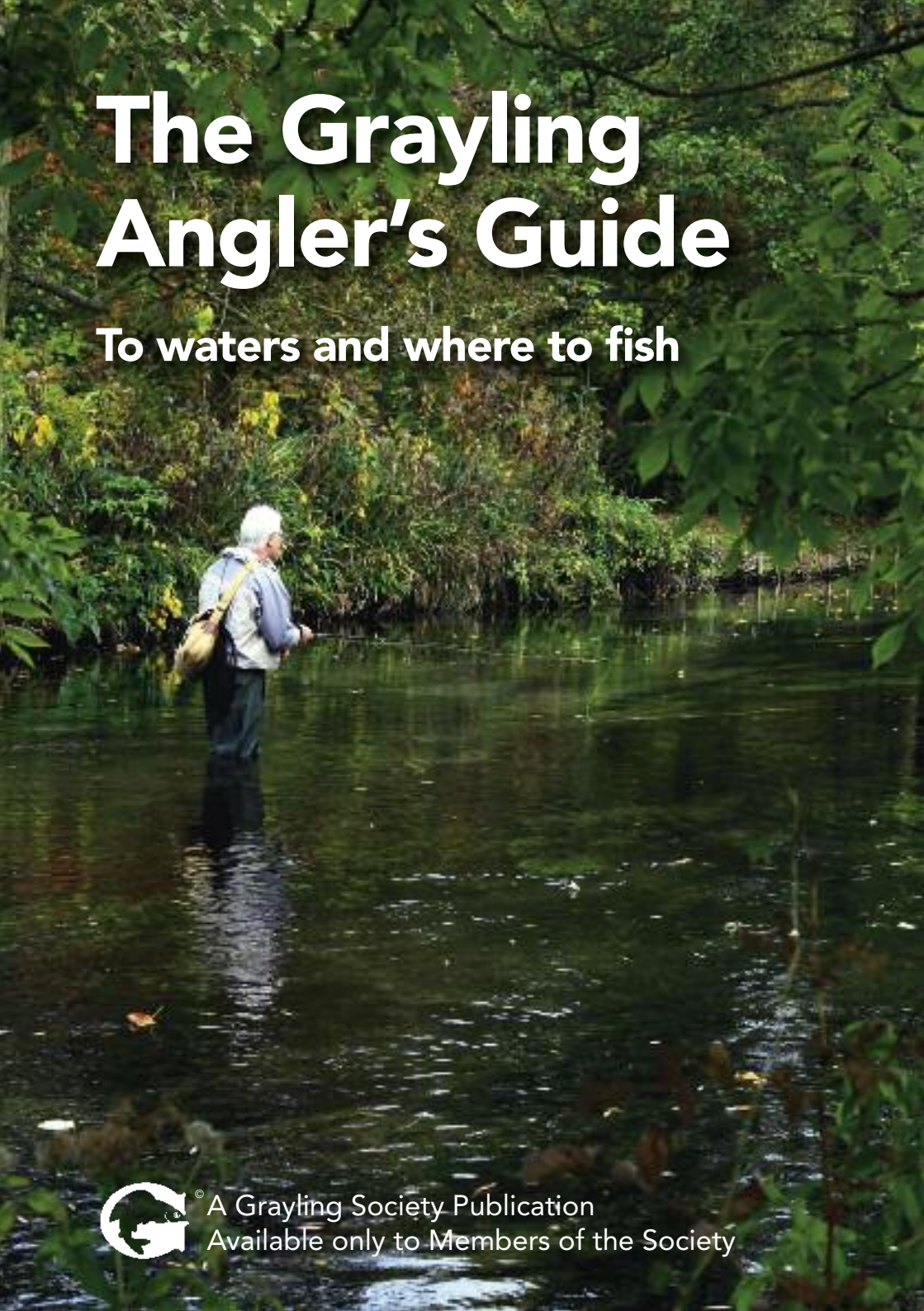
The Grayling Angler's Guide

To waters and where to fish



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The Grayling Angler's Guide

To waters and where to fish

6th Edition, 2021

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Cover image: Rob Hartley on the Test.

The Grayling Society - UK Area Secretaries



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& Northumberland

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Area 9
West, East & North Yorkshire

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Oxfordshire, Surrey, West Sussex & Wiltshire

Area 1
Devon, Cornwall, Dorset & Somerset

INTRODUCTION

In 1975 a group of enthusiastic grayling anglers got together and formed the Grayling Society with three aims: to promote Awareness, Conservation and Angling for grayling. From those early days the Society has grown from strength to strength, constantly working to improve on the three aims.

Awareness

Throughout Scotland, England and Wales the grayling is becoming more widely recognised as a valuable asset to waters instead of as vermin. Clubs and fishery owners who run trout fisheries are also seeing that opening up their waters for grayling fishing can be beneficial, extending the fishing season into the new year. As a consequence, The Lady of the Stream is now seen by many for the beautiful hard-fighting game fish that it really is.

Conservation / Research

We still know relatively little about the biology and ecology of grayling, but research by the Environment Agency, The Grayling Research Trust and other interested organisations has unlocked some of the grayling's secrets.

Angling

This guide has been published to help Grayling Society members find and visit waters in Scotland, England and Wales. It is not a definitive guide, but it is hoped that the guide is comprehensive enough to help members find and fish for grayling in waters previously unknown to them.

If you are not sure about angling club/ association availability in your particular area of the UK, a simple Google search for fishing clubs may just surprise you.

PLEASE REMEMBER, DETAILS FOR WATERS CAN AND DO CHANGE, SO CHECK BEFORE SETTING OUT ON YOUR FISHING TRIP.



COLLECTING GRAYLING RIVERS

By the late John Brennand
President of The Grayling Society
2004-2013



Grayling river collecting is an affliction to which most sensible anglers are immune. I caught it from Reg Righyni, during the many happy years we fished together.

First let me say that Reg took a generous view of the term "river"- applying it to any water with its own name, source, or formed by the confluence of distinct streams. The mighty Tay and the tiny Kings Somborne Brook had equal status. He also included still waters and canals.

The criterion for claiming a new river is a grayling brought to hand by fair, though not necessarily purist, angling. In Scotland we fished in winter, mainly November and December, and trotted small worms. I have also used maggot and sweetcorn and one winter caught a grayling on baby orange peel. From the Midlands southwards, most of our grayling were caught in the autumn on fly.

Also, although river collecting inevitably leads to numbers, that modern distraction, the league table, has no place. During each angler's lifetime, opportunities vary. Some rivers lose grayling and others gain them. Only circumstances and mortality curtail the endless possibilities. I know that those with extensive experience of grayling fishing worldwide will smile kindly on my collection of British brooks and burns (and major rivers famous throughout the angling world) and acknowledge that what we have in common is the delight in seeing what is round the next bend, and in the next valley.

