



**PADDLE<sup>UK</sup>**

# The River Wye Paddle

Guide



Environment  
Agency

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# Introduction

The River Wye (Afon Gwy in Welsh) is 251km long, making it one of the longest rivers in Britain. It winds its way from the Welsh Cambrian mountains to join the River Severn at Chepstow. For much of its length it cleaves a gentle split between England and Wales. Journeying along the Wye takes you past Neolithic cave dwellings, Iron Age forts and Roman settlements, whilst taking in the peaceful pace of modern life in this area.

The Wye is one of the finest lowland landscapes in Britain, with plant and animal life of international importance. On the river you may see kingfishers, otters and salmon. In the Forest of Dean wild boar and deer roam freely. The whole length of the river is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and Special Area of Conservation, from Hereford onwards you enter The Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

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 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.

Builth Wells in Wales is a particularly beautiful stretch of the Wye. Some of the most spectacular scenery occurs where the river's tributaries fall into the river.

The Wye is not only a great place to paddle, along your route you'll meet rowers, swimmers, walkers and anglers. Enjoy sharing the space together as you journey through this amazing landscape.

# The River Wye Navigation

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 paddlesport and rowing, but some sightseeing boats operate around Symonds Yat.

The Environment Agency is the navigation authority for the public right of navigation area 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 Gloucester Harbour Trustees are the navigation authority for the tidal section of the River Wye downstream of Bigsweir Bridge.

It is important to note that the public right of navigation on the River Wye does not give a right of access to the riverbank and other than at accepted public sites, you must access the water either at a designated public launch, or get permission from the landowner before launching and landing craft. Paddlepoints is a great source of information for public access points. Please visit: [gopaddling.info/paddlepoints](http://gopaddling.info/paddlepoints)

Permission is also needed to camp or picnic on the banks or neighbouring fields.

For further information visit [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and search for Wye Navigation.

### Public toilets are available at:

#### A. Glasbury

SO1784839252 | [amounting.intestine.guises](http://amounting.intestine.guises)

#### B. Hay-on-Wye

SO2290642432 | [gravitate.snipe.origins](http://gravitate.snipe.origins)

#### C. Ross-on-Wye

SO5961024069 | [pose.contemplate.dragonfly](http://pose.contemplate.dragonfly)

#### D. Lydbrook

SO5958816873 | [riskiest.sunset.develop](http://riskiest.sunset.develop)

#### E. Symonds Yat East

SO5608616010 | [visitors.probe.thighs](http://visitors.probe.thighs)

#### F. Monmouth

SO5121613080 | [disputes.ghosts.sheds](http://disputes.ghosts.sheds)

White water paddling is enjoyed on parts of the upper river catchment. The rapids at Symonds Yat are a nationally important paddling site and are owned and managed by Paddle UK.

Above Hay on Wye, paddling on the upper reaches is considered best in autumn and winter months when the river levels tend to be higher. The upper reaches also contain fragile spawning grounds for salmon and seatrout. It is important to not paddle when the river levels are too low, to avoid causing any harm to the natural environment by disturbing the gravels.

### Navigation Rules

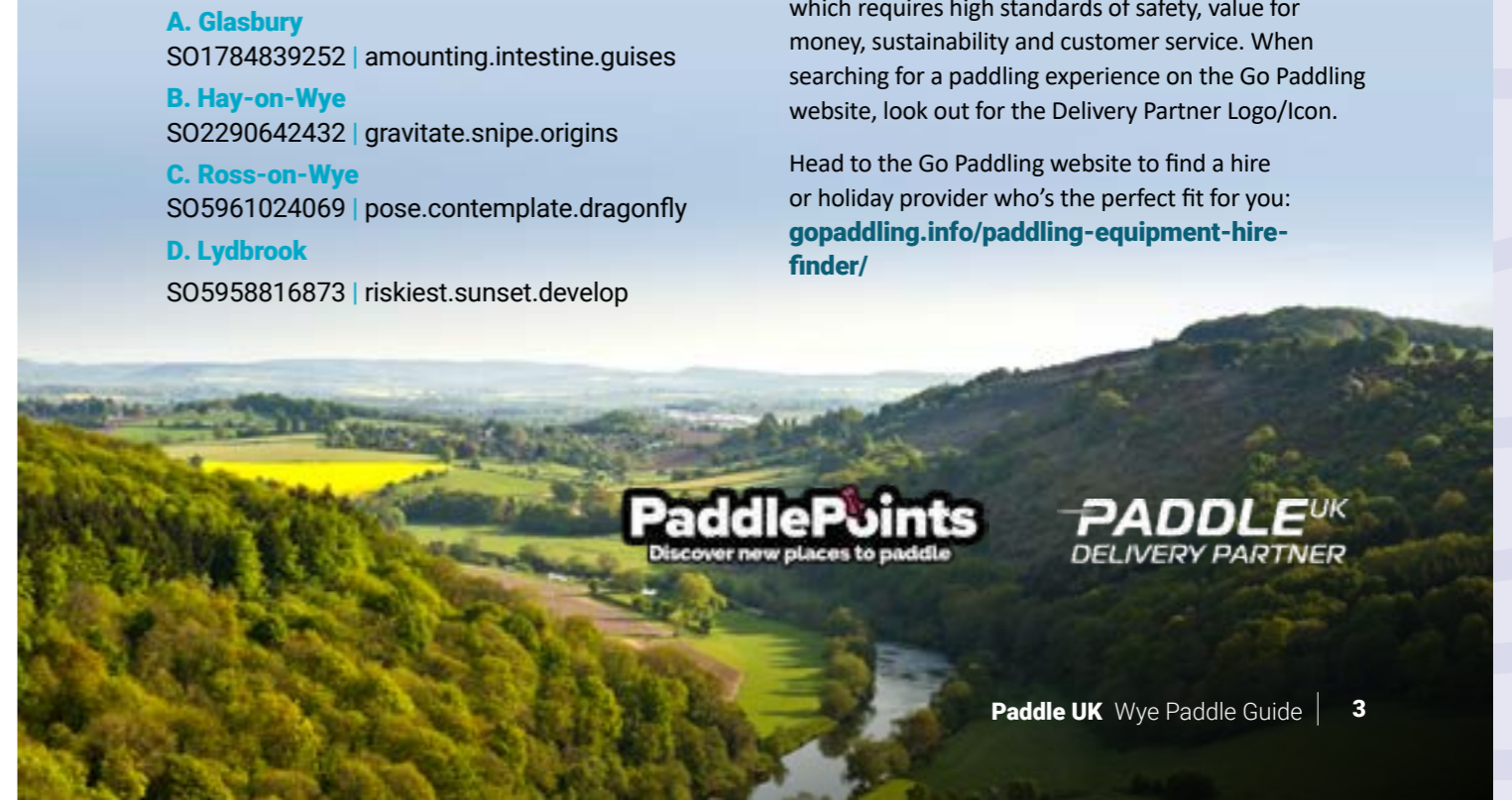
Ensure to keep to the right where possible and take care around bridges and other infrastructure where visibility can be impaired. Powered boats have the right of way over unpowered craft. Give other river users as much space as possible.

