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All rights reserved with Brecon Beacons National Park Authority. Designed and produced by Peter Gill & Associates. Welcome/Croeso. In pursuit of varied fish species in rivers, lakes, reservoirs, the sea and small water fisheries, my incurable lifelong addiction to 'fishing' in all its guises has led me to various locations worldwide. Of all these, the most varied in any concentrated area are to be found on my doorstep here in Wales. The quality of the fisheries is exceptional and Wales has it all to offer the visiting angler.

My grounding in the art of fishing and its development into a skill began during my youth, years spent whilst living on the edge of the Snowdonia National Park. I followed the tumbling streams in pursuit of brown trout, teased rudd and perch in lakes and caught numerous wrasse, pollack, mackerel and bass around the coast of the Llŷn Peninsula. The intensity of this excitement grew and deepened as I began to pursue salmon and sea trout that run various rivers in the locality. As the years passed and my maturity as a fisherman increased, the boundaries of my fishing extended southwards and I discovered the wonders of





the Brecon Beacons and Pembrokeshire Coast National Parks. My annual pilgrimage now throughout Wales takes me to fisheries of the highest standing.

In these three publications, we will guide you through the wild unspoilt fishing available in all three of Wales' National Parks (Brecon Beacons, Pembrokeshire and Snowdonia), areas of unrivalled beauty and tranquillity. Make a fishing break visit to this unique country a priority in your 'must do' list, you will be 'hooked' and want to come back for more.

So what of the Brecon Beacons, located in mid Wales? The silky softness of the rivers Wye and Usk, with varied stock of game and cyprinid fish are truly exceptional locations, and the wonderful scenic surroundings encompass lakes and small water fisheries. It is without doubt a fishing 'heaven' where a very warm welcome awaits you.

Please mention this guide

Above: Wye grayling.

Left: Imogen Jones posed

for this picture after she had finished jumping for

joy. Imogen caught this

rainbow trout on a fly whilst

on holiday from Barbados.

Happy memories of Wales.

Please mention this guide when contacting any of the businesses listed.

Gwilym Hughes

Brecon Beacons map





Refer to listings for map reference





Game fishing

:Trout :Salmon :



Kev

Game fishing

Coarse fishing

F Fly fishing allowed

Spinning fishing allowed

B Bait fishing allowed

L Disabled access

information available

Tuition available

Boat hire available

Tackle hire or purchase available

Flies, lures and/or bait available

Refreshments

wc Toilet facilities

Washing/drying facilities

Competitions or match bookings

Night fishing

Catch and release policy

Bag limit or keepnet restrictions

Own boat



The River Usk originates in the Black Mountain and runs through the heart of the Brecon Beacons National Park meandering through forests and over bedrock to the gentle freestone runs where wild trout and salmon tease the angler with their leap and rise. I couldn't think of anywhere better to relax than alongside the flora and fauna, in stunning surroundings and including the otter and kingfisher, all well cared for by the Wye & Usk Foundation. This is a charitable trust set up initially for the restoring of habitat degradation and other related matters.

Their work, in partnership with local organisations, is showing that good husbandry is the key element for the enhancement and sustainability of any fishery. The trust, through its 'fishing passport system' has secured access to many beats on the River Usk which boast truly magnificent free rising wild brown trout and a superb fishery that ranks alongside any such wild fishery world wide. Talybont reservoir is also predominantly a wild brown trout fishery offering peace and tranquillity in unrivalled serenity. Engulfing your dry fly, a 6oz average size trout will shock you with its voracious, splashy approach at the surface whilst a deeply sunk nymph will also prove successful. Salmon fishing on the River Usk again excels with runs of this magnificent fish from June to the end of the season in October and can be accessed through the Wye & Usk Foundation passport scheme.

Gwilym Hughes

Above: A fine Usk Salmon.



1. Aberhyddnant Farm Cottages

Liz Mathews. Crai, Brecon,

Powys LD3 8YS T: 01874 636797

www.abercottages.co.uk

E: cottages@abercottages.co.uk

Several natural trout pools.



2. Crai Reservoir

A small upland reservoir owned by Cnewr estates, unhindered access to the stony banks and the wild brown trout. Fly fishing only. Day tickets from the reservoir keeper on site.