The Pill Hill Brook illustrates many points. Reg's standing in the angling world had brought an invitation to fish for grayling on a beautiful stretch of the Test, which we did successfully and gratefully. Reg's scouts had also arranged permission on other new rivers in those parts. Eventually the Pill Hill Brook was the goal and I must admit that at this stage in my apprenticeship I tagged along rather reluctantly, thinking, "What, leave the Test, for the Pill Hill Brook?"

I perked up when I spotted a nice grayling about a yard beyond a screen of bankside rushes. A dry fly dangled and drifted over it induced several rises, but no actual offer. A Sawyer Bug in midwater was ignored, but the addition of a shot to take the bug to eye level induced a confident take. A northern angler, unused to such visual excitement, I was by now in a fair state of tizzy. I forgot that my landing net was on an elasticated lanyard, and allowed it to recoil just as the fish was about to enter. Reg also was unsuccessful so we had to go back a year or two later.

Next time on a Sawyer Bug, I managed to extract a grayling from so difficult a lie, in the gap upstream of a plank bridge and willow, that even my mentor was impressed. Inspired, he cast over the barbed wire down the tunnel of trees and

hooked a grayling, which fortunately I managed to reach over another strand of barbed wire in the thicket below. Just two good grayling and the day was made, an experience we would have missed had success crowned our first visit.

My list contains some famous grayling rivers – Teviot, Tummel, Tweed, Tay, Tees and Till amongst them. Some rivers, though not famed for grayling, are absent. I have caught grayling in tributaries of Thames, Trent and Tyne and now hanker after the main rivers - a slim chance, I suspect.

On a family holiday the nagging realisation that Perth to Launceston and back involves a round trip of over a thousand miles gradually got to me. After losing a grayling early on, I then persisted with the wrong options for the rest of the afternoon and departed blank from the most prolific pool on the Tamar.

Also in the list are many small waters where grayling are present, probably only in the last few hundred yards. In two, the Aldbourn and the Dunning Burn, the grayling were caught twenty yards from the confluence. In many of these little rivers I caught only one small grayling. A small grayling from a small stream: why bother? I agree this does not appeal to some anglers but in others it rekindles the excitement of childhood exploits, when to catch a little fish was a memorable event. However, my only Ale grayling weighed 2 pounds. I take credit for exploring a lot of these tributaries myself, but on others I was led by the hand and given inch-perfect advice.

These are some of the essentials for successful river collecting:

1) As always in angling – opportunity and good luck.

2) Essential: domestic understanding, tolerance and even blessing.

3) Sympathetic friends and kindly strangers (many of whom became friends) prepared to explore waters in their area on your behalf.

4) Kind people willing to allow eccentrics to fish where access is normally restricted.

5) A willingness to travel on the off-chance of success.

6) A certain pig-headed persistence – as found occasionally in Yorkshire men.

7) A modicum of angling versatility.

8) A cool head when struggling to catch a rising fish, miles from home, when this may be the only chance. Coolness, alas, may evaporate at the critical moment.

9) Concentration on the task in hand: in a new area, with the possibility of several new rivers in one day, catch a grayling in the river of your choice, before anticipating the next.

10) A clear head: don't partake too freely on the night before.

11) A delight in William Caine's "little graylings" – they may be all the water has to offer on the day.

12) A readiness to fish amongst the shopping trolleys, which may go hand in hand with seeing a town kingfisher.

Finally, a health warning: river collecting is addictive.

Acknowledgements

In recent years many anglers have contacted me with offers of help, some of which I have been able to take up. Where I have not yet responded this is simply because of lack of opportunity – due to other commitments, distance, the shortness of the season etc. I keep hoping. Meantime, I would like to give my warmest thanks to all who have helped me to fish in so many different waters, by my own efforts I would have achieved only a fraction of this experience and enjoyment.

The following list, originally compiled by John Brennand, shows the rivers and their tributaries in which he caught grayling, together with a few additions from other members.

AST SCOTLAND / NORTHUMBERLAND

River	Tributary (1)	Tributary (2)	Tributary (3)
Tay	Lyon		
	Tummel	Loch Faskally	Garry
	Isla	Dean Water	Kerbet Water
		Ericht	
		Lunan Burn	
		Keithick Burn	
	Braan		
	Shochie Burn		
	Almond		
Earn	Pow		
	Machany Water		
	Ruthven Water		
	Dunning Burn		
Teith	Eas Gobhain		
Water of Leith			
North Esk *(Midlothian)*			
Tweed	Lyne		
	Ettrick		
	Gala Water		
	Leader		
	Teviot	Rule	
		Ale	
		Jed	
		Oxnam	
		Kale	
	Eden		
	Leet		
	Till	Glen	Bowmont Water
		Wooler Water	
	Alan Water *(trib. of R. Forth)*		

WEST SCOTLAND

River	Tributary (1)	Tributary (2)	Tributary (3)
Clyde	Duneaton Water		
	Coulter Water		
	Medwin		
	Duglas Water		
	Mouse		
	Nethan		
	Avon	Kype	
	South Calder		
	White Cart		
	Gryfe	Locher Water	
Ayr	Lugar		
	Water of Coyle		
Annan	Kinnel Water		
	Dryfe Water		
Nith	Cairn		

NORTH WEST ENGLAND

River	Tributary (1)	Tributary (2)	Tributary (3)
Eden	Hoff Beck		
	Eamont		
	Irthing		
Ribble	Hodder		
	Calder		

NORTH EAST ENGLAND

River	Tributary (1)	Tributary (2)	Tributary (3)
Blyth	Pont		
Derwent			
Wear			
Tees			

YORKSHIRE

River	Tributary (1)	Tributary (2)	Tributary (3)
Whitby Esk			
Derwent	Thornton Beck		
	Rye	Seph	
		Riccal	
		Dove	
		Seven	
		Costa Beck	Oxfolds Beck
			Pickering Beck
Swale	Skeedby Beck		
	Bedale Beck		
	Cod Beck		
Ure	Cover		
	Skell	Laver	
Nidd			
Wharfe			
Aire	Calder	Colne	Holme
Don			
Driffield Beck			

DERBYSHIRE/STAFFORDSHIRE

River	Tributary (1)	Tributary (2)	Tributary (3)
Grayton Brook			
Dove	Manifold		
	Churnet		
	Tean		
Derwent	Noe		
	Wye		

WALES/SHROPSHIRE/HEREFORDSHIRE

River	Tributary (1)	Tributary (2)	Tributary (3)
Dee	Tryweryn		
	Alwen		
Severn	Teme	Leigh Brook	
		Ledwych Brook	
		Corve	
		Onny	
		Gosford Brook	
		Clun	Redlake
			Kemp
	Vyrnwy	Tanat	
		Cain	
		Banwy	
		Morda	
	Camlad		
	Rhiw		
	Mule		
	Mochdre Brook		
	Carno		
	Trannon		
	Clywedog		
	Dulas		
Wye	Trothy		
	Monnow	Dore	
		Honddu	
	Garren Brook		
	Lugg	Arrow	
		Pinsley Brook	
		Hindwell	
	Llynfi		
	Irfon		
	Ithon		
	Elan		
Taff			
Rhymney			