### Hire & Guided trips

There are a number of commercial hire firms and adventure holiday companies based on the Wye, offering canoe and kayak trips.

If you choose a Paddle UK Delivery Partner you will know they have agreed to a Delivery Partner Charter, which requires high standards of safety, value for money, sustainability and customer service. When searching for a paddling experience on the Go Paddling website, look out for the Delivery Partner Logo/Icon.

Head to the Go Paddling website to find a hire or holiday provider who's the perfect fit for you: [gopaddling.info/paddling-equipment-hire-finder/](http://gopaddling.info/paddling-equipment-hire-finder/)



**PaddlePoints**  
Discover new places to paddle

**PADDLEUK**  
DELIVERY PARTNER

## Rapids And Natural Weirs

It is essential to inspect these river features before travelling down them. Look out for boulders/rocks that might be in the river and plan a route down the river which avoids these. Pick a clean route down the rapid by looking for sections of water that are still green coloured (these may often form a V shape). If in any doubt just get out and walk around the rapid from the bank.

We do not recommend that those using stand up paddleboards paddle weirs. If paddling rapids then you must be suitably experienced and wear the appropriate equipment, including a releasable waist leash, white water helmet etc. If you are not experienced in reading and paddling these kinds of waters do not attempt to go down them.

If you do capsize in a rapid try to stay out of the way of your canoe or kayak. Get on your back and float, with your feet on the surface and facing downstream, until you reach the end of the rapid and are able to swim to the shore.

Rapid spots tend to be busy and popular sections so always keep an eye out for other river users to avoid collisions as you paddle through.

## Wildlife on the Wye

The River Wye is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC), with the lower river from Mordiford to Chepstow also classed as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Part of the joy of your journey can be found in spotting the wonderful flora and fauna along the route.

Can you spot an otter? They're pretty shy creatures but they are known to live all along the Wye. Look for large ripples on the surface of the water, lots of bubbles and a 3 to 4 foot-long, dark, sleek animal with a long thick tail. An exciting animal to catch a glimpse of. Take care not to disturb dense vegetation, tree roots or rocky cavities that might harbour otter when getting on or off the river.

Snap! White clawed crayfish are the UK's only native freshwater crayfish and the River Wye system is the best site known in Wales for them. They can grow to about 10cm long and with a brown body and five pairs of legs they look a bit like lobsters. In order for their existence not to be harmed by non-native species or fungal plague it's important to ensure all equipment is cleaned and dried thoroughly before you use it in different rivers.

## River And Weather Conditions

Know the weather forecast before you set out and be prepared for this to change; sometimes quickly and without warning. If you are unsure of your ability to deal with the weather conditions, leave the trip for another day.

River levels can change rapidly on the Wye due to rainfall across a large catchment area. You will need to be aware and take account of changing water levels in and immediately after heavy rainfall. The river should not be paddled in flood conditions unless you are a very experienced paddler.

If you are hiring a boat, the hire company can advise you on conditions and safety.

River levels can be checked and viewed at [www.riverlevels.uk](http://www.riverlevels.uk) or [check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk](http://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk).

Water-crowfoot might sound like a character from Harry Potter but it's actually an important part of the habitat that helps give the Wye its SAC status. A member of the buttercup family, this plant is a great oxygenator which forms extensive mats and produces flowers, adding to the beauty of the river. It's illegal to remove water-crowfoot without consent. If you experience problems navigating as a result of extensive growth of the plant contact the Environment Agency for advice.

If you're lucky you might spot Salmon leaping on your trip as the River Wye is a very important habitat for Atlantic salmon. It's essential not to disturb or damage gravel beds which are being used for spawning. Migration of salmon generally occurs between October and January, with spawning happening late winter. Eggs are buried in the gravel, with fry emerging in May.



