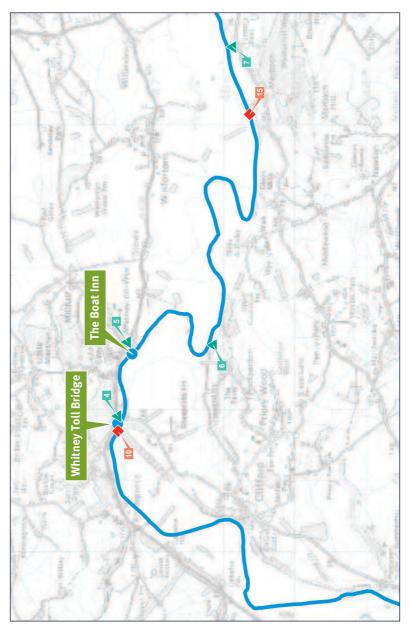
KM	Miles	Miles		
0	0		Glasbury (SH PH PC CH) Village with post office, shops and inn. Many smallow over the next few miles. These may have on the left bank above bridge on Glas-y-Bont Correquested to launch from 18 October to 3 March and 4.30pm only. This is to avoid disturbing angle below. Car park at junction of A438 and A4350.	to be waded. Launch nmon. Canoeists are between 10.00am
5	3	3	Hollybush Inn (▲ PH CH)	NGR SO 198404
8	5	2	Boatside Weir Natural weir at right hand bend, normally passab at low water.	NGR SO 222427 le right, but inspect
9	5.5	0.5	Hay-on-Wye (▲ SH PH PC i CH) Welsh border and market town with post office, sinns. Castle ruins, but not open to the public. For bridge there are shallows and no clear course. In landing place, beware of iron stakes in river bed Brook joins the river. These may be just below th right bank 100m below bridge. Steps. No permis Small car park.	200m below the nmediately below the on right , where Dulas e surface. Landing on
13	8	2.5	Clifford Upstream of Hay Bridge there is no established lonavigation. An agreement exists that facilities ship the anglers and paddlers. Please refer to www.wyfor further details.	ared access between

Upstream of Hay Bridge there is no established legal right of navigation. An agreement exists that facilities shared access between the anglers and paddlers. Please refer to www.wyeuskfoundation.org for further details.

Key to Itinerary and Maps

NGR	National Grid Reference	i	Tourist Information Centres
	Camp site		Launch/land point
PH	Public House close to river	PC	Toilet
SH	Shop	СН	Canoe hire
•	Distance in miles from Glasbury		

Map 2 Clifford to Turner's Boat







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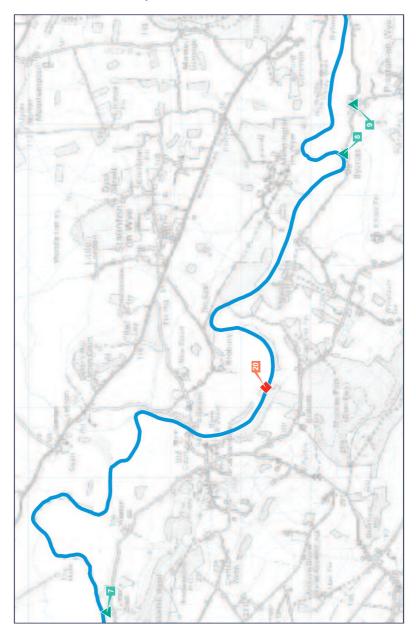
Map 2 Clifford to Turner's Boat

KM	Miles	Miles		
13	8	2.5	Clifford Ruins of Clifford Castle on right bank. Formerly an in castle. Interesting remains of railway embankments. launch/land on or near Clifford Common, sensitive v	Do not
14.5	9	1	Rhydspence The border between Wales and England. The old inn (A438) left bank is the 'first house' in England.	NGR SO 243473 on the main road
16.5	10.25	1.25	Whitney-on-Wye (f the few private k just upstream of f car park. Apply to
17.5	11	0.75	Boat Inn (PH) There is a small rapid which sets into the left bank, miles the river takes several large meanders and the shallows which may have to be waded. Land at step Boat Inn.	re are some
19.5	12	1	Locksters Pool (△) Deep pool on sharp left-hand bend. Large catches o been recorded in the series of salmon pools on this	
25.5	16	4	Turner's Boat (🛦)	NGR SO 313460

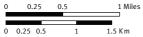
Key to Itinerary and Maps

NGR	National Grid Reference	i	Tourist Information Centres
	Camp site		Launch/land point
PH	Public House close to river	PC	Toilet
SH	Shop	СН	Canoe hire
•	Distance in miles from Glasbury		