SOUTHERN ENGLAND

River	Tributary (1)	Tributary (2)	Tributary (3)
Coln			
Windrush			
Pang			
Kennet	Aldbourn		
West Rother	Lod		
Meon			
Itchen	Alre		
Test	Bourne		
	Dever		
	Anton	Pill Hill Brook	
		Golden Stream	
	Wallop Brook		
	Kings		
	Sombourne Brook		
	Dun		
	Blackwater		
Avon	Nadder	Wylye	Till
	Bourne		
	Ebble		
	Allen River		
Stour (Dorset)	Shreen		
	Allen		
Frome (Dorset)	Frome (Dorset)		



Lower Itchen Fishery

GRAYLING SOCIETY FISHING GUIDE

SCOTLAND

Grayling Society Area 12

By Alan Ayre

There were no grayling in Scotland until they were introduced to the Clyde from Derbyshire in 1855. Subsequent years saw more introductions, and now the following rivers and some of their tributaries hold grayling – Ayr; Clyde; the Tay system including Earn, Isla, & Tummel; Annan; Nith; Tweed and Teviot. In the Forth catchment, the Almond, Esk, Water of Leith, Teith and the Forth itself have seen them introduced in recent years. These are principally salmon rivers, it is de rigueur to give way to salmon anglers, and good practice is essential to help allay salmon interests' lingering suspicions that grayling anglers are poachers. (note, there are no grayling north of the Pitlochry area, but grayling are now to be found in the lower Garry.)

As there is no closed season for grayling in Scotland they can be fished for throughout the year, but the Spring months when they are spawning should be avoided. Though ticket costs are rising at some venues, prices are generally modest and a rod licence is not required. Many clubs and riparian owners apply varying restrictions, particularly in the winter months, so it is best to make enquiries before travelling (typing their name into a search engine like Google can often produce useful information).

Important note - There are Protection Orders on the Clyde, Earn, Tay, Tummel, and Tweed, which make it a criminal offence to fish for them without a ticket. Anglers should also be aware of precautions necessary to prevent the introduction of, and the transfer of signal crayfish and other non-native pests.

River Ayr

The Ayr and tributaries such as the Coyle and the Lugar Water were once prolific grayling streams, but in recent years stocks plummeted due to intensive dairying and open-cast coal mining. Efforts to improve water quality and habitat by the Ayrshire Rivers Trust are helping, and grayling can still be caught in places. The River Irvine too once had grayling but they are now considered to have died out some time ago.See www.ayrshireriverstrust.org

1) Ayr A.C. No winter fishing, but a £10 day ticket (D/t) from Gamesport, The Sandygate, Ayr, Tel: 01292 263822, allows trout and grayling fishing from 15th March to 31st October. www.gamesportofayr.co.uk

2) Ladykirk A.C. may grant access to bona fide grayling anglers. Contact secretary Iain Robertson Tel: 07878 001689.

3) Tarbolton and Failford A.C. D/ts available 15th March to 31st October through Gamesport of Ayr. Tel: 01292 26382.

4) Mauchline and Ballochmyle A.C Contact Secretary Max Stobbs, Tel: 01290 420301.

5) Auchinleck A.C. D/ts available from Mitchells Shop, Auchinleck between 15th March and 31st Oct, but like the main river there are few grayling now in the Lugar Water tributary. Contact Sec. Billy Blackmore, Tel: 07979480690.

6) Catrine A.C. Winter access possible. Contact Mr. W. McKinnon, 44 Gordon St, Catrine, Tel: 07837890663.

7) Sorn A.C. Closed to fishing Oct to Jan and on Saturdays. Otherwise, D/t from J. McMahon, 25 Main Street, Sorn.

8) Muirkirk A.C. D/t between 1st Dec to 14th March from Joe Timmins, 38 Hareshaw Crescent, Muirkirk, East Ayrshire, KA18 3PY Tel: 01290 661114.

River Clyde

(Tributaries: River Avon, River Gryffe)

After grayling were introduced to the Clyde in 1855 they prospered, and the river still has a good though fluctuating population.

There have been reports of occasional very big fish mainly from the upper river, where there is now a large population of signal crayfish. The lower river, up to impassable falls at Lanark, has an increasingly important salmon run.

1) United Clyde A.P.A. has many miles of main river above Motherwell Bridge plus some tributaries. Season tickets are available for trout at a reasonable cost, with both winter day and season tickets available for grayling. Tickets available widely from tackle shops, tourist offices and from village shops in Abington and Crawford, and from Richies Fishing Tackle, Wishaw, Tel: 01698 375008. See www.ucapaltd.co.uk/

2) Lamington and District A.I.A. has 9 miles of B.B. from Thankerton to Roberton. D/ts available for trout and grayling or grayling only available from 7th October to 31st January. Tickets available from Bryden Newsagents, 153 High St., Biggar, Tel: 01899 220069. No Sunday fishing. See: www.lamingtonfishing.co.uk/

3) Hozier A.C. issues D/ts for trout and grayling for about 6 miles of B.B. of river from Easter Sills Farm to Kirkfieldbank Bridge. Tickets available from the garden centre at Hyndford Bridge.

River Avon (Clyde tributary)

1) Avon A.C. has 14 miles of river between Larkhall and Strathaven for members only. No D/ts but annual membership available at a very reasonable cost to all comers from local shops in Strathaven and Stonehouse, also from Anglers Attic, Caledonian Road, Wishaw, tel: 01698 359757, and Clydestyle Fishing in Crossford, Tel: 01555 861223. See www.theavonanglingclub.co.uk

2) Upper Avon A.A. now issues permits for the upper stretches of the Avon. These are available from local shops in Strathaven, Stonehouse and Larkhall, also from Clydestyle Fishing Crossford 01555 861223 or Anglers' Rendezvous, Tel: 0141 778 6666. See www.upperavonangling.co.uk

River Gryfe (Gryffe)

(Clyde tributary)

It is recommended that any GS member wishing to fish for grayling anywhere on the Gryfe should contact Neil Sinclair (see Strathgryfe A.A.) in the first instance.

1) Strathgryfe A.A. has about three-quarters of a mile of grayling fishing LB from Milton Bridge downstream to the March Dyke (approximately mid-way between Milton and Craigends (Quarriers) bridges). Contact President Neil Sinclair (GS member). Tel: 0141 580 6723

2) Bridge of Weir (River) Angling Club has three miles BB from the March Dyke above Craigends (Quarriers) Bridge downstream to Bridge of Weir village. Contact President John Blair Tel: 07423 019381.