<p><b>Respect</b></p> <p>If you need to drive, team up with others to reduce pollution and congestion on roads.</p>	<p><b>Respect</b></p> <p>Park respectfully, do not cause obstructions or damage the local area. Leave space for emergency vehicles.</p>	<p><b>Respect</b></p> <p>Keep group sizes small and discreet where possible.</p>	<p><b>Respect</b></p> <p>Unpack equipment and change in a discreet and considerate way.</p>	<p><b>Respect</b></p> <p>Avoid climbing over and damaging fences and walls.</p>
<p><b>Respect</b></p> <p>Give other users space, avoid lingering and causing a disturbance. Pass others on the right hand side.</p>	<p><b>Respect</b></p> <p>Be friendly, be welcoming and respectful of those you meet along the way. Be nice, say hello and share the space!</p>	<p><b>Protect</b></p> <p>Be kind to nature and wildlife. Be aware of breeding and nesting seasons. Minimise noise and keep a distance.</p>	<p><b>Protect</b></p> <p>Avoid gravel beds in rivers. Disturbing spawning grounds for fish and other species can be considered a criminal act.</p>	<p><b>Protect</b></p> <p>Banks can be sensitive to erosion or home to vulnerable species. Try to avoid them by sticking to established paths.</p>
<p><b>Protect</b></p> <p>Avoid dragging or sliding craft on the bankside. Try to float your craft for launching and landing.</p>	<p><b>Protect</b></p> <p>Always check, clean, &amp; dry your kit after each trip. This is key to helping stop the spread of invasive, non-native species.</p>	<p><b>Enjoy</b></p> <p>Be prepared! Always wear a buoyancy aid and carry a means of contacting the emergency services on your person.</p>	<p><b>Enjoy</b></p> <p>Check you have the appropriate leash for the environment if paddling SUP. Or your craft/equipment before each trip.</p>	<p><b>Enjoy</b></p> <p>Plan your adventure! The weather can change rapidly due to rain, wind or tide. Check river levels and avoid offshore winds.</p>
<p><b>Enjoy</b></p> <p>Ensure you are equipped for the trip and that it is within the capabilities of you and your group.</p>	<p><b>Enjoy</b></p> <p>Be aware of potential hazards such as weirs, overhanging trees and tidal waters. Look out for warning signs.</p>	<p><b>Enjoy</b></p> <p>Look out for bacteria, viruses or toxic algae. Don't enter water that looks or smells bad. Report to the Environment Agency.</p>	<p><b>Enjoy</b></p> <p>Leave no trace, take only photographs and leave only ripples.</p>	<p><b>Enjoy</b></p> <p>Having the correct waterways licence helps to preserve our precious rivers and canals</p>

# Paddle Safety

- Always wear a buoyancy aid or personal floatation device
- Ensure you wear the correct leash when stand up paddleboarding
- Have the right equipment & clothing for the conditions
- Plan your trip within your capabilities
- Check weather, tides, water levels and hazards. At the coast avoid paddling if there is an offshore wind
- Carry a means of communication about your person
- Paddle together and inform others of your plans
- In an emergency call 999



# SUP Leashes

Wearing a leash is highly recommended for safety. Depending on where you're paddling and the conditions you face, you might need to wear a leash in a different position for safety and security.

**Coiled or straight?** leashes can be coiled/ curly or straight/ The types of leash is important depending on the environment you paddle.

### Quick release belt system

For use on any moving or flowing water where there is a risk of snag/entrapment

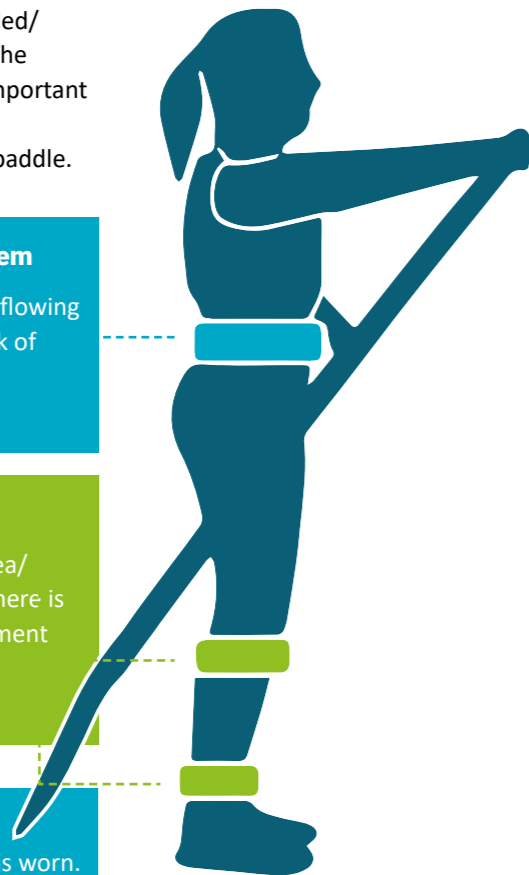
COILED

### Calf/Ankle leash

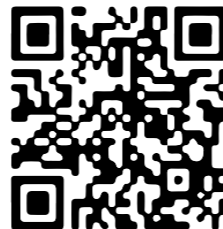
For use on lakes/canals/sea/ coastal bays/surf where there is NO risk of snag or entrapment

COILED - General SUP  
STRAIGHT - Surf

For whitewater we recommend that no leash is worn.