T: 01874 636207





3. Gliffaes Hotel

Gliffaes Road, Crickhowell NP8 1RH T: 01874 730371 www.gliffaeshotel.com E: calls@gliffaeshotel.com The hotel overlooks the Usk and has one and a half miles of wild brown trout and salmon fishing.











E3



4. Gludy Lake

Lake House, Gludy Lake, Cradoc,

Brecon LD3 9PA T: 01874 610427

E: paul@gludy.co.uk

Brown, rainbow and blue trout. Rented for exclusive use for groups of anglers.











5. Pantysgallog

Pantysgallog House, Sennybridge Brecon LD3 8PT

T: 01874 638858 M: 07929 283711
www.rhyannesretreat.co.uk
Single bank on the Usk and Crai for
1 mile. Holistic therapy centre in
the grounds.

D3



6. Pyscodlyn Farm

Caravan and camping site, Llanwenarth Citra, Abergavenny NP7 7ER T: 01873 853271 www.pyscodlyncaravanpark.com



7. Trapp Fishery

John Apps. Trapp, Llandeillo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6TY T: 01558 822002 Situated just below Carreg Cennen Castle approximately one and a half acre lake served by a spring outlet. A3

E4

d XD E & i

The following reservoirs are owned by Dŵr Cymru: Usk, Beacons, Cantref, Llwyn-On and Talybont.

8. Beacons Reservoir

A wilderness fishery with natural brown trout. Permits available from Garwnant Visitor Centre or Dŵr Cymru.

T: 01495 769281

d FiCL





9. Cantref Reservoir

T: 01495 769281

Set high in the Brecon Beacons, Cantref is well stocked with rainbow trout and some naturally produced brown trout. Day permits from Garwnant Visitor Centre

E4



d FiCI

10. Llandegfedd Reservoir

T: 01291 673722

A 434 acre stillwater, surrounded by beautiful countryside and hills, known mainly for its rainbow trout. Permits from rangers Office on site or sluved water treatments







11. Llwyn-On Reservoir

T: 01495 769281

Bordered by mixed woodland, a multi method reservoir offering great sport for all anglers, rainbow and brown trout. Day permits from Garwnant Visitor Centre.



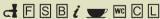












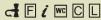
12. Talybont Reservoir

T: 01495 769281

A wilderness fishery, native stock are joined by an annual stocking of brown trout. Day permits from ticket machine on site.













13. Upper Neuadd Reservoir

T: 01495 769281

A fly only reservoir, day tickets from Merthyr Angling Centre or The Red Cow, Pontsticill. **E4**



d E

14. Usk Reservoir

T: 01495 769281

An attractive upland reservoir, one of the best trout fisheries in Wales, stocked with rainbow trout. Day permits from ticket machine at the reservoir.

dFSBi™CL

Permits

Day permits are available for specific sections of the River Usk from the following:

1. Brecon Town Council

The Guildhall, Brecon LD3 7AL T: 01874 622884 www.brecontowncouncil.org.uk

2. Edwards Newsagents

50 The Watton, Brecon

T: 01874 623304

3. Llanfaes Post Office

Westenders Service Station Brecon T: 01874 623722

4. Merthyr Angling Centre

Cefn Coed, 185 High Street Merthyr Tydfil

T: 01685 379809

5. Keith Price Garages

Merthyr Road, Abergavenny NP7 5DB

T: 01873 857644

6. Wye & Usk Foundation

T: 01982 551520

E:admin@wyeuskfoundation.org www.wyeuskfoundation.org

Angling associations



1. Cross Hands Angling Club

Day tickets from Red Lion, Llangadog T: 01550 777357 or Mrs Gwyneth Morgan. T: 01558 822517 www.towyfishing.co.uk Control about 15 miles of fishing including the River Tywi. **B**3



2. Gwaun Cae Gurwen Angling Association

Keith James.

T: 01269 823023 M: 0785 5615809 E: keithjames@bryn63.freeserve.co.uk www.towyfishing.co.uk Fishing on the River Tywi and Usk.

Α4



3. Gwent Angling Society

Mark Roberts. T: 01495 312508 www.gwentanglingsociety.co.uk The Gwent Angling Society was founded in 1964 and has access to two beats of the River Usk.