3) Paisley Abercorn AC has about 5 miles BB from Bridge of Weir village to Black Cart confluence. Also White Cart from Hawkhead Road, Paisley upstream to Crookston Road Bridge, Glasgow. Contact Sandy Marshall, Hooked on Fishing, 82 Paisley Road, Renfrew, PA4 8EY. Tel: 0141 589 3783. See also www.paisleyabercornanglingclub.wordpress.com

Rivers Forth and Teith

(Tributaries: Almond, Esk, Water of Leith)

Grayling have in recent years 'appeared' in parts of the rivers Forth and Teith, and the lower reaches of the Allan Water at Stirling. They seem well established, but most owners and the salmon board (see www.fishforth.co.uk/) are reluctant to allow access for winter angling because of salmon

poaching. However, **Stirling Council** provides a winter season ticket for its beats at Stirling and Callander. Contact Rab Brown on 01324 552849 for more information.

Rivers Forth and Teith

Stirling Council provides a grayling winter season ticket for its beats at Stirling (Forth) and Callander (Teith) via its fisheries officer on 01786 442932 (see: www.stirling.gov.uk and click F on the ribbon). Contact Rab Brown on 01324 552849 for more information.

River Almond (Forth Tributary)

Grayling were introduced around the 1960s, but pollution prevented them thriving. Water quality has since improved and a few fish have been caught in recent years in the the main river and some tributaries in the Livingston area. Further upstream, the fishing is in the hands of riparian owners who don't issue tickets, but tend not to object to people fishing.

1) West Lothian AA has 7 miles BB from Kirkton Weir in Livingston downstream to Clifton Aqueduct. D/ts available via tackle shops in Livingston, Bathgate, and Edinburgh. See: www.westlothiananglingassociation.co.uk

2) Cramond AC issues trout d/ts to the lower Almond (where grayling are said to be absent). See www.fishalmond.co.uk/index.php or contact the club via: Calum McRoberts, Vice-Chairman, Cramond Angling Club, 1/4 Turnhouse Farm Road, Edinburgh, Midlothian EH12 0AT

Lothian Esk (Forth tributary)

Grayling are being caught in reasonable numbers and to a good size on the Lothian Esk in recent seasons. In consequence,

Musselburgh & District Angling Association (MDAA) have introduced a limited-number winter grayling permit for the water they lease on the Lothian Esk. The permit has been introduced to manage fishing pressure on grayling on a short stretch of river, while recognising the demand. The permit runs from January 1st to March 15th. They have also imposed a close season for grayling from March 15th to June 15th. Thereafter, grayling can be fished for on the normal MDAA summer season permit, which includes brown trout, sea trout and salmon. All MDAA permits are available from the Ace Bike Co, 101 N High St, Musselburgh EH21 6JE.

Water of Leith (Forth tributary)

Grayling 'appeared' in the river around 1980 and seem to be well established.

City of Edinburgh Council issues free permits for trout and grayling through their Recreation Dept, tackle shops, and POs at Colinton, Juniper Green, Currie, and Balerno. Fly only above Slateford, but grayling occur mainly downstream from here and are caught within the city. No fishing October to March inclusive. See www.waterofleith.org.uk/fishing/

River Annan

Holds salmon, sea trout, some big wild brown trout and grayling, chub and other coarse fish. For more information see www.annanfisheryboard.co.uk/ABOUTANAN.html

1) Tickets can be pre-booked online for the following beats: Annandale Estates, Applegarth, Brocklerigg, Cleuchhead, Hoddom, Jardine Hall, Kirkwood, Royal Four Towns and St. Mungo's. Otherwise, by phoning 01573 470612 or 01576 407600 and using a credit or debit card, the fishing can be booked and tickets sent by post. For more information, pricing and availability see www.fishannan.co.uk. Tickets for Annandale Estates and for Applegarth can also be sourced by phoning 01576 470317 or A Dickson on 01683 300592 respectively.



Water of Ae (Tributary of the River Annan)

Applegarth is one of Upper Annandale AA's beats, see www.riverannan.co.uk/upper/index.htm

2) Everholm Park Beat - C&R tickets are available locally from the council office in Annan High Street.

3) Kirkwood Beat has quality grayling and chub. Contact owner A. Steele, Kirkwood, Lockerbie, Tel: 01576 510200, who advertises winter fishing breaks. See www.kirkwoodlockerbie.co.uk/

River Kinnel (Annan tributary)

D/ts for approx a mile LB available from farmer at Todhillmuir Farm, Templand.

River Nith

A fine salmon and seatrout river with brown trout and excellent grayling fishing. See www.fishpal.com/Scotland/Nith/GraylingFishing.asp?dom=Nith

1) New Cumnock AA offers a cheap 12 month S/t, and will consider a grayling D/ts on application for their water at the top of the Nith. Contact Peter Bain on 01290 338480.

2) Upper Nithsdale AC has 14 miles BB plus tribs. Salmon D/ts 15th March to 30th November from Pollock& McLean, Solicitors, 59-61 High St., Sanquhar, DG4 6 DT Tel: 01659 50241. Winter grayling in January and February only. No Sunday fishing.

3) Dumfries & Galloway Council issues D/ts for salmon and for trout for 4 miles BB through its Housing Dept at 81-85 Irish St., Dumfries, Tel: 01387 253166, and the tourist office, allowing grayling to be targeted, but no winter fishing from 1st December to 25th February.

4) Barjarg Estate and Dalswinton Estate both offer good grayling fishing from 1st December to 31st March. Contact ghillie Dougie Smith, Brandyburn Farm, Auldgirth, DG2 0XG Tel: 07738015793.

5) Dumfries & Galloway AA control 3.5 miles of river holding specimen grayling. D/ts available to GS members at very reasonable cost, from 1st December to 24th February. Fly only and no wading. Tickets to be prebooked from tackle shop:
D. McMillan, 6 Friars Vennel, Dumfries, DG1 2LA, Tel: 01387 252075.
President: R. Marshall Tel: 01387 261217.

6) Friars Carse Hotel, Auldgirth, Tel: 01387 740388 offers grayling fishing 1st December to end February, and has self catering cottages. See www.friarscarse.co.uk/

River Cairn (Nith tributary)

Dumfries & Galloway Council (see above) has 2.5 miles of water.

River Tay

(Tributaries: Rivers Earn, Isla. Lyon, Tummel)

A mighty river, the Tay can be intimidating. It has many grayling in places, especially in the middle reaches, though they are not always easy to find. They can be fished for at any time of the year, but April to May should be avoided when they are spawning. Beat rules tend to vary, bait fishing is generally not allowed in the trout season, and you must give way to salmon anglers. See www.tayfishing.co.uk for more information for the Tay mainstem.