Scan me!



We'd recommend **developing your paddling skills and knowledge** by attending a course with a Paddle UK Delivery Partner or a Paddle UK Affiliate Club.

**Quality Assured:** Look out for Paddle UK Delivery Partners they are nationally recognised for high quality. Safe and value experiences



# 1 Glasbury to Byecross

**Start above Glasbury Bridge, in an area surrounded by spectacular hills and mountains. Pass through Hay-on-Wye, renowned for its bookshops and literary festival, taking in small rapids and calm waters as you go. Continue to Whitney-on-Wye with its 18th century toll bridge, built under Prime Minister Pitt the Younger.**

**NOTE:** All paddlers wishing to launch from Glasbury Bont should make themselves aware of any seasonal restrictions or launching times that may be in place to protect sensitive species in this section of river - [wyeuskfoundation.org/](http://wyeuskfoundation.org/)

**Distance:** 23 miles  
**Time:** 6 - 7 hours  
**Start:** Glasbury Bridge, Glasbury. HR3 5NP  
**Finish:** Byecross Farm Campsite, Preston-on-Wye, HR2 9LJ  
**OS Map:** Explorer 201 Knighton and Presteigne

### PLEASE NOTE:

Launching from Glasbury Bont Common has currently been suspended by Powys County Council until a Habitat Regulations Assessment has been completed. New guidelines for launching at this location are to be released soon. Please see Canoe Wales/Paddle UK website for latest update.

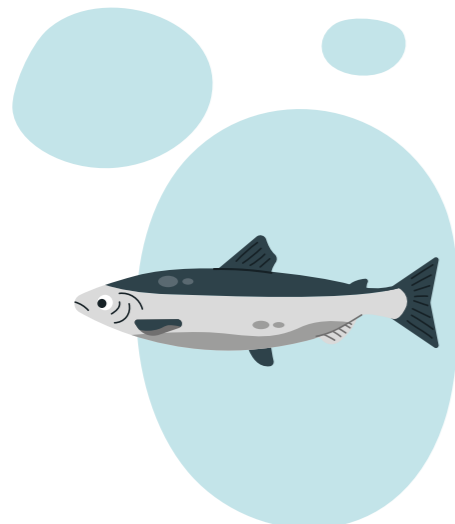
- 1 Launch from Upper Glas-y-Bont Common (beach get in), just above Glasbury Bridge and turn left.
- 2 Over the first miles there are many small rapids, some of which are shallow, so please stick to the deeper water where possible.
- 3 After about 4.5 miles, just above Hay-on-Wye, come across The Warren as you round a right hand bend in the river. This is a natural small weir which you normally pass through on the right. In low water it can be a bit rocky and worth an inspection before shooting. Hay-on-Wye is reached after 5 miles.
- 4 This picturesque border town started life as a coaching route. The world famous Hay Literary Festival takes place annually, attracting visitors from all over the world. Well worth a visit, the town can be accessed by landing on the purpose-built slipway on the right hand bank about 50m below Hay Bridge. Immediately below the landing place, beware of iron stakes in the river bed on the right, where Dulas Brook joins the river.
- 5 At 8 miles you'll see the remains of Clifford Castle on the right. Formerly an important border castle. Do not launch/land on Clifford Common as it's a sensitive wildlife site.
- 6 Rhydspence, at 9 miles, is the border between Wales and England. The old inn on the main road is the 'first house' in England.
- 7 Continue on for a few more miles, arriving at Whitney Toll Bridge at 10 miles. The toll bridge was built in 1774 and is one of the few private bridges left in the country.
- 8 Now the Boat Inn comes into sight after the toll bridge. Please speak to the owners before landing and launching from the Boat Inn.



## Glasbury to Byecross Continued...

- 9 Heading downstream from Whitney-on-Wye the river meanders through the countryside set against the Welsh mountains. There are some shallows which may not be deep enough to paddle.
- 10 5 miles after Whitney, pass on the left of Turners Boat Island. Beyond this there are a series of small rapids that take you the 4 miles down to the village of Bredwardine, with its impressive 6 arch bridge.
- 11 Pass The Scar at Brobury, a high sandstone cliff on the left. Look out for several large boulders in the river bed here. A short paddle further brings you past Moccas Court on the right bank. This Georgian mansion was built in 1783 and its grounds were landscaped by Capability Brown.
- 12 3.5 miles later you reach Byecross. Access is at Byecross Farm Campsite, which has good facilities. Steps and a ramp lead from the water on the right hand bank at the entrance to the campsite.

For a shorter paddle why not start from Hay-on-Wye!

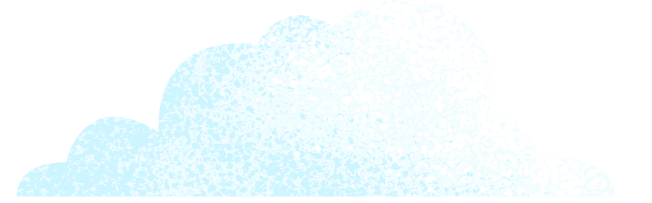


## 2 Byecross to Hereford

From the countryside to the city, this trail includes rapids from the start, peaceful stretches and National Trust gardens as the river sweeps down into the historic city of Hereford.