G4



4. Llandeilo Angling Club

Tony Stephens. T: 01269 823023 www.towyfishing.co.uk River Tywi, tickets from Mrs Gwyneth Morgan T: 01558 822517 **A4**



Angling associations



5. Llandovery Angling Society

T: 01550 720633

E: michaelad@tiscali.co.uk Fishing Tywi, Bran and Gwyddery. **B2**



6. Merthyr Tydfil Angling **Association**

Tony Rees MBA. T: 01685 723520 www.mtaa.co.uk Largest angling club in Wales. Fishing rights to several rivers and reservoirs.

E5



7. Sirhowy Angling Club

Mr Mark Jones. T: 01495 725570 www.tredegaranglingcentre.com Daily permits for River Llynfi which drains from Llangors Lake and empties into River Wye at Glasbury. F2



8. Tawe & Tributaries **Fishing Association**

Pontardawe T: 01792 863522

B5



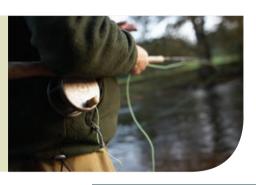
Angling associations



9. Glynneath & District Angling Association

www.fishingglynneath.co.uk
Licenses from Old White Horse Inn,
Pont-Nedd-Fechan T: 01639 721219

D5



Coarse fishing

Carp Tench Pike

Although mountains and game fishing go hand in hand, the Brecon Beacons National Park has excellent coarse fishing too. With pike waters Llandegfedd reservoir and Llangors Lake, the area is a must for pike enthusiasts. Or if river pike are your goal then the River Wye, which skirts the eastern boundary of the Park, is a place to explore. You could fish for the powerful barbel that inhabit the Wye, as well as chub, grayling and dace. There are many carp pools and lakes in the area that have fish to double figures; the Dderw Pools and Cyfarthfa Park to mention but two.

The man-made waters of Pontsticill and Pentwyn Reservoirs contain large pike, bream and perch. The Brecon and Monmouthshire Canal fed by the River Usk is creating an ideal environment for species that thrive in clean, clear running water. Chub, dace, roach, perch and bream are all to be found from Brecon town to Pontypool along this beautiful waterway. If peace and serenity with inspirational views are as important to your day's fishing as the fish themselves then you could choose no better place to be than in and around the Brecon Beacons National Park.

Left below: Brown trout.

Right: A superb Llangors pike.

Factfile

- The UK record pike was caught at Llandegfedd Reservoir.
- Barbel, though not indigenous to the River Wye, have become so prolific that the Wye has become a Mecca for barbel anglers from all over the UK.
- Llangors Lake is a natural lake and is only 5 miles from Brecon town.



Coarse fisheries



1. Belfont Lake

Glasfynydd, Belfont, Trecastle, Brecon

T· 01874 636727 www.belfontlake.co.uk

E: info@belfontlake.co.uk

Belfont Lake is a coarse fishing lake,

well stocked with carp and tench.



2. Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal

British Waterways Office, The Wharf, Govilon, Abergavenny

T: 01873 830328 This narrow canal has flowing waters where one can fish for carp, dace





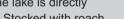
G4



3. Cyfarthfa Park Lake

and perch.

Merthyr Tydfil. Set in the grounds of Cyfarthfa Park, the lake is directly below the Castle. Stocked with roach, tench and carp. Disabled platforms.



Tickets from Merthyr Angling Centre.





4. Dderw Pool

Llvswen. Brecon T: 01874 754224 Two small pools with access for the disabled. Bream, tench, carp and roach.







Coarse fisheries



5. Llangors Lake

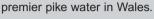
Llangors, Brecon LD3 7TR

T: 01874 658226

www.llangorselake.co.uk

E: holidays@llangorselake.co.uk

A four hundred acre lake, probably the















F S B



6. Pontsticill/Dolygaer Reservoir

This reservoir is predominantly pike, bream and perch. No fly fishing is allowed off the dam faces or overflows. no fishing in front of the sailing club marker posts. Permits from Merthyr Tydfil Angling Centre.











