

What To Do If..... Advice & Guidelines



Pollution

Pollutions are usually identified by fish-kills or by something being visibly discharged into a watercourse. It can come in many forms – sewage, slurry, chemicals, even silt running off a field.

If you come across suspected pollution in England please ring the Environment Agency's 24-Hour incident line immediately on **0800 80 70 60**. If it is in Wales, please report it to Natural Resources Wales's incident line on **03000 65 3000**.

When contacting the hotline, make a note of the Job Reference number, and, if possible, the name of the officer you spoke to. If you can take any photos of dead fish or invertebrates, or of the discharge itself then this will help the authorities to prosecute the polluter, or a fishery owner to bring a civil claim.

If it is during office hours please then contact WUF on 01874 712074/711714 and we too will report the incident or contact a bailiff directly. If it is out of hours please leave a message, email us or inform us via an online catch return.

For more advice on what do in the event of pollution, please see the [Angling Trust/Fish Legal](#) website.

Poaching & Illegal Fishing

Poaching and illegal fishing occur from time to time. If you suspect any fishing activity that is in breach of byelaws (e.g. out of season, illegal methods, taking fish outside permitted dates, no rod licence etc) then you should always call the incident line: **0800 80 70 60 / 03000 65 3000**. It is important to do this as EA & NRW use the hotline to assess the number and location of such incidents. If nothing is reported, they will assume nothing untoward is going on.

Fishing without permission (i.e. where no breach of byelaws is taking place) can result in a prosecution for the culprits under the Theft Act and is something that the statutory bodies and police have been taking more interest in recently. In fact, tackling poaching is now on the priority list for rural crime (more details [here](#)). If you encounter someone fishing a stretch and know that they don't have permission, please call the EA/NRW incident lines **0800 80 70 60 / 03000 65 3000** or the police on their 101 number. If you feel threatened, please call 999 immediately.

Any incidents on Passport beats should also be reported to WUF on 01874 712074/711714 as we will need to inform the fishery owner, ghillie or gamekeeper ASAP.

If you witness poaching or illegal fishing please also take a photograph and send it to us, **but only without endangering yourself**. This will help identify the culprit(s) and, in the case of canoeists, the canoe hire company or outdoor organisation who own the boats.

Cattle

Do not, under any circumstances, park your vehicle in fields that contain cattle or those that cattle can access, even if the beat description tells you to park there. **Cattle will cause damage to your vehicle** and to your fishing tackle if it is left unattended on the bank. If you see cattle near the designated parking area on your beat details, either follow instructions to alternative parking areas or contact the Booking Office for further instructions. Cattle are nearly always moved from field to field without our knowledge so it is impossible to warn anglers in advance of their presence.

Otherwise, you should always follow the [Countryside Code](#).

Canoeists

Rights of navigation exist on some areas of river such as the Wye downstream of Hay-on-Wye. On many rivers, however, such as the Wye upstream of Hay-on-Wye or anywhere on the Usk, no such right exists. Negotiated access arrangements for canoeists may exist on the non-navigable sections at times of the year and at certain river heights which have minimal impact on fishing. For details of arrangements on the Wye & Usk, please see www.wyeuskfoundation.org/navigation

Should you come across any canoeists on a non-navigable river outside permitted times or heights, please report it to WUF. You may ask them to exit the river but please avoid confrontation at all times. If the canoeist(s) are from an official group or have an instructor with them, please make a note of this.

All canoeists should follow a code of conduct (for the Wye this has been drawn up by the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty - www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk) This code includes advice on how not to disturb anglers and wildlife. Please let us know by email to admin@wyeuskfoundation.org of any breaches to the code of conduct you witness including, where appropriate, the name of the canoe hire company or organised group. Again, photo evidence helps but should only be taken without endangering yourself.

While the Wye & Usk Foundation endeavors to ensure that the information provided in the Passport, booking confirmation details and on the website is accurate, we cannot be held liable for any errors or discrepancies that occur. Through the "Fishing Passport", miles of fishing that otherwise would be inaccessible to visiting anglers has been opened up. As with any fishing, there are risks involved. While we endeavor to highlight any such risks, the Foundation cannot be held liable for any accidents, personal injury or damage to property.