<b>Distance:</b>	12 miles
<b>Time:</b>	3 - 6 hours
<b>Start:</b>	Byecross Farm Campsite, Preston-on-Wye, HR2 9LJ
<b>Finish:</b>	Steps underneath the A49 Greyfriars Bridge, Hereford, HR2 7RE
<b>OS Map:</b>	Explorer 201 Knighton and Presteigne & 189 Hereford and Ross-on-Wye

- 1 Putting in from Byecross Campsite, turn right and immediately come to the Grade 2 rapids of Monnington Falls. This is a rapid that requires inspection and careful navigation. The rapid runs alongside an island located after a steep 180 degree left hand bend in the river. At low and medium water levels the rapid can be shot to the left of the island. Inspection for obstructions and route finding can be undertaken by landing on the beach on the left hand bank and walking down to the rapid via the river. In low water you can stop on the right bank and walk across to the island to inspect the left channel. Plot your route through the rocks and watch out for the boils, particularly down the deep channel in low water.
- 2 There are occasional small rapids at points on the way to Hereford but nothing more that needs inspection. The river is quiet and peaceful. At Byford there is a landing on the left bank, 200m below the pumping station, in front of a black and white cottage. This area is the site of an old ford and there is access from the road down a narrow lane, with no permission required. However, there is no parking here and the landing can become overgrown.
- 3 There are weedy shallows now until you pass the tiny village of Bridge Sollers at just over 3 miles, with its 12th Century, Grade 2 listed church. After passing another small village, Canon Bridge, on your right at five miles, round a bend in the river and see the National Trust owned The Weir Garden.
- 4 At 10 miles Belmont Golf Course is on your right. Not long after this you begin to enter the outskirts of Hereford. Hereford Rowing Club is on the left at almost 12 miles. The get out is a purpose built canoe launch point, on the right, under Greyfriars road bridge. Hereford grew around an ancient river crossing, explaining its name, which means 'ford of the army'.



### 3 Hereford to Hoarwithy

Leaving the city of Hereford behind, enter the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. A quiet section of meandering river, beautiful countryside, steep wooded valleys and rich in wildlife.

**Distance:** 16 miles  
**Time:** 4 - 8 hours  
**Start:** Steps underneath the A49 Greyfriars Bridge, Hereford, HR2 7RE  
**Finish:** Tresseck Farm Campsite, Hoarwithy, HR2 6QH or Paddle UK land (see info at end of trail)  
**OS Map:** Explorer 189 Hereford and Ross-on-Wye



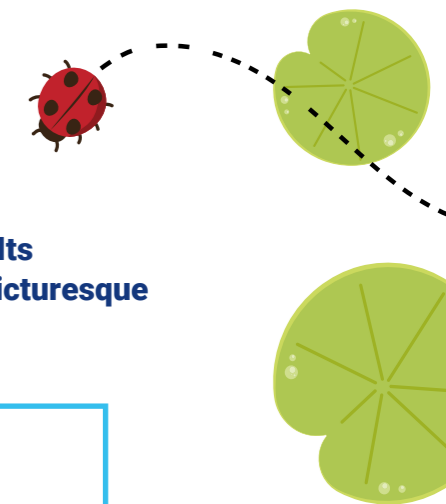
- 1 Launch from the steps under the A49 Greyfriars Bridge and turn right.
- 2 At Bartonsham, almost 2 miles after setting off, head to the right below the railway bridge to negotiate a small rapid.
- 3 The river is quiet and meandering. A diversion can be taken after 8 miles to explore the River Lugg where it joins the Wye. If you explore the Lugg, upstream after 500 metres you will find the village of Mordiford and the Moon Inn.
- 4 Reaching Capler Hill you'll see a steep wooded slope on the left bank. This leads to the double ramparts of Capler Camp, an Iron Age hill fort.
- 5 Towards the end of the trail (14 miles), encounter Carey Island rapids. A simple grade 1 rapid, normally recommended to be taken on the right.
- 6 Finish your journey 100 metres below Hoarwithy bridge on the right hand bank. At low water there is a beach and steps leading up a steep bank to Tresseck Farm Campsite. You could also use the Paddle UK owned Toll Paddock at Hoarwithy. The site is run and maintained by dedicated volunteers. Wild camping is allowed here, strictly by prior arrangement. Paddlers wishing to make use of the land must contact [SYMG@paddleuk.org.uk](mailto:SYMG@paddleuk.org.uk) in advance.
- 7 Alternatively, land on the left bank, about a quarter of a mile downstream of the bridge, with prior permission from Lower Ruxton Farm.