Coarse fishing

(The following three fisheries are just outside the National Park).



7. Springwater Lakes

Harford, Llanwrda, Carmarthenshire SA19 8DT T: 01558 650788 www.springwaterlakes.com A picturesque angling complex comprising 4 lakes (1 specimen, 1 mixed coarse, 2 trout).





















G1



Letton, Herefordshire T: 01531 890455 A small lake containing carp (low twenties) tench, roach, and chub. Large oxbow lake, once part of the River Wye, contains large pike, tench, roach and bream.

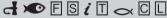


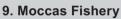












Red Lion Hotel, Bredwardine Hereford T: 01981 500303 www.red-lion-hotel.com Two half mile beats of the River Wye, available on a day ticket, contains pike, barbel, chub, dace, perch and roach.































The Wye & Usk Foundation



The Wye & Usk Foundation exists to restore and conserve the fisheries and wildlife of these two magical rivers. The Foundation is not merely a lobbying organisation: through a series of partnership projects significant sums of money have been raised to remedy problems such as habitat degradation, poor water quality, fish access and over-exploitation.

'The Passport' is a scheme that has made available over 120km of fishing. For salmon and trout, the key to success lies in the tributaries. Many have become damaged from over shading and too much bank side grazing. Streams in this condition offer neither the food nor the living accommodation - we call this 'habitat' which fish of different ages and types need, to thrive in abundance. Now trees are coppiced to limit their shade and stock is fenced off to prevent overgrazing. It is equally important to ensure salmon and trout reach the spawning tributaries. There are now over 30 sites where barriers have been removed or fish passes built to maximise the numbers surviving. Good water quality is crucial to all fish species and we have a number of schemes to achieve this, including a series of EU funded partnership projects. Trout numbers have increased by over 400% in the Rhiangoll and salmon are now found in the Cynrig upstream of the fish pass where previously there were none.

Fish passes built on the Wye and Usk tributaries.

Above right: The Rhiangoll. Below right: The Cynrig.

Left below: Peaceful day fishing on the Brecon & Monmouthshire Canal.





Book your passport

The Wye & Usk passport enables you to access salmon, trout, grayling and coarse fishing. Order your booklet for in-depth information from The Wye & Usk Foundation Dolgarreg, North Road, Builth Wells, Powys LD2 3DD

T: 01982 551520

E: admin@wyeuskfoundation.org www.wyeuskfoundation.org

Precious places



The Usk and Wye rivers are among the most precious homes to wildlife in Wales, a fact recognised in their designation as nationally and internationally important sites. The Wye & Usk Foundation is doing excellent work in restoring the eroded banks of the tributary rivers, which not only improves water quality for the fish but also provides cover for other species, most notably otter. Good thick lines of trees are also important to several bat species. including the lesser horseshoe bat, which may navigate up to 20km or so along the tree-lined rivers between summer and winter roosts. Other species like the Daubenton's bat (which passes low over the water back and forth to catch midges and other flies) and the soprano pipistrelle (Britain's smallest bat species), prefer calm waters with a rich tree-lined structure that attracts insects and cut out wind and noise that would interfere with their ultra-sound navigation.

The main river channels, particularly on the Usk, are still in need of the tender loving care that's being administered to their tributaries. Long lengths of heavily eroded and treeless banks produce high volumes of silt but, paradoxically, the exposed river cliffs provide nesting holes for sand martin, bees and beetles. In their floodplains the rivers will naturally meander, creating cliffs on outside bends (where the water is deeper and faster) and shingle bars on the inside, but this natural process has been unnaturally accelerated where trees have been removed and livestock have free access to the river. banks. The shingle bars and islands are mini-ecosystems all by themselves, with their own specialist flies, beetles and plants. Recently they have provided nesting opportunities for one of Britain's rarest summer migrants, the little-ringed plover.







Llangors Lake is one of the most wildlife-rich areas in mid and south Wales. The reed swamps and sedge beds are unusually rich in plant life, with good populations of a range of breeding birds and wildfowl as well as a wide array of passing migrants. The meadows and pastures that fringe the lake, especially on the southern shores, are amongst the most flower-rich in Powys and the lake

itself is internationally important for its water plants. The Afon Llynfi that flows through the lake was the last location where live water vole were sighted.

