

## RIVER WAVENEY: CODE OF CONDUCT

### Before Entering and After Leaving the Water

- Be friendly and polite to local residents and other water users;
- Park sensibly without causing any obstruction. Use designated car parks where available (this may involve unloading equipment and parking at a distance from the river);
- Be as quiet as possible;
- Unload kit tidily, take all litter home and leave no trace of your visit;
- Get changed out of public view;
- Avoid disturbing farm animals and wildlife and causing environmental damage;
- Follow the Country Code;

### On the Water

- All boaters must use the river in a safe fashion and must have appropriate safety equipment;
- Respect other people;
- Respect wildlife and the environment. This is particularly important in the breeding season and the fishing closed season, when canoeing should be kept to a minimum. At all other times keep away from the banks (except at official access and portage points) and keep disturbance to the river bed to a minimum;
- Remain quiet whilst approaching and passing anyone on the river;
- Normally pass on the far side of the river from someone fishing from the bank, or as directed by that person;
- If and when it is necessary to stop or to land in an emergency or at one of the approved landing places, keep reasonably still and quiet and in a small area;
- Refuse must not be deposited in the river or on the bank of the river;
- Visiting groups should not normally exceed 15 craft (larger groups should consult the BCU River Officer). Individual members within a group must keep as close together as possible, especially when passing someone fishing, so as to cause minimum impact on other people and the environment;
- If in any doubt about where to pass or on any other point, group leaders should make their presence known to those fishing and ask for guidance;
- All river users should do their best to avoid arguments.

## RIVER WAVENEY: TERMS OF AGREEMENT FOR CANOEING

You can canoe or row boats on the River Waveney between Shotford Bridge and Bungay Staithe. Access points and picnic areas are marked on the map. **These are the only places at which you can enter and leave the river, other than in the case of emergencies.** There are also designated portage points to get around obstructions. Directions should be followed and the portages used solely for this purpose.

You should be a member of a recognised club or association, or have purchased a day ticket. Documentary evidence should be available for inspection. It is recommended that you have personal liability insurance; this may be included in your club or association membership, or as part of your day ticket (if you have rented a canoe or rowing boat).

It is good practice to display a registration or other mark on your craft.

Safety is paramount and you should always wear a buoyancy aid and appropriate protective gear. Stay with your boat if you capsize. It is good practice to paddle in a group of at least three. Let someone know where you are going and the time you expect to be back. Learn how to canoe and be able to swim. Remember that weirs are dangerous and keep well clear.

By using the river, you agree that:

- Boating (including canoeing, rowing and the use of any self-propelled watercraft) is an assumed risk activity. The degree of risk may be related to factors such as water conditions, your experience and ability, and to unrecognised hazards in and alongside the river channel.
- The granting of permission to boat does not imply that the river is safe; you must make your own assessment of the river's dangers before accessing the water.
- Riparian owners cannot be held responsible for any accident or incident that may result from the granting of permission to boat under the terms of this agreement.

### Permission to use the river for boating is dependent upon the acceptance of this condition.

This document is not to be taken as evidence that there is, or is not, a public right of navigation on this section of the river. Use of the river for boating cannot invoke such a right. Riparian and fisheries owners and tenants and their agents agree that they will not knowingly obstruct the course of the river. Consideration must at all times be given to landowners and users of the river and on no occasion should any use take place that may impair the river environment or the enjoyment of other legitimate users. All people using the river have a duty of care to themselves and others, and will be responsible for any damage caused to private property.

Boating should normally take place only during daylight hours.

Boating should only take place where there is sufficient water to avoid damage to the river bed. If in doubt, please do not canoe in shallow water and do not drag your canoe along channels where there is insufficient water to canoe.

Riparian and fisheries owners can close their parts of the river on the following grounds: Public health (duration as directed by Defra and other agencies); Pollution and dangerous obstructions (duration necessary to address the problem); Protection of fauna and flora (duration as directed by wildlife authorities); Engineering works (duration necessary to address the problem); Events (maximum 2 days per year per club, subject to an overall maximum of 10 days per year).

**Disclaimer: No organisation, their representatives nor individuals involved in the development of this agreement can be held responsible for any loss, damage or accident.**