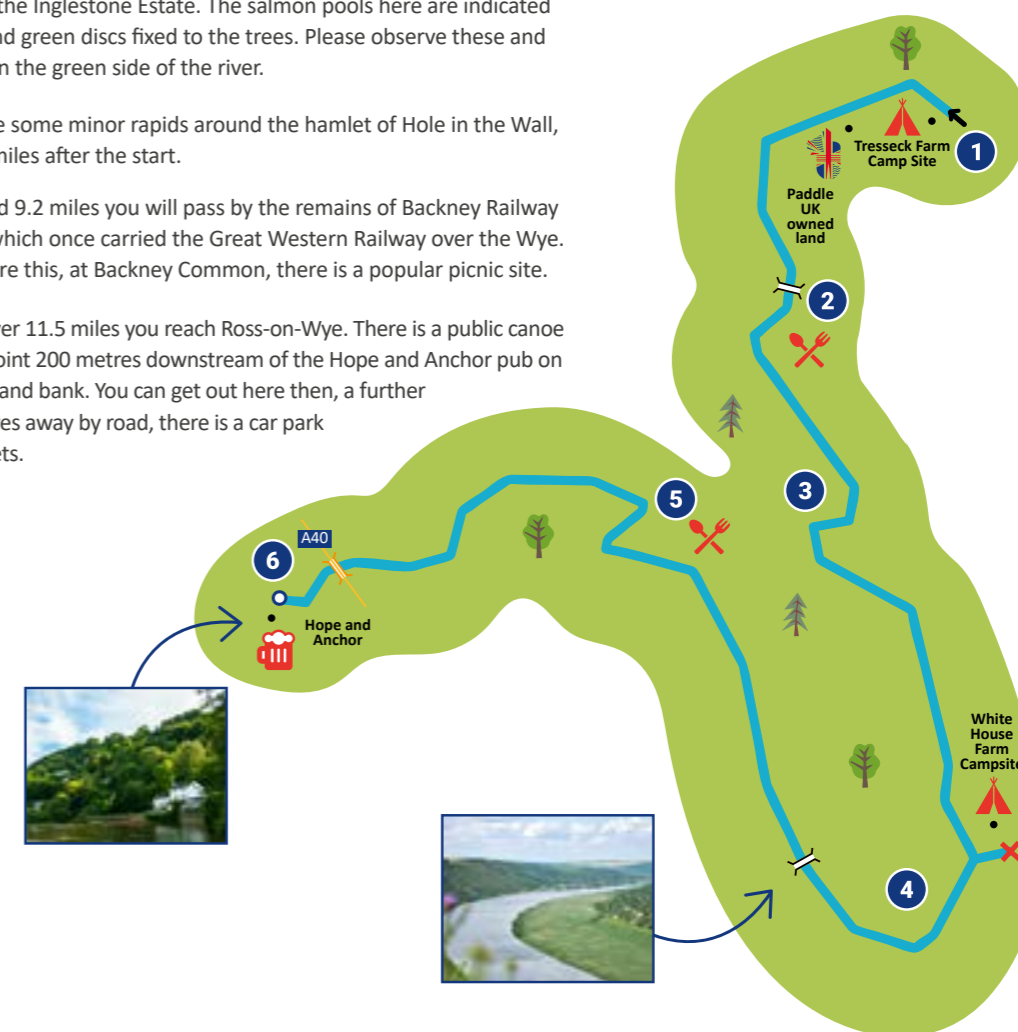
### 4 Hoarwithy to Ross-on-Wye

The remoteness of this trail has enabled wildlife to flourish. Its meanders are punctuated by small rapids leading from the picturesque village of Hoarwithy to the historic town of Ross-on-Wye.

**Distance:** 11.5 miles  
**Time:** 3 - 5.5 hours  
**Start:** Tresseck Farm Campsite, Hoarwithy, HR2 6QH or Toll Paddock, Paddle UK land  
**Finish:** Public launch point, Ross-on-Wye, HR9 7BT (steps on the left hand bank, 100m below the Hope and Anchor pub)  
**OS Map:** Explorer 189 Hereford and Ross-on-Wye



- 1 Launch from Tresseck Farm Campsite/Toll Paddock and turn right.
- 2 After 2.5 miles pass under Sellack suspension footbridge. 200 metres downstream of the bridge lies Sellack Common on the right hand bank, which offers a place to stop.
- 3 The river meanders quietly through the countryside, passing the odd farm and small village. After a couple of miles you will be passing through the Inglestone Estate. The salmon pools here are indicated by red and green discs fixed to the trees. Please observe these and paddle on the green side of the river.
- 4 There are some minor rapids around the hamlet of Hole in the Wall, some 7 miles after the start.
- 5 At around 9.2 miles you will pass by the remains of Backney Railway Bridge, which once carried the Great Western Railway over the Wye. Just before this, at Backney Common, there is a popular picnic site.
- 6 At just over 11.5 miles you reach Ross-on-Wye. There is a public canoe launch point 200 metres downstream of the Hope and Anchor pub on the left hand bank. You can get out here then, a further 200 metres away by road, there is a car park with toilets.