Further Left: Beautiful, but deadly American mink.

Left: Kim Tribe with monster brown trout.

Below: The precious brown trout.



How you can help us

Your eyes and ears can be very useful to wildlife conservation. We'd like to get a better understanding of where otters, kingfishers, sand martins and other nesting birds are and how they're doing, as well as more records of dragonflies, damsel flies, butterflies and other insects. If you see the American mink, which is a problem species because of its involvement in the demise of the water vole, then let us know. And of course if you see (or more likely hear) a water vole, we'd be especially keen to hear from you.

You can provide any records (your name and contact details, place where you saw something or even better a 6 figure ordnance survey grid reference and date of sighting) to the Biodiversity Information Service (BIS) on 01874 610 881 or www.b-i-s.org

If you want to know more about wildlife conservation or would like to get involved you can contact the Brecknock Wildlife Trust on 01874 625 708 or the National Park Authority's Biodiversity Project Officer on 01874 620 470



Δ2

E5

F5

F5

Abergavenny Guns & Tackle

9 Brecon Road, Abergavenny NP7 5UH T: 01873 853708 Good supply of fly fishing equipment, flies, maggots and worms. Rod hire by prior arrangement. Open Tuesday Saturday.

H4 **Springwater Lakes**

Harford, Llanwrda, Carmarthenshire SA19 8DT T: 01558 650788 Tackle and bait shop. Rod hire. On the site of 4 lakes, (1 specimen, 1 mixed coarse, 2 trout).

Fishtec Factory Shop

Unit 5, Ffrwdgrech Estate, Brecon LD3 8LA T: 01874 612600 www.fishtec.co.uk Extremely well stocked for both the game and coarse angler, even has a casting practice area.

E3 Sweets Fishing Tackle

14 Porthycarne Street, Usk, Monmouthshire NP15 1RY T: 01291 672552 The oldest fishing tackle shop in Wales. Specialises in fly fishing tackle.

F.W Golesworthy & Sons

17, Broad Street, Hay-on-Wye Hereford HR3 5DB T: 01497 820491 Rods, tackle, dry bait, flies, spinners, waders and all clothing for the discerning angler. Rod hire by prior arrangement.

G1 **Tredegar Angling Centre**

5a Morgan Street, Tredegar, Gwent NP22 3NA T: 01495 725570 www.tredegaranglingcentre.com Match and carp angling specialist centre. Well stocked centre, even has throw away rods for visitors!

HM Supplies Ltd

90 The Watton, Brecon LD3 7EN T: 01874 622148 Basic fishing tackle, ground bait and worms in season. Fishing permits for River Usk and the Brecon and Monmouthshire Canal.

E3 **Carl White**

D5

Fishing Tackle, The Square, Pontlottyn Rhymney T: 01685 841245 Rods, tackle, live maggot and worm, dry bait, flies, spinners, waders and a variety of clothing for the angler. Season tickets.

Merthyr Angling Centre

Cefn Coed, 185 High Street Merthyr T: 01685 379809 Everything for the coarse, game and specialist angler. Rods, tackle, live, frozen and dry bait. Day permits for game on the Upper Neuadd Reservoir, River Taff and River Usk.



Licences



Rod Licences

When you fish in Wales you will need a valid rod licence bearing your signature. Licences cover a year, starting from 1 April, they can also be purchased for eight days, or one day. You can buy your licence from any post office in England and Wales or on the internet: www.environment-agency.gov.uk/fish

You will then need to purchase daily permits or tickets to fish in the rivers.

Reservoirs, lakes and pools

Before fishing anywhere check the national and local by-laws, seasons can vary drastically and are not all the same. Methods of fishing, size limits, catch limits and when species can be taken all vary. For example in Wales salmon caught before 16 June must be released immediately.

By-law information: T: 08708 506 506 www.environment-agency.gov.uk/fish

Fishing Coaches and Guides

If you would like a qualified fishing coach or guide please check out the following websites. Whether you are experienced or just starting, the qualified coaches will ensure that you have a great time, some even supply home-made Welsh cakes! www.fishcoach.org www.gameanglinginstructors.co.uk www.fed-welshanglers.co.uk www.flyfishingwales.com

Above: Learning to wet fly fish on the Usk. Middle: First brown trout – first lesson!