1) Taymouth A.C. has 2 miles R.B. from Kenmore to R. Lyon. D/ts from Taymouth Castle Estates or Kenmore P.O. Tel: 01887 830200 (Trout season only).

2) Upper Tay (from R.Lyon to Logierait) - D/t from Wades newsagents in Aberfeldy, Tel 01887 820397, covers several beats on this 10 mile stretch, from 7th Oct to 14th March. In trout season Aberfeldy AC and other owners sell D/ts for individual beats. Contact R M Stewart, 18 Rannoch Rd, Aberfeldy, PH15 2BU, Tel: 01887 829512.

3) Dunkeld & Birnam A.A. issues D/t for 5

miles RB; D/ts from Dunkeld Post Office. Fly only during trout season. The club also issues fly only trout/grayling D/ts for several miles downstream from Dunkeld where winter fishing is not allowed. See: www.dunkeldandbirnamangling.co.uk

4) Newtyle Beat 1 Km DB with LB better of the two. See: www.fishpal.com/Scotland/Tay/Newtyle(Trout)/?dom=Tay

5) Murthly Beat D/t from Nisa store, Perth Road, Murthly. Tel: 01738 710061.

6) Ballathie House Hotel and Ballathie Estate has 1 mile RB mainly salmon fishing. Tel. 01250 883268. www.ballathiehousehotel.com/sporting/Fishing.html

7) Perth and District A.A. issues day tickets for 7 beats between Logierait and Stobhall, via Birnam Village Shop (Tel: 01350 727395; 3, Murthly Terrace, Birnam, Dunkeld PH8 0BG) Open 6.30am-9.00pm Mon-Sat, 6.30am-8pm Sun. Or by phoning the PDAA President Ted Eadie, 13 Queens Avenue, Perth, PH2 0EL Tel: 01738 620702 Mob: 07949 971461. Website: https://pdaa.co.uk/

8) Stanley and District A.C. issue D/ts for six beats, each up to 3 miles, from Meikleour D/s to Luncarty, mainly R.B. D/ts available from Stanley P.O. Tel: 01738 828206 or Tayside Hotel on Sundays 01738 828249. Bait fishing allowed in the winter, but only fly, or worm on fly tackle in the trout season. Stanley Mills stretch is popular.

9) Stormont A.C. has 3 miles LB between Stormontfield and Scone. Applications for tickets to Scone Estate Office Tel: 01738 552308. Pre-booking essential. Trotting considered on request. Wading discouraged because of salmon redds.

River Earn (Major Tay tributary)

Historically (ie BC – before cormorants) one of Scotland's best grayling rivers. Winter fishing season dates vary, but November to 15th January on many beats. Ask before travelling.

1) Comrie A.C. D/ts for 1st February to 30th September only, from The Delicatessen, Drummond St, Comrie. Tel: 01764 670253.

2) Lochlane & Laggan. 2 miles mainly RB. D/t from Crieff Tourist Office Tel: 01764 652578, or fishery manager John Young, Tel: 01764 670361. No wading.

3) Crieff A.C. D/ts for Upper Strowan, Braidhaugh, & Drummond Castle beats from Adam Boyd, Newsagent, King St, Crieff, Tel: 01764 653871, Braidhaugh caravan park, and the tourist office, High St, Crieff, Tel: 01764 652578. Fly only in summer. Winter grayling fishing restricted to Drummond beat from 15 November to 15 January, when trotting is allowed but wading is NOT permitted. Popular stretch. See www.crieffanglingclub.org.uk

4) Strageath (1/2 mile RB) Beat. D/t from F. Thomson, Ironmonger, 9 East High St, Crieff. Tel: 01764 652255. Limited number of rods, prior arrangement essential.

5) Innerpeffray and Colqhalzie Beats. Limited access. Apply in writing saying you are a GS member to CD Lowson, 11 St. Bean Court, Auchterarder, PH3 1QP

6) Kinkell Bridge. D/t for 2 miles BB, 15th November to 15th January, from ghillie Sandy McIntosh Tel: 01738 730271. Heavily fished, but prolific beat. Phone in advance. Summer D/t sometimes available. No sweetcorn or ground baiting. See www.kinkellfishings.co.uk

7) Auchterarder AC (Denfield Beat). ½ mile RB, D/t from Auchterarder Motors Tel: 01764 662136. Can be good.

8) Upper Aberuthven. ¾ mile RB. D/t from E Haggart, Baillielands Farm. Tel: 01764 662609 for availability.

9) Lower Aberuthven. ¾ mile RB. D/t from J Haggart, Haugh of Aberuthven farm, Tel: 01738 730206.

10) Trinity Gask. 3 miles LB. D/t from the

Kinkell ghillie. Prior booking essential. See www.trinitygask.co.uk/

11) Gask Estate. 1 mile LB. D/t from John McCallum's (GS member) butchers shop, at 201 High Street, Auchterarder Tel: 01764 662128.

12) Dunning A.C. 1.5 miles RB at Dalreoch Bridge. D/t 1st November to 31st January from Marshall Garden Centre. Tel: 01764 684600, or contact G Carstairs, 4 Tron Square, Dunning, Tel: 01764 684510.

13) Broomhill. ½ mile RB. Winter grayling D/t from V G Store Dunning, Tel: 01764 684247 or from GS Drummond, Tel: 07785 594098.

14) Dupplin Estates. Contact Estates Office Tel: 01738 622757. Winter D/t & S/t (15th November to 15th January). Also D/t in trout season for each of two stretches, Wester Cairnie, (1.5 miles LB), and Forteviot/ Aberdalgie, (3 miles RB and 2 miles LB).

15) Kirkton of Mailer. ¾ mile LB. D/t from Mr. McGregor Tel: 01738 812210.

16)Freelands. Tel: F. Angus on 01738 812268. Tidal and can be difficult.

River Isla (Tay tributary)

Strathmore Angling Improvement Association has extensive fishing on the Isla, and its tributaries Dean Water and Kerbet Water. No Dt/s, but a cheap annual ticket which serves for both trout and grayling is available from tackle shops in Dundee, Forfar, and Blairgowrie. Contact Sec: G McIntosh 4 Douglas Terrace, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 1EA, Tel: 01382 737938.

River Ericht (Isla tributary)

Winter fishing below Blairgowrie is available to GS members through Kate Fleming Tackle in Blairgowrie. Tel: 01250 873990. Blairgowrie, Rattray and District AA also issues some tickets. See www.brdaa.co.uk

River Lyon (Tay tributary)

Good trout, with a few grayling in the lower reaches.

Tirinie Beat, 1 mile LB from Keltneyburn to River Tay. D/t from Highland Safaris. Tel: 01887 820071.

River Tummel (Major Tay tributary)

Another big river with the lower reaches (where the grayling live) controlled by the dam that impounds Loch Faskally. It contains some bruisers.