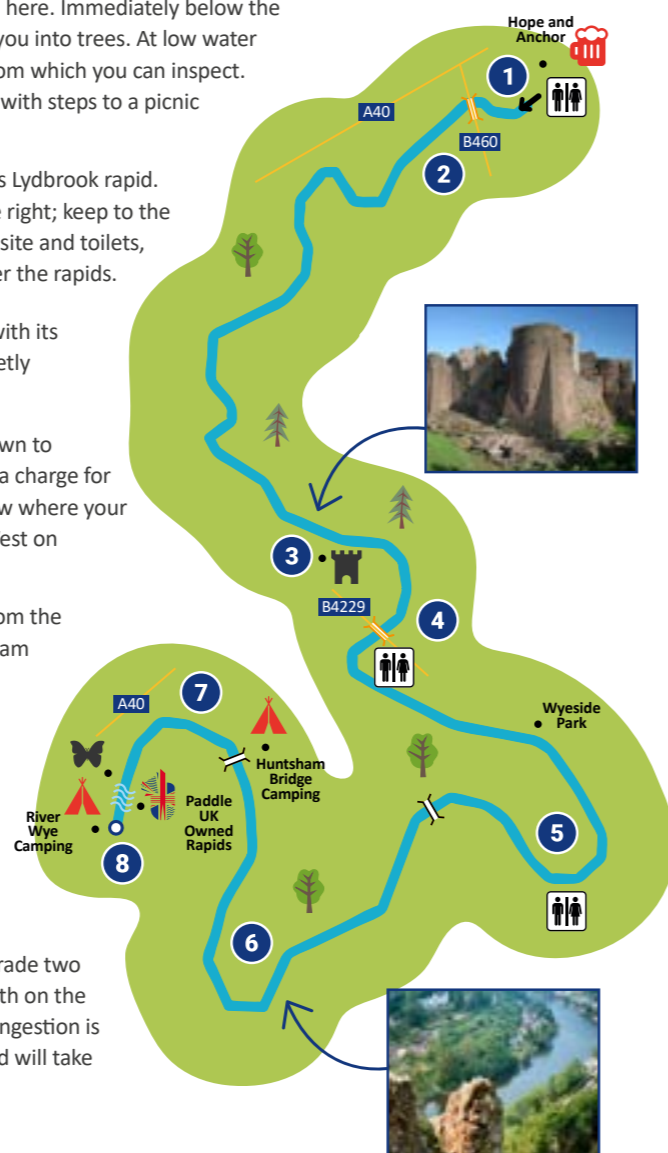
## 5 Ross-on-Wye to Symonds Yat



One of the most popular sections of the River Wye, including a number of small rapids. Taking in the Forest of Dean and passing under the dramatic Yat rock before finishing at the picturesque Symonds Yat.

**Distance:** 14 miles  
**Time:** 4.5 - 7 hours  
**Start:** Public launch point, Ross-on-Wye, HR9 7BT (steps on the left hand bank, 100m below the Hope and Anchor pub)  
**Finish:** Symonds Yat West - River Wye Caravan and Camping, HR9 6DA or 500 metres downstream; Symonds Yat East - Wydean Canoe Centre, HR9 6JL  
**OS Map:** Explorer OL 14 Wye Valley and Forest of Dean

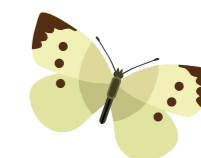
- 1 Launch and turn left. After 500 metres reach Wilton Bridge; take the centre arch, then keep to the right of the island just downstream. After the bridge you will encounter a series of rapids with some waves that will hold your attention.
- 2 After 5 miles look out for Goodrich Castle, high on the right hand bank. 1 mile later approach Kerne Bridge - don't launch/land here. Immediately below the bridge fast water and strong currents can push you into trees. At low water levels there's a gravel bank below the bridge, from which you can inspect. 800m below the bridge, on the left, is a landing with steps to a picnic site and car park.
- 3 Two miles further, on a sharp right hand bend, is Lydbrook rapid. Rounding the bend you will see an island on the right; keep to the left of the island. Lower Lydbrook village, picnic site and toilets, (concrete steps for access) is on the left just after the rapids.
- 4 After another half a mile reach Welsh Bicknor, with its youth hostel, on the right bank. Please pass quietly through this important fishing stretch.
- 5 The river makes its way around Yat Rock and down to Symonds Yat; a popular and busy area. There is a charge for landing and launching here. Make sure you know where your finish point is; Symonds Yat has an East and a West on opposite banks.
- 6 Symonds Yat West has launching and landing from the steps on the right hand bank, about 1km upstream of the rapids. There is a car park and a small passenger carrying pleasure boat is also based here. Landing at Ye Olde Ferrie Inn on right bank - permission required.
- 7 At Symonds Yat East there's a cable ferry for crossing the river. Landing and launching from the steps on the left bank at the Wydean Canoe Centre.
- 8 Immediately after Symonds Yat East there is a grade two rapid, which can be inspected from the cycle path on the left bank. Large waves in the lower parts and congestion is possible. If you overshoot your get out, the rapid will take you a long way downstream!



## 6 Symonds Yat to Redbrook

A classic trail on the Wye; a trail that has everything. Beginning at picturesque Symonds Yat, start with a 150 metre grade 2 rapid before entering the dramatic gorge of the Seven Sisters Rocks. Take in the bustling historic town of Monmouth before finishing at the welcoming village of Redbrook.

**Distance:** 8.5 miles  
**Time:** 2.5 - 4 hours  
**Start:** Symonds Yat West - River Wye Caravan and Camping, HR9 6DA or 500 meters further downstream; Symonds Yat East - Wydean Canoe Centre, HR9 6JL  
**Finish:** Redbrook Main Car Park, Redbrook Road, NP25 4LP  
**OS Map:** Explorer 14 Wye Valley and Forest of Dean



- 1 Shortly after the start are Symonds Yat rapids; a 150m, grade 2 rapid, modified to enhance its recreational value by the addition of boulder groynes along its length. Inspect the rapid from the path that runs along the left hand bank. Watch particularly for standing waves at the lower end of the rapid. If starting from Symonds Yat East it's best to do this before you set off, although it's possible to land on the left before the rapid. Pass the Royal Lodge Hotel on the left and enter the rapid. It should be shot in the main flow that takes you to the left hand side of the island. Avoid the boulder walls on the left bank and any stray boulders that have broken away in the current.
- 2 1.5 miles further on there is a small rapid by Biblins Campsite. Shortly after this you will see a number of limestone crags above the treeline. These are the Seven Sisters Rocks. When you come to Hadnock Island, take the left channel.
- 3 Hadnock Island marks the end of the gorge and the start of the run into Monmouth. On this section watch out for rowers training on the river. The navigation rules are that you stay on the right hand side.
- 4 The river runs alongside the main road, with the attractive town to the right. Monmouth derives its name from the Monnow river, which is bridged by a unique 14th century fortified gatehouse. There is a get out at Monmouth on the steps just after you pass the Rowing Club (please use public steps not Rowing Club ones); right hand bank. Monmouth town centre is a short walk from here.
- 5 As you leave Monmouth there is a small rapid as you navigate down the left hand side of an island and make your way down to your finish at Redbrook.