Map 3 Turner's Boat to Byford







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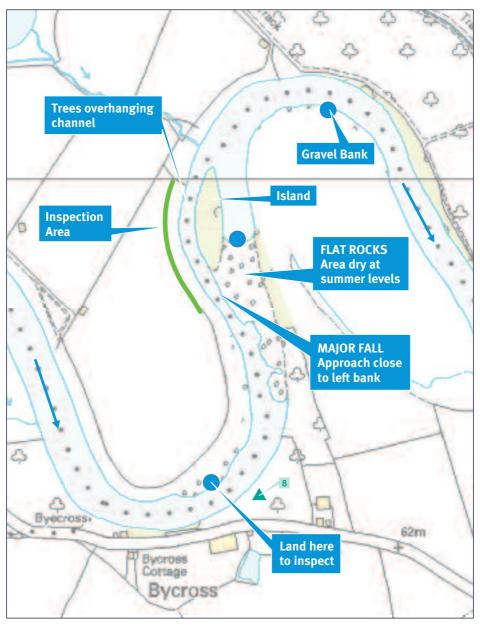
Map 3 Turner's Boat to Byford

KM	Miles	Miles		
25.5	16	4	Turner's Boat (△) The name of an island passable on the left. Some sm the next few miles to Bredwardine Bridge.	NGR SO 313460 all rapids during
31.5	19.5	3.5	Bredwardine (SH PH) Brick built six-arched bridge. Small village with post of and inn.	NGR SO 337446 office, store
34	21	1.5	The Scar, Brobury High sandstone cliff on left bank, clothed with beech several large boulders in river bed, often just below t	
34.5	21.25	0.25	Moccas Court Large Georgian mansion on right bank, built in 1783. The grounds around the house were landscaped by C	
35	21.75	0.5	Moccas Abutments only remain of Moccas Toll bridge, which to 1960 when it was damaged by floods and not rest stones close to surface.	
36.5	22.5	0.75	Bycross (🛦)	NGR SO 376425
37	22.75	0.25	Monnington Falls See separate plan. Land on gravel bank on left for insonly. The channel, except in flood conditions, is to th with a small fall at the top. Inspect the whole run of foobstructions and fallen trees.	e left of the island
37.5	23.25	0.5	Preston on Wye (🛦) Church near right bank.	NGR SO 382426
38	23.75	0.5	Byford () Few houses on left bank. Weedy shallows as far as B Landing on left bank 200m below pumping station, i and white cottage. Overgrown area. Site of old ford. A down narrow lane. No permission required. No parking	n front of black Access from road

Key to Itinerary and Maps

NGR	National Grid Reference	i	Tourist Information Centres
	Camp site		Launch/land point
PH	Public House close to river	PC	Toilet
SH	Shop	СН	Canoe hire
•	Distance in miles from Glasbury		

Monnington Falls







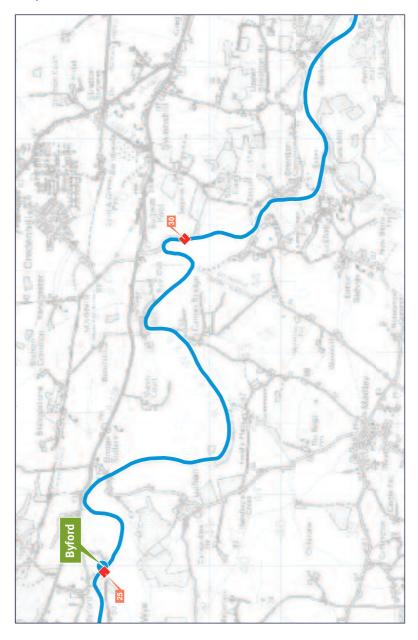
Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2007

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.



Map 4 Byford to Breinton Common







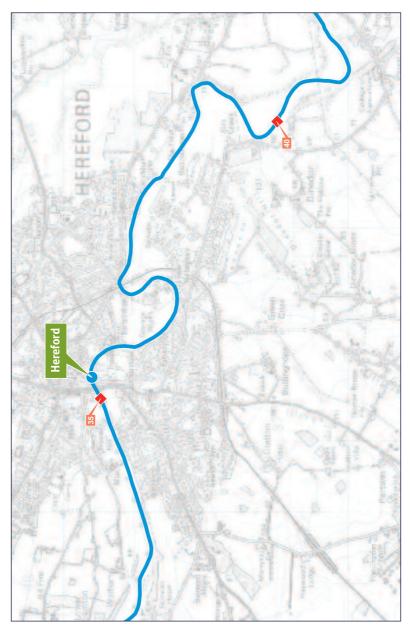
Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Environment Agency, 100026380, 2007

Map 4 Byford to Breinton Common

KM	Miles	Miles			
38	23.75	0.5	Landing on left bank 200m below pumping stat and white cottage. Overgrown area. Site of old for	MGR SO 400425 nouses on left bank. Weedy shallows as far as Bridge Sollers. Ing on left bank 200m below pumping station, in front of black white cottage. Overgrown area. Site of old ford. Access from road narrow lane. No permission required. No parking or facilities.	
40	24.75	1	Bridge Sollers Bridge across river.	NGR SO 413430	
43	26.75	2	Cannon Bridge Few houses on right bank. No bridge.	NGR SO 432412	
44.5	27.5	0.75	New Weir No weir now. Large attractive walled garden on I the National Trust, with surviving masonry and a Roman period. Gardens are open to the public f	a cistern from the	
47.5	29.5	2	Breinton Common Left hand channel round island.	NGR SO 451401	
54	33.75	4.25	Hereford (▲ ● SH PH PC i)	NGR SO 509396	

NGR	National Grid Reference	i	Tourist Information Centres
	Camp site		Launch/land point
PH	Public House close to river	PC	Toilet
SH	Shop		Canoe hire
•	Distance in miles from Glasbury		

Map 5 Hereford to Hampton Bishop





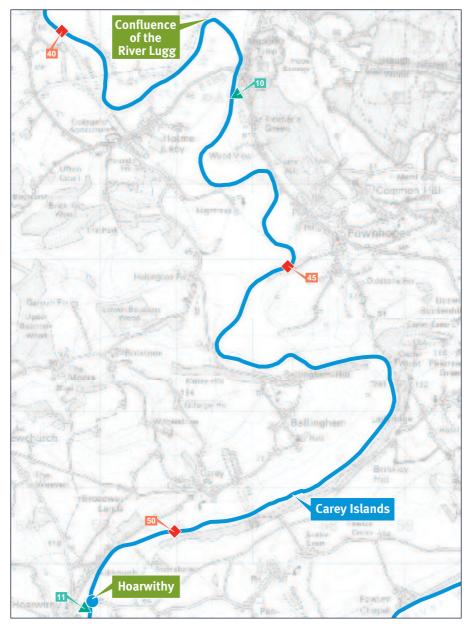


Map 5 Hereford to Hampton Bishop

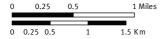
KM	Miles	Miles			
54	33.75	4.25	name, meaning 'ford of the army'. Among the many are the cathedral and medieval chained library, the museum, Museum of Cider, city walls and the old c Green. A variety of river crossings include the disus bridge at Hunderton, the modern Greyfriars Bridge, built in 1490 and the elegant Victorian suspension	grew up around an ancient river crossing, which explains its aning 'ford of the army'. Among the many places of interest thedral and medieval chained library, the Old House Museum of Cider, city walls and the old castle site at Castle variety of river crossings include the disused iron railway Hunderton, the modern Greyfriars Bridge, the Wye Bridge 190 and the elegant Victorian suspension bridge of 1898. In right bank below old road bridge. No permission required.	
56.5	35	1.25	Bartonsham Sewerage outfall on left and private road bridge, fo bridge. Small rapid below railway bridge, passage t		
61	38	3	Hampton Bishop Road (B4224) behind floodbank on left. The village Carrots', takes its unusual name from a salmon pool launching or landing permitted here.	•	
67.5	42	4	Confluence of River Lugg	NGR SO 565372	

NGR	National Grid Reference	i	Tourist Information Centres
	Camp site		Launch/land point
PH	Public House close to river	PC	Toilet
SH	Shop		Canoe hire
•	Distance in miles from Glasbury		

Map 6 Confluence of River Lugg to Hoarwithy





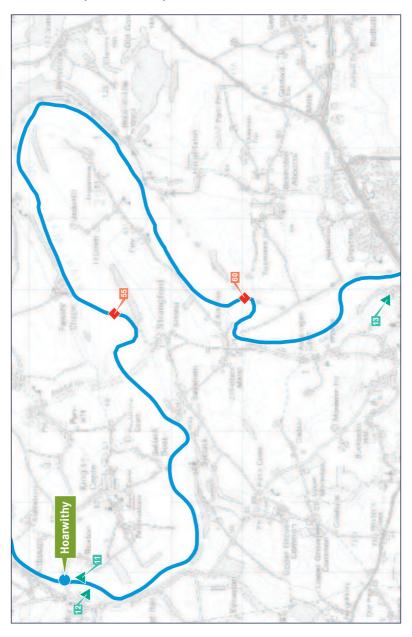


Map 6 Confluence of River Lugg to Hoarwithy

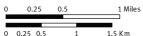
KM	Miles	Miles		
67.5	42	4	Confluence of River Lugg NGR S River Lugg joins the Wye from the left.	
68	42.5	0.5	Holme Lacy Bridge/Mordiford (CH) Modern bridge at the junction of the B4399 and the Lucksall Caravan Park downstream on left, but only permission of owners (Tel. 01432 870 213).	-
74	46	3.5	Mancell's Ferry Fishing croy on left. Follow signs to keep to the right	NGR SO 575327 t around bend.
75.5	47	1	Capler Hill Steep wooded slope on left bank, leading up to the of Capler Camp, an Iron Age hill fort. A variety of bird woods and dappled fallow deer may be sighted. Fro river follows several large meanders.	ds inhabit these
78	48.25	1.25	Carey Islands Group of islands with rapids in between. The best co	NGR SO 577307 ourse is normally to
79	49	0.75	Carey NGR SO 5703 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.	
82	51	2	Hoarwithy (▲ SH ● PH) Road bridge with village on right bank. Post Office, prominent 'Italianate' church of St Catherine's which least three films. Landing on left bank about a quar downstream of bridge. Prior permission should be s Jenkins at Lower Ruxton Farm (Tel. 01432 840 223) Landing at steps on right bank. Fee payable for laur Roberts at Tresseck Farm (Tel. 01432 840 235).	n has featured in at ter of a mile ought from Mr for the left bank.