Pitlochry A.C issues Dt, weekly tickets or whole year tickets for 5 miles BB from Pitlochry to Ballinluig, either directly from the club's website (see below), or over the counter at Pitlochry Tourist Information Centre and Ballinluig service station. See www.pitlochryanglingclub.com and permits can be bought online through the website.

River Tweed

(Tributaries: River Eden, River Teviot, River Till)

A renowned salmon river with some excellent grayling fishing that is becoming more available as appreciation of 'The Lady' grows. Sunday fishing is, however, largely barred, and most beats have restrictions on bait fishing, so check before you fish. For information on most club waters see www.fishpal.com/Scotland/Tweed/TroutClubs.asp?dom=Tweed

1) Coldstream & District AA has some good Tweed fishing. D/ts from Moffats Newsagent, Coldstream, Tel: 01890 882235 and the PO in Cornhill on Tweed. Contact M. Young, Green Acres, Sprouston, Kelso, Tel: 01573 226411. See www.mediamice.net/CDAA

2) Kelso & District AA has 8 miles on Tweed and Teviot. D/ts from local outlets including Forrest & Sons, 40 The Square, Tel: 01573 2246878, and Tweedside Tackle, 36/38

Bridge St. Tel: 01573 225306. Tel: also 01835 850380.

3) Ladykirk & Norham AA has 2 miles BB from Norham Bridge to Horndean Burn. D/ts from Victoria Hotel Tel. 01289 382437, Mace Shop, Masons Arms Hotel and others. Contact J Cameron on 01289 382481.

4) Melrose & District AA has 2 miles on Tweed. Season from 1st August to 1st March. D/ts from Croall Bryson Garage, Melrose, Tel: 01896 822400. Contact T. McLeish, Planetree Cottage, Newstead, Melrose, Tel:01896 822232.

5) Peeblesshire Trout Fishing Association has over twenty miles of Tweed, though some stretches are closed in the winter grayling season (1st January to 31st March). Fly only, no bait fishing. D/ts and S/ts (1st January to 30th September) available from outlets in Peebles and villages in the area, and tackle shops in Edinburgh. Contact Sec. P Reith, St. Fillans, Wells Brae, Innerleithen, Tel: 01896 830285. www.peeblesshiretroutfishing.co.uk/

6) St Boswells & Newtown Districts AA provide D/ts for the periods 1st December to 31st January and 15th June to 30th September via Borders Gun Room, Main St., St Boswells, Tel: 01835 822844 and other outlets. Contact W Rodger, Brunty Burn, Ancrum, TD8 6TZ. Tel: 01835 830714. See alsowww.stboswellsangling.org.uk/index.htm for more information.

7) Gala AA opened its water on Tweed for winter grayling, December and January, in 2008. See fishpal website (above). Contact Sec. S Gzybowski on 07753 624664.

River Leader (Tweed tributary)

1) Earlston AA has the lower five miles BB of this productive small river. Season from 1st Jan to 30 Sept. Tickets from the Earlston service station, but no D/ts on Saturdays. Contact J Maclennan Tel: 01896 849162. See www.crownflyfishers.co.uk/Earlston.htm

River Teviot (Tweed tributary)

Within recent years the Teviot has gained a huge reputation for its big grayling.

1) Kelso AA has several miles around Roxburgh. Details under River Tweed above.

2) Hawick AA has much good fishing on Tweed and several of its tribs. D/ts from the PO, Sandbed, Hawick, TD9 0HE, and Shaws Newsagent, Canongate, Jedburgh, TD8 6AJ, Tel: 01835 863245. Contact Sec. R, 6 Sandbed, Hawick, Tel: 01450 372266.

3) Jedforest AA has several miles of water. Winter grayling season from 1st November to 21st March. D/ts from Shaws Newsagent, Canongate, and Taylor's Newsagent, High St. Jedburgh, Mikes Tackle Shop in Edinburgh, and they can also be booked online via the fishpal website. See also www.btinternet.com/~jedforestaa/

River Till (Tweed tributary)

1) Millfield, (Northumberland). Several beats available for the visiting angler around Ford. Permits from both Millfield and Ford POs, and Ford & Ethal estates office, Tel: 01890 820224. No Sunday fishing.

2) Castle Heaton and Shellacres. Although this is mainly a migratory fish water permits to fish for grayling are available from Edwin Thompson, 44/48 Hide Hill, Berwick, Tel: 01289 304432 or 01896 751300 (office). Also from 5 Shellacres Cottages, Cornhill on Tweed, Tel: 01289 382608. Please be aware that we have been told that permission to fish Shellacres beat has been withdrawn.

3) Tiptoe Farm has D/ts for 1 mile of water and has self catering cottages.
Tel: Lucy Carroll on 01890 882177, or see www.till-fishing.co.uk

USEFUL ORGANISATIONS IN SCOTLAND

NATIONAL BODIES

Marine Scotland
Aquaculture and Recreational Fisheries
Area 1 B North, Victoria Quay,
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ
Tel: 0131 244 4000
www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse
www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/science

Fisheries Management Scotland (FMS)
11 Rutland Square,
Edinburgh EH1 2AS
Tel: 0131 272 2797
www.fms.scot

Scottish Anglers' National Association
The Pier, Loch Leven,
Kinross KY13 8UF
Tel: 01577 861116
www.sana.org

Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Website www.sepa.org.uk/water.aspx includes a useful river levels facility.

Scottish Federation for Coarse Angling
www.sfca.co.uk

TOURIST INFORMATION

VisitScotland HQ
Ocean Point One, 94 Ocean Drive,
Edinburgh, EH6 6JH
Tel: 0131 472 2222

Local visitor information centre details can be found at www.visitscotland.org
fishpal.com sells an increasing number of grayling tickets and gives very useful displays of SEPA height information that complement those on SEPA's own website very well – they are corrected so that they directly display heights above summer level, and daily heights for the full calendar year are displayed. Only certain of the rivers are on fishpal.



St. Mungo's Parish (River Annan)

ENGLAND

England is the part of the British Isles, which seems to have the greatest diversity of rivers with thriving populations of grayling. It has also a North South divide, with the free stone spate rivers with their head-waters high in the northern hills and Pennines, tumbling their way towards either the Irish or North Seas. In the South however we have chalk streams with their high pH, lush rafts of water plant-life and their relentless steady flow bubbling up from the aquifers of the chalk downs. There are inevitably exceptions that prove the rule; the most famous of these is Driffield Beck, in East Yorkshire, which is the most northerly true chalk stream in England, drawing its waters from the Yorkshire Wolds.

Prince Albert Angling Society has around 30 rivers throughout England and Wales that have resident grayling in them.

PAAS is the largest angling society in Europe which is highlighted by the waiting list for membership.