Below: The smiles say it all!







Stay somewhere green!



www.greenbreconbeacons.com www.greenbeds.adventa.org.uk Make the most of your fishing trip, stay in the Brecon Beacons and use environmentally friendly accommodation. There are a range of hotels, holiday cottages, bunk houses and guesthouses that have all been accredited with the Green Dragon award. The award was set up a number of years ago as the Welsh environmental scheme which supports businesses in becoming greener and minimising the environmental impact on the area.

Both the National Park Authority and Adventa have been working hard to increase the number of accredited businesses around Adventa's Greenbeds was the first website dedicated to promoting environmentally responsible visitor accommodation in the Wye Valley and Vale of Usk. Take a look at the accredited accommodation and search the site to find the exact type and grade to suit your requirements. The National Park Authority has produced a brochure with Green Dragon accredited accommodation ask for a copy at an information centre, phone 01550 720254 or go to www.greenbreconbeacons.com

So now you can stay in this stunning area and know that you are also continuing to fish and live in an environmental way, by choosing to stay in accommodation where your impact can be minimal.

Adventa is Monmouthshire's LEADER+ rural development programme funded by the European Guidance & Guarantee Fund, Welsh Assembly Government and Monmouthshire County Council.



Above: A rewarding pint after a fantastic day fishing – Cheers!





Information Centres



This is just one of three guides which describe the wonderful fishing opportunities available in Wales' three National Parks; Brecon Beacons, Pembrokeshire and Snowdonia. To order more guides, please contact as follows:

Brecon Beacons

National Park Visitor Centre

T: 01874 623366

E: visitor.centre@breconbeacons.org

Pembrokeshire

Pembrokeshire Holidays 61 Honeyborough Industrial Estate Nevland SA73 1SE

T: 01646 602742

E: brochures@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

Snowdonia

Barmouth Tourist Information Centre Station Road Barmouth

Gwynedd LL42 1LU

T: 01341 280787

E: tourism@gwynedd.gov.uk

All three brochures are also available as downloadable PDF files at www.fishinginwalesnp.co.uk





Abergavenny

T: 01873 853254

E: Abergavenny.ic@breconbeacons.org

Brecon

T: 01874 622485

E: brectic@powys.gov.uk

Crickhowell

T: 01873 812105

E: cricktic@powys.gov.uk

Hay on Wye

T: 01497 820144

Llandovery

T: 01550 720693

E: llandovery.ic@breconbeacons.org

Merthyr Tydfil

T: 01685 379884

E: tic@merthyr.gov.uk

Pontneddfechan

T: 01639 721795

E: pontuser@breconbeacons.org

Talgarth

T: 01874 712226

E: help@talgarthtic.demon.co.uk

Useful websites

www.a-c-a.org www.breconbeacons.org

www.breconbeaconstourism.co.uk www.environment-agency.gov.uk/fish www.fishing-in-kite-country.co.uk

www.fishing.visitwales

www.wyeanduskfoundation.org www.visitbreconbeacons.org

Travelling to Brecon Beacons



Trains

There are two railways, Abergavenny and Llandovery. For train times look at www.nationalrail.co.uk

T: 08457 484950

National Express

Coaches arrive at Abergavenny and Brecon. For full information see www.nationalexpress.com

T: 08705 808080

Beacons Bus

Operates May to September Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays only.

T: 01873 853254

Δir

Cardiff International Airport www.cwlfly.com T: 01446 711111

Distance by car

Bristol to Brecon: 67 miles
Birmingham to Brecon: 87 miles
Cardiff to Brecon: 42 miles
Chester to Brecon: 109 miles
Liverpool to Brecon: 131 miles
London to Brecon: 174 miles
Newport to Brecon: 39 miles
Shrewsbury to Brecon: 78 miles

Below: Stretching the anglers skills.



Fishing in Wales' National Parks is supported by:



























Whilst every effort had been made to ensure accuracy in this publication, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority cannot accept responsibility for any errors, inaccuracies or omissions or for any matter in any way connected with or arising out of the publication of the information contained within this brochure.