NGR	National Grid Reference	i	Tourist Information Centres
	Camp site		Launch/land point
PH	Public House close to river	PC	Toilet
SH	Shop		Canoe hire
•	Distance in miles from Glasbury		

Map 7 Hoarwithy to Backney Common





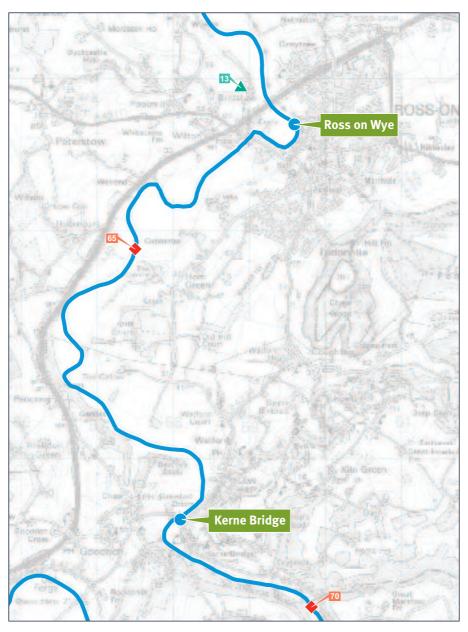


Map 7 Hoarwithy to Backney Common

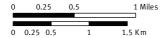
82				
	51	2	Hoarwithy (▲ SH ● PH) Road bridge with village on right bank. Post office, in prominent 'Italianate' church of St Catherine's which at least three films. Landing on left bank about a qua downstream of bridge. Prior permission should be so Mr Jenkins at Lower Ruxton Farm (Tel. 01432 840223) bank. Landing at steps on right bank. Fee payable for Contact Mrs Roberts at Tresseck Farm (Tel. 01432 840	has featured in rter of a mile ught from) for the right launching.
85.5	53	2	Sellack Suspension footbridge.	NGR SO 565280
87	54	1	Strangford NGR SO 578. Demolished railway bridge on the old Hereford to Gloucester line.	
88.5	55	1	Fawley Chapel NGR SO 593 Interesting chapel on left bank (no public access from river).	
89.5	55.75	0.75	How Caple The Inglestone Estate. For 2 miles downstream, the sa indicated by red and green discs fixed to the trees. Pl these and paddle on the green side of the river.	
91.5	57	1.25	Hole-in-the-Wall PGL canoe centre on left bank with private access jus	NGR SO 609287 t above rapids.
92	57.25	0.25	Foy Elegant suspension footbridge, built after an earlier s swept away by floods in 1919. Current restricted by s Channel varies according to level. Church on right after	mall islands.
94.50	58.75	1.5	Backney Common A simple metal cross sits on the left bank. This comm of bravery by the rector of Brampton Abbotts in 1904, saving his son and his daughter's friend from drowning railway bridge 400m downstream at Backney. Weedy	, who died whilst ng. Demolished
99.5	61.75	3	Ross-on-Wye (SH PH PC i 🛦)	NGR SO 596244

NGR	National Grid Reference	i	Tourist Information Centres
	Camp site		Launch/land point
PH	Public House close to river	PC	Toilet
SH	Shop		Canoe hire
•	Distance in miles from Glasbury		

Map 8 Ross-on-Wye to Kerne Bridge





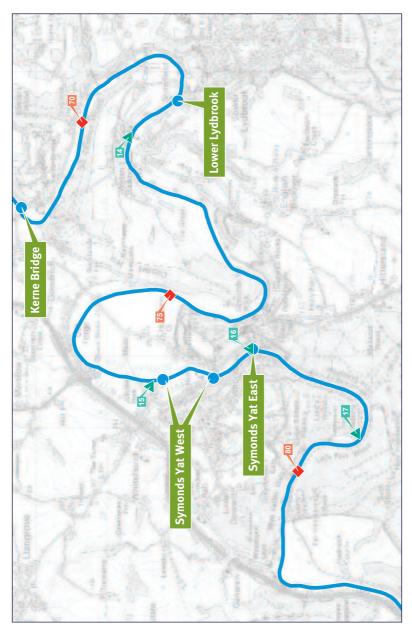


Map 8 Ross-on-Wye to Kerne Bridge

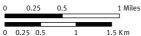
KM	Miles	Miles		
99.5	61.75	3	Ross-on-Wye (SH PH PC i) Long curve on river from motorway bridge to Wilton town of Ross sits attractively on a rise above the rive of wooded hills. Interesting features to visit include plague cross and museums. Landing at steps on left the Hope and Anchor pub. Steps, no permission requearby. Please do not land or launch at Wilton Bridge	er, with a backdrop the market house, t bank 100m below uired. Car parking
100	62.25	0.5	Wilton Bridge 13th Century castle on right before bridge, not oper middle arch of the stone bridge and channel to the	'
107.5	66.75	4.5	Goodrich Castle Impressive Norman fortification set against the skyli managed by English Heritage and open daily throug	•
108.5	67.5	0.75	Kerne Bridge (PH PC) Gravel bank approximately 50m downstream of brid inspect the fast water for obstructions and fallen tre steps on left bank 800m below road bridge. Picnic s No permission required. Goodrich village 800m to the not land/launch at the bridge.	es. Landing at iite and car park.

NGR	National Grid Reference	i	Tourist Information Centres
	Camp site		Launch/land point
PH	Public House close to river	PC	Toilet
SH	Shop		Canoe hire
•	Distance in miles from Glasbury		

Map 9 Kerne Bridge to Hadnock Island







Map 9 Kerne Bridge to Hadnock Island

SH

Shop

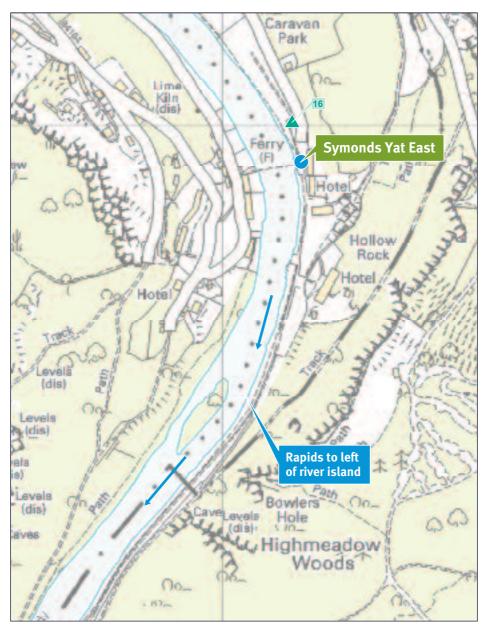
Distance in miles from Glasbury

KM	Miles	Miles			
108.5	67.5	0.75	inspect the fast water for steps on left bank 800r	tely 50m or obstru n below l. Goodri	NGR SO 581192 downstream of bridge. Land here to ctions and fallen trees. Landing at road bridge. Picnic site and car park. ch village 800m to the right . Please do
112	69.5	2	Inn on left bank above Lydbrook shallows. Lan and car park. Launching	Lower Lydbrook (PH) NGR SO 596170 Inn on left bank above rapids. Keep to the left of the island down Lydbrook shallows. Landing on left bank at the steps to the picnic site and car park. Launching for individuals but NOT groups. Donations requested in honesty box.	
112.5	70	0.5		ge. This i	NGR SO 591177 It bank followed by a railway bridge, s an important fishing stretch. Please linger.
116	72	2	Symonds Yat Rock Start of the long loop ir Symonds Yat Rock is vis		NGR SO 551172 ne 150m high limestone bluff of he left.
121.5	75.5	3.5	upstream of rapids. Car carrying pleasure boats	from the park ava based h	NGR SO 557164 steps on right bank about 1km ailable. Fee payable. Small passenger ere. Landing at Ye Olde Ferrie Inne on ired from the Inn (Tel. 01600 890 232).
122.5	76	0.5	and cable' ferry for cross below the Yat can be ins bank. Large waves in the and launching from the	ll passen sing the i spected f e lower p steps on	ger carrying pleasure boats and a 'rope iver are based here. Grade 2 rapids rom the Peregrine Way cycle path on left arts and congestion possible. Landing the left bank at the Wyedean Canoe payable. Car parking available.
124.5	77.5	1.5	The Biblins (🛕) Narrow suspension brid	lge acros	NGR SO 549145 ss river. Landing for campers only.
127.5	79.25	1.75	Hadnock Island Pass either side of islar	nd. Left s	NGR SO 538155 ide usually less weedy.
132	82	2.75	Monmouth (● ▲ PC SH	I PH CH i) NGR SO 512129
Key to It	inerary a	nd Maps			
NGR	Natio	nal Grid R	eference	i	Tourist Information Centres
	Camp	site			Launch/land point
PH	Public	: House cl	ose to river	PC	Toilet
CII	Classic			CII	Commention

CH

Canoe hire

Symonds Yat





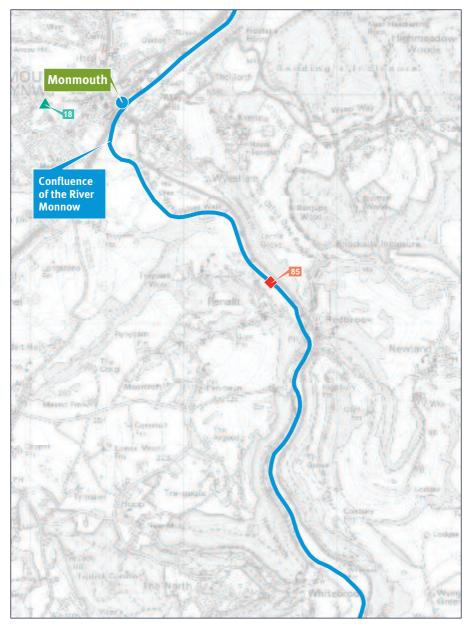


Symonds Yat

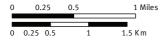
A straight fast rapid, just below the ferry, stretches the length of the island. This can be inspected from the Peregrine Way cycle path on **left** bank. Watch particularly for standing waves at the lower end of the rapid. A waymarked footpath can be followed to Yat Rock. The views are worth the climb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



Map 10 Monmouth to Redbrook





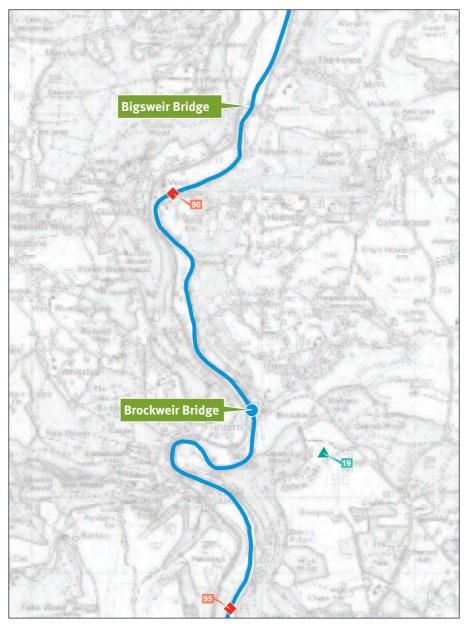


Map 10 Monmouth to Redbrook

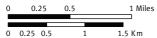
KM	Miles	Miles				
132	82	2.75	ruined castle, market, Nelson Museum and the N Hill. Monmouth derives its name from the Monno bridged by a unique 14th century fortified gate h	ns alongside main road with the attractive town to right with a castle, market, Nelson Museum and the Naval Temple on Kymin nmouth derives its name from the Monnow river which is by a unique 14th century fortified gate house. Landing at set of steps on right immediately downstream of rowing club		
132.5	82.5	0.5	Confluence of River Monnow River Monnow joins the Wye from the right. Bewa obstructions resulting from the demolition of the Rocky shallows in this area.			
135	84	1.5	edbrook (SH PH) illage with shops on left and inn on right. Large boulders in river bove disused railway bridge now used as a footbridge. It was at edbrook that the last recorded act of piracy took place on the River (ye when men came down from the Forest of Dean and captured two arges. There is no record of their arrest.			
141	87.5	3.5	Bigsweir Bridge	NGR SO 539051		

NGR	National Grid Reference		Tourist Information Centres
	Camp site		Launch/land point
PH	Public House close to river	PC	Toilet
SH	Shop	СН	Canoe hire
•	Distance in miles from Glasbury		

Map 11 Bigsweir Bridge to Tintern





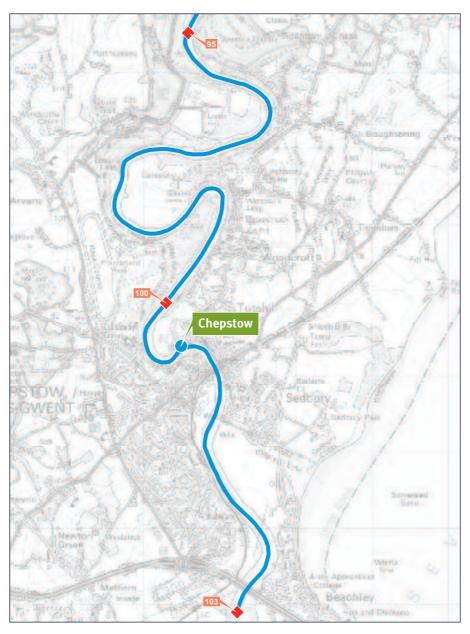


Map 11 Bigsweir Bridge to Tintern

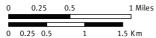
KM	Miles	Miles		
141	87.5	3.5	Bigsweir Bridge Narrow road bridge on the A466. Note that this is the tidal water. Rapids 800m downstream of bridge.	NGR SO 539051 upstream limit of
142	88.5	1	Llandogo (SH PH) Village with shops and inn on right. There are some r this point and Tintern and the banks become muddy	•
147	91.5	3	Brockweir Bridge (▲ SH PH) Village on left with shops and inn. Landing at restore on left bank just upstream of bridge, although this can and muddy at low tide. No permission required. Very parking in village. Alongside the river are the remains where supplies from sailing barges were loaded and past. Rapids below bridge when tide is out. Importar point, the river should only be used by canoeists with experience. There is currently no landing site at Tinte after Chepstow as dangerous weirs are exposed at lo	an be awkward limited car s of old quays unloaded in the at: From this h reasonable rn or downstream
149.5	93	1.5	Old Railway Station, Tintern Café, Information Centre and picnic area on right.	NGR SO 536006
150.5	93.5	0.5	Tintern (SH PC PH i) Village on right with shops and inns. Footbridge acro a magnificent 12th century Cistercian abbey and now attraction on the right. The tide is considerable and o leave Tintern not later than one hour after high wate straight through to Chepstow. High water at Tintern is high water at Dover.	popular tourist canoeists should rand travel

NGR	National Grid Reference		Tourist Information Centres
	Camp site		Launch/land point
PH	Public House close to river	PC	Toilet
SH	Shop	СН	Canoe hire
•	Distance in miles from Glasbury		

Map 12 Chepstow







Map 12 Tintern to Chepstow

KM	Miles	Miles		
150.5	93.5	0.5	Tintern (SH PC PH i) See map 11. Village on right with shops and iriver. Ruins of a magnificent 12th century Cist popular tourist attraction on the right. Import leave Tintern not later than one hour after high straight through to Chepstow.	ercian abbey and now ant: Canoeists should
161	100	6.5	Chepstow (SH PC i) Walled market town with extensive remains of castle and town gate. Landing on slipway nea that landing here usually involves wading through the very dangerous. Limited car parking nearb	r Boat Inn. Please note rough soft mud that can

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

NGR	National Grid Reference		Tourist Information Centres
	Camp site		Launch/land point
PH	Public House close to river	PC	Toilet
SH	Shop	СН	Canoe hire
•	Distance in miles from Glasbury		

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 can be obtained from local Tourist Information Centres.

Key

F	field only	D	drying facilities	S	shower
Sh	shop	LP	launching/landing point	СН	canoe hire
W	water	T	toilets		

1	Ms B Lewthwaite Hollybush Inn Old Brecon Road Hay-on-Wye HR3 5PS T: 01497 847 371	NGR: River access: Open: Facilities:	So 198 404 On right bank, grounds adjoining river All year TSWDLPCHShB&B
2	Mr D Lloyd Jones	NGR:	SO 197 437
_	Borders Hideaway Holiday Home Park Clyro Nr Hay-on-Wye	River Access:	No 197 437
	HR3 5SG T: 01497 820 156	Open: Facilites:	All year S W T Wb D
3	Mr and Mrs Davies Radnors End Campsite Radnors End Hay-on-Wye	NGR: River access:	SO 225 431 No
	HR3 5RS T: 01497 820 780	Open: Facilities:	March to October TSD
4	Mr Huxtable Whitney Toll Bridge Whitney-on-Wye Herefordshire HR3 6EW T: 01497 831 669	NGR: River access: Open: Facilites:	SO 259 475 Land at concrete steps on left bank - just upstream of bridge. All year T W LP

5	Mr and Mrs Taylor The Pound Whitney-on-Wye Herefordshire HR3 6EH T: 01497 831 391	NGR River access Open: Facilities:	SO 268 473 Steps on left bank just past Boat Inn. Campsite across road, opposite Inn All year WTLP (B&B) Sh nearby
6	Mrs S Mason Oakfield Farm Locksters Pool Clifford Herefordshire HR3 5HJ	NGR: River access:	SO 269 462 On right bank at left hand bend (small shingle beach)
	T: 01497 831 373	Facilities:	W LP (B&B at farmhouse)
7	Mr D A Price The Weston Brewardine Herefordshire HR3 6DD T: 01981 500 396	NGR: River access: Open: Facilities:	SO 311 459 Shingle beach on right bank, top end of Turner's Boat May to October F LP
8	Mr and Mrs Fenn Byecross Farm Moccas Herefordshire HR2 9LJ T: 01981 500 284	NGR: River access: Open: Facilities:	SO 376 425 400 metres upstream of Monnington Falls on right bank All year TWSLP
9	Mr J Price New Court Farm Preston on Wye Herefordshire HR2 9JU T: 01981 500 349	NGR: River access: Open: Facilities:	SO 384 424 On right bank, 1km below Monnington Falls March to October W LP T in summer
	New Court Farm Preston on Wye Herefordshire	River access: Open:	On right bank, 1km below Monnington Falls
10	New Court Farm Preston on Wye Herefordshire HR2 9JU T: 01981 500 349 Mr and Mrs Williams Lucksall Camp Site Mordiford Herefordshire HR1 4LP T: 01432 870 213	Open: Facilities: NGR: River access: Open:	On right bank, 1km below Monnington Falls March to October W LP T in summer SO 567 363 On left bank, 200m below Holme Lacy Bridge 1 March to 30 November Please book for groups of 10 or more
10	New Court Farm Preston on Wye Herefordshire HR2 9JU T: 01981 500 349 Mr and Mrs Williams Lucksall Camp Site Mordiford Herefordshire HR1 4LP T: 01432 870 213 E: karen@lucksallpark.co.uk Mr H Jenkins Lower Ruxton Farm Kings Caple Herefordshire HR1 4TX	Open: Facilities: NGR: River access: Open: Facilities: NGR: River access: Open:	On right bank, 1km below Monnington Falls March to October W LP T in summer SO 567 363 On left bank, 200m below Holme Lacy Bridge 1 March to 30 November Please book for groups of 10 or more TW S LP Sh SO 549 294 On left bank, 400m below Hoarwithy Bridge Mid July to end August

Welsh Bicknor Ross-on-Wye Herefordshire HR9 6JJ T: 01594 860300 E: welshbicknor@yha.org.uk	NGR: River access: Open: Facilities:	SO 591 177 On right bank above church. Private landing stage marked with YHA triangle. March to October. Advance booking advised. T S W D Sh LP
14 Symonds Yat Caravan Park Symonds Yat West Ross-on-Wye HR9 6BZ T: 01600 890 672	NGR: River access: Open: Facilities:	SO 556 174 On right bank about 1km upstream of rapids March to October TW S LP CH
15 Mr and Mrs Howells Wyedean Canoe Centre Symonds Yat East Ross on Wye HR9 6JL	NGR: River access:	SO 561 160 On left bank above Saracen's Head Ferry
T: 01600 890 129 W: www.wyedean.co.uk	Open: Facilities:	March to December TWSLPCH
16 The Biblins Campsite The Doward Whitchurch Ross-on-Wye	NGR: River access:	SO 549 145 On right bank just over 1km downstream of Symonds Yat rapids.
HR9 6DX T: 01600 890 850 E: biblins@btconnect.com	Open: Facilities:	Landing for campers only. March to end October TWSLP (organised youth groups only, advance booking essential)
T: 01600 890 850		March to end October TWSLP (organised youth groups only,
T: 01600 890 850 E: biblins@btconnect.com 17 Drybridge Street Caravan Park Monmouth NP25 3EX	NGR: River access: Open:	March to end October TWSLP (organised youth groups only, advance booking essential) SO 502 129 No all year



Tourist information centres

Chepstow: Tel: 01291 623 722

Email: chepstow.tic@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Hereford: Tel: 01432 268 430

Email: tic-hereford@herefordshire.gov.uk

Monmouth: Tel: 01600 713 899

Email: monmouth.tic@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Ross-on-Wye: Tel: 01989 562 768

Email: tic-ross@herefordshire.gov.uk

Rhayader: Tel: 01597 810 591

www.rhayader.co.uk

Builth Wells: Tel: 01982 553 307

www.builth-wells.co.uk

Useful websites

Environment Agency Wales: www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Countryside Council for Wales: www.ccw.gov.uk
Natural England: www.naturalengland.org.uk

Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty: www.wyevalleyaonb.co.uk

Sport England: www.sportengland.org

Amateur Rowing Association: www.ara-rowing.org

Welsh Canoeing Association: www.welsh-canoeing.org.uk

British Canoe Union: www.bcu.org.uk

Gloucester Harbour Trustees: www.gloucesterharbourtrustees.org.uk

Sustrans: www.sustrans.org.uk

Herefordshire: www.visitherefordshire.co.uk

Monmouthshire: www.visitwyevalley.com Forest of Dean: www.forestofdean.gov.uk

Wye Valley Tourism: www.wyevalleytourism.co.uk

Wales Tourist Board: www.visitwales.com
British Tourist Agency: www.visitbritain.com

Wye and Usk Foundation: www.wyeuskfoundation.org

Severn Area Rescue Association: www.sara-rescue.org.uk

The British Outdoor Professionals Association (BOPA): www.the-bopa.co.uk

The Best of Both Worlds: www.bobw.co.uk

Transport

National Rail enquiries www.nationalrail.co.uk Tel: 08457 484 950

Public Transport Information www.traveline.org.uk Tel: 0870 6082 608

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 Brewardine 9-30kms

Sheet 149 1km above Brewardine to 2kms 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 Severn Estuary

Acknowledgements

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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 Council for Wales: Natural England; the Environment Agency; Gloucestershire County Council; Herefordshire Council; Monmouth County Council; Powys County Council; Sports Council for Wales; Sport England West Midlands; Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and representatives of boating, fishing, conservation and landowner interest from the users group, the Wye Forum.

Notes

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