However, there is NO waiting list for juniors, females or senior citizens. For more information visit www.paas.co.uk/

THE NORTH WEST

The rivers in this part of England flow mainly West from their head waters high in the Pennine fells to the Irish Sea. These rivers are known for their very good salmon, sea Trout and wild brown trout fishing. Some of these rivers are also known for their excellent grayling fishing. Unfortunately in Lancashire, the home county of Pritt, day ticket waters are very limited, but never the less well worth investigating.

CUMBRIA

Grayling Society Area 10

River Eden

1) Carlisle A.A. has 7 miles of fishing on the Eden and River Caldew (an Eden tributary). There are some big grayling and both fly and bait methods are allowed. Grayling season 15th October to 14th January, inclusive. No day tickets available, but weekly tickets are £15 and season tickets £25. Tickets are available from the Tourist Information Centre in Carlisle city centre or contact Nigel Austin, CAA secretary on 01228 592745. CAA website: www.carlisleanglingassociation.org.uk/

2) Warwick Hall Estate has an excellent two mile stretch of the lower Eden. All methods permitted and grayling fishing is available from 15th October to 14th February. D/ts cost £10, and are available from the keeper, Graham Moffat on 07985 933103 (please do not phone after 7pm).

3) Lazonby Manor (Garden of Eden) has a beautiful stretch of water with winter grayling fishing. The grayling season is 16th June to 14th of March inclusive. D/ts from Linda Atkinson, £20 per day. Contact Linda on 01768 898229.

4) Lazonby Parish have a section of river where day and weekly permits are available and both fly and bait methods can be used. Access website lazonbyparishcouncil.org – click 'Angling for all information'. Those wishing to pay by bank transfer contact clerk by email for details.

5) Eden Lacy. 1.8 miles of beautiful river Eden as captured on this YouTube video www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8jQJJzAZWQ Day tickets are £15 and can be obtained by contacting Mr Victor Gubbin Tel: 01768 898316.

6) Kings Arms Hotel has grayling fishing on the Eden at Ousenstand Bridge, subject to availability (hotel guests are given first preference). Day tickets cost £10 and are available by contacting Mally Churchman Tel: 01768 362944.

7) Appleby A.A. control 14 miles of the Eden and offer grayling day ticket at £10 per day. Buy on line through website www.applebyangling.co.uk/

8) Kirby Stephen A.A. has 9 miles on the upper Eden with some good grayling fishing. D/ts and weekly tickets are available from Hall's Newsagents, Market Square, Kirkby Stephen during shop opening hours or via the FishPal website. Further information contact Mrs Irene Downing 017683 71256.

The KSDAA website has a useful link to a live web cam and details of sections of the river which may be closed to winter grayling fishing at times of pheasant shooting. www.kirkbystephen.net/day_tickets.htm

River Irthing

(Tributary of River Eden)

1) Brampton AA has winter grayling fishing available on a season ticket basis. Season tickets for grayling (1st October – 14th March inclusive), cost £10, available from Brampton Post Office, 5 Front St, Brampton CA8 1NN. Further information from Steven Mark, BAA Secretary Tel: 01697 72359. www.bramptonangling.co.uk/index.html

LANCASHIRE

Grayling Society Area 10

River Ribble

(Tributaries River Hodder and River Calder)

1) Ribble Rivers Trust Beat: Ribble and Calder, Mitton. 2.5 Km on left bank of Ribble and right bank of Calder. See R.R.T. website: www.ribbletrust.org.uk/buy-tickets

River Hodder

1) Whitewell. The Inn at Whitewell has 6 miles from Burholme Bridge to below Doeford Bridge. D/ts from The Inn at Whitewell, Forest of Bowland, Clitheroe BB7 3AT. Tel: 01200 448222 Website: www.innatwhitewell.com/things-to-do/fishing/ D/ts are for hotel guests only. £15 from Nov 1st to March 14th.


The Inn at Whitewell

2) Slaidburn. 2 mile stretch on the upper Hodder around Slaidburn. D/ts £10 from Slaidburn Central Stores and Post Office, 2 Church Street, Slaidburn BB7 3ER. Tel: 01200 446268. More information is on the Slaidburn Central Stores and Post Office facebook page.

THE NORTH EAST

The north of this region is noted more for its salmon, sea trout and wild brown trout waters, but nevertheless has some impressive grayling fishing. Rivers like the Tyne, Tees and Wear tumble steeply from their headwaters high in the rugged northern Pennines to become mighty rivers flowing to the East Coast and the North Sea.

NORTHUMBRIA AND DURHAM

Grayling Society Area 11

All our main rivers run from the west to east off the Pennines and feature various pocket water, runs, flats and glides to suit all tastes and methods.

Due to their freestone nature, the water often carries some peaty colour after rain and a wading staff is highly recommended especially the rockier, faster and deeper sections!

The River Tees runs from Cow Green and grayling are found in good numbers



River Eden (Cumbria)



River Hodder (Lancashire)

throughout from Low Force above Middleton in Teesdale right downstream to below Darlington & Croft.

The River Wear is primarily known for its migratory fish and large sea trout however there is a good head of trout & grayling and the fishing has improved a lot over the last few years. Some large 2lb+ grayling are frequently caught. A recent Area 11 produced 120 grayling with a good number over 30cm.

The River Derwent is a tributary of the River Tyne and runs out of Derwent Reservoir. It is a small tailwater and accordingly is not affected so much by heavy rain.

Tactics and techniques

The varied characteristics of our rivers makes it suitable for all methods. Whether you prefer to fish a single dry, duo, a team of wets or nymphs there is water to suit all. Trotting can be an effective method but maggots are not allowed on some beats – better to rely on small worms. Trotting is prohibited on some beats.

October is usually the best month for top of the water dry fly sport for our Grayling. So as long as the weather & water conditions are kind, the opportunity for fishing dries and traditional North Country Spiders should be excellent.

Fishing nymphs using French Leader, Euro style and short line Czech style is extremely popular and productive. Like any freestone river its always worth having a few methods up your sleeve.

Flies

Fly hatches will be mainly, Olive Up-wings, Stoneflies, Midges and Terrestrials so bring your favourite patterns. I passionately believe that getting your presentation right and the size of fly is far more important than particular dressings.

So many patterns to choose from these days and we all have our favourites but as a guide, I would suggest that the following would be useful.

Dry: Your favourite Up-wing Olive, Elk Hair Caddis, F Flies, Parachutes, Klinkhammers and Sedge/Caddis are go to flies. Hares ear and black are popular colours. Traditional dries such as Red Tag, Treacle Parkin etc. still very much have their day. Sizes #14,16,18 and also don't forget your micro dries and fine tippet for the flats.

Spiders: is a deadly North Country method and the following flies & variants are very popular: Waterhen Bloa, Black Magic, Snipe & Purple, Greenwell's Spider, Hares Lug & Plover and the Partridge & Orange can be relied upon all year round in Sizes #12 -18 (#14 &16 being most popular) Make sure you have a few with beads or add a beaded nymph to the point just to get down that little bit if necessary.

Nymphs: unlimited choices but the following work consistently well on all the rivers in sizes #12-18: Pheasant Tail & Hares Ear variants as well as shrimps are all really effective. Carry a good range of sizes and weights so you can match the water and have some with a bit of flash or hot colours too…a touch of orange, red or pink can make all the difference as well as a few drab patterns.

We are blessed in the North of England as we have some fantastic rivers and some wonderful countryside that makes for a truly great fishing experience. To top that, the locals are really friendly folk too and I'm sure the Northern hospitality will shine through.

River Tees

Visit: www.teesriverstrust.org/

Upper Tees

1) Permits are available to fish on the North & South Bank of the River Tees between Cauldron Snout and Dent Bank, Middleton-in-Teesdale, except between the Ford at Newbiggin-on-Tees and Scorberry Bridge through **Raby Estates & Strathmore Estates** www.raby.co.uk/high-force/waterfall/fishing-permits

Both Strathmore & Raby Estate day permits are available from - G&J Newsagents in Middleton in Teesdale 01833 640834

2) Wodencroft Holiday Cottages with Private Fishing
www.wodencroftholidaycottages.co.uk

Middle Tees

1) The following clubs and associations can be approached for fishing on the Tees.

Darlington Anglers Club
www.darlingtonanglersclub.org.uk

Barnard Castle Angling Club
www.bcaclub.co.uk

2) River Tees Passport Scheme is a new initiative opening up some waters for day permits and worth checking out:
www.fishingpassport.co.uk/fishing/tees

River Tyne (Tributary: River Derwent)

Visit: www.tyneriverstrust.org/

River Derwent (County Durham)

The following clubs and associations can be approached for fishing on the Derwent:

Derwent A.A. www.derwentangling.co.uk

Axwell Park & Derwent Valley A.A.
www.apdvaa.co.uk

River Wear

Visit: www.tyneriverstrust.org/

The following clubs and associations can be approached for fishing on the River Wear:

Willington and District A.C.
www.willingtondistrictanglingclub.com

Ferryhill & District A.C.
www.ferryhillanddistrictanglingclub.com

Bishop Auckland A.C.
www.bishopaucklandanglingclub.com

Finchale Abbey
www.finchaleabbey.co.uk/fishing

River Till (Northumberland)

A tributary of the Tweed but its still in England and part of Area 11!

1) Till Fishing Tiptoe Beat with accommodation www.till-fishing.co.uk/river-till

2) Ford & Etal Estates
www.ford-and-etal.co.uk/attractions /fishing

YORKSHIRE

North, West and East:
Grayling Society Area 9

South: Grayling Society Area 8

For centuries Yorkshire has been the traditional home of the grayling. Over the years population numbers in some waters have fluctuated drastically. Archive records show restocking programmes for grayling from river to river as far back as the late 1800s. Today many riparian owners, clubs, associations, etc together with the Environment Agency are working hard to restore and preserve stocks of the grayling.

Most of the rivers in Yorkshire, as with other northern rivers, have their head-waters high in the Pennines and flow south east to the Humber and the North Sea. There are three notable exceptions, the Esk which flows east from its source on the North Yorkshire Moors, the Derwent which flows south from its headwaters on the North Yorkshire moors. Lastly the Hull, whose headwaters rise in the east Yorkshire Wolds and contain the most northerly chalk-stream. The availability of day tickets in this region is sporadic, but some excellent fishing can be found.

River Aire

1) Skipton. Skipton A.C. has water on the Aire and on Whinny Gill. Information on membership and subs on the website. Note; grayling have in this area suffered a decline in numbers, but recent reports give the indication of an increase in numbers.
www.skiptonangling.co.uk

2) Cononley and Skipton. Bradford City A.A. has a number of waters in the area that hold grayling. Day tickets are not issued, but annual membership is open at very reasonable prices. Although Cononley has been seen as a coarse-fishing water, increasing water quality has favoured trout and grayling. The stretch at Broughton and Gargrave is solely trout and grayling water. Maps and information on the BCAC website: www.bradfordcityaa.co.uk Alternatively, contact: Mike Briggs 01274 684906 / 07759 815202

3) Keithly A.C. has considerable waters in the area, but they are predominantly coarse waters with trout and grayling. Permits from K.L.Tackle, 127 North Street, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD21 3AD. Tel. 01535 667574. More information on the club's website: www.keighleyanglingclub.co.uk

River Calder (Tributary: Colne)

1) Slaithwaite and District A.C. have water on the river, no day tickets but cost of membership reasonable. For details contact Huddersfield Angling Centre, 22 Chapel Hill, Huddersfield, Tel: 01484 545032.

2) Huddersfield. Free public access in the town area. Not so pleasant surroundings but good grayling are to be had. Contact Chris Roberts 01484 545032.

River Derwent

(Tributaries: Rye and Scalby Beck)

(Tributaries of Rye: Dove, Seven, Pickering Beck and Costa Beck)

Day ticket waters on the Derwent are a little thin on the ground, but several clubs and associations have membership prices at a reasonable cost and therefore well worth investigating.

Scalby Beck

1) Scalby Beck AC has the fishing from Scalby Mills to approx. one mile above Scalby village. Grayling Season 16/6 14/3. Although grayling are not in the numbers they used to be the water is worth a try. For details and permits contact Peter Kay 07777 650923.

River Don

No day ticket waters but some clubs are open to new members at a reasonable cost.

1) Tin Mill Angling Club has one and a half miles of good grayling water at Stocksbridge. Details from: Roger Preston 01142 883728

2) Sheffield. Urban fishing in Sheffield. Contact Brian Clarke, Area 8 Secretary for details.

River Esk

A beautiful little river, with only a small head of grayling, but, worth trying.

For details of day tickets contact Anglers Place, Guisborough, 01287 635959.

1) Danby and District AC have 7 miles of the Esk from Castleton to Grt. Fryup beck. Grayling fishing to the end of September only. For permits and information contact Mr. F. Farrow, Tel. 01287 660387.

River Hull (Tributary: Driffield Beck)

1) Mulbery Whin Fly Fishery, Skerne, Driffield have approx. one mile of water on the most northerly true chalk stream. For details contact Brian or Andrew Dixon on 01377 249273.

River Nidd

1) Nidderdale AC have 8 miles of water around Pateley Bridge, much of which is available to visiting angers via day tickets. Permits can be purchased directly from the website www.nidderdaleac.co.uk and from local outlets.

2) Harrogate A.A. has several miles of fishing on the river from Little Ribston downstream. No D/ts are available but for membership enquiries contact Mr. B. Wheeler Tel. 01423 323945.



River Ure



River Wharfe

River Swale

1) Richmond and District AC have 5 miles of good grayling waters on the River Swale below Richmond Falls. Day tickets details on