# 7 Redbrook to Chepstow

The rivers Severn and Wye have the second largest tidal range (height) in the world at 15 metres (48 feet). This can cause the river to flow at up to 10mph. The river becomes tidal 2.5 miles below Redbrook at Bigsweir Bridge, but it is 4 miles later at Brockweir where the full tidal impact is felt and the river's characteristics change.

**Distance:** 15 miles  
**Time:** 4 -7.5 hours  
**Start:** Redbrook Main Car Park, Redbrook Road, NP25 4LP  
**Finish:** pontoons beside The Boat Inn, Chepstow, NP16 5HH  
**OS Map:** Explorer 14 Wye Valley and Forest of Dean

Tidal section – for experienced and well equipped paddlers only.



- 1 Put in from Redbrook Main Carpark and turn left, towards Chepstow.
- 2 Bigsweir Bridge is arrived at after around 3.5 miles, with rapids 800m downstream of the bridge.
- 3 After Llandogo, a village with shops and a pub, you will find rapids from here to Tintern and the banks become muddy from here on.
- 4 At Brockweir, approximately 8 miles above Chepstow, the river changes character with its banks and river conditions determined by the tides, not river flows. There is a restored stone landing on the left bank, just upstream of the bridge, although this can be awkward and muddy at low tide. Alongside the river are the remains of old quays where supplies from sailing barges were loaded and unloaded in the past. There is currently no landing at Tintern or after Chepstow, as dangerous weirs are exposed at low water.
- 5 Please read the information at the end of the trail if you would like to continue your journey from here.
- 6 At Tintern you will spot the ruins of a 12th century Cistercian abbey on the right. This is now a popular tourist attraction. The tide is considerable.
- 7 The high, steep silt/mud banks combined with fast currents makes landing difficult and limited. The get out point at Chepstow is on a floating pontoon at Chepstow boat club, on the right bank after you pass under the ornate cast iron Chepstow Bridge.



If you do this section you should plan to do it straight through from Brockweir to Chepstow without a bank stop. The following sets out how you should plan the trip from Brockweir to Chepstow

- 1 Plan on the 8 mile journey taking about 1.5 - 2 hours without any bank stops.
- 2 There is only one get out point in Chepstow, on the Chepstow Boat Club pontoon. Right bank, after you pass under the ornate cast iron Chepstow Bridge.
- 3 The pontoon floats for a maximum of two hours either side of high tide Chepstow.
- 4 Useful navigation information can be found on the Chepstow boat club web site: [www.chepstowboatclub.co.uk/the-club/moorings-and-facilities](http://www.chepstowboatclub.co.uk/the-club/moorings-and-facilities)
- 5 Aim to set off one hour before high tide Chepstow. It's a good idea to inform Milford Haven Coastguard of your journey on 01646 690909. And also inform them once you're off the water.
- 6 If you arrive late at Brockweir, less than one hour before high tide you should consider making other plans. Chepstow high tides times can be found here: [www.tidetimes.co.uk/chepstow-tide-times](http://www.tidetimes.co.uk/chepstow-tide-times)
- 7 Check the weather forecast, strong headwinds may slow you down and cause dangerous waves to build up.
- 8 **DO NOT PROCEED PAST CHEPSTOW** the Severn estuary awaits! You don't want to spoil your day by coming back in a life boat or helicopter minus your boat and kit.





## Become a Member

Did you know you're required to have a waterways licence for many managed waterways in England and Wales?

The River Wye doesn't require you to have a licence to paddle on it. However, if you paddle regularly you should consider becoming a member of Paddle UK.

Licences are easy to get and the fee from them contributes towards the work that waterways authorities carry out to protect and maintain the waterways you paddle on.

# Paddle UK Membership

**Membership for all paddling interests and crafts (kayaks, SUPs, canoes, inflatables). Fantastic paddler benefits.**

- **Waterways licence** - most comprehensive licence available, including 4500km of waterways managed by Canal and River Trust, Environment Agency, Broads Authority and many more.
- **Insurance** - £10,000,000 civil liability cover included, plus the option to purchase craft insurance at a great price.
- **Guidance, training and top tips** - regular member communications and advice, plus access to training courses and qualifications.
- **Discounts** - exclusive paddler focused offers



Become part of our community today and support campaigns and projects to improve access and the environment.

£60 - discounts available for children, families and couples.

[paddleuk.org.uk/membership](https://paddleuk.org.uk/membership)

## Getting Started?

- Learn to stay safe
- Find places to paddle
- Learn top tips and advice
- Develop your skills
- Find local clubs and centres

Discover more: [gopaddling.info](https://gopaddling.info)



Environment  
Agency



PADDLE<sup>UK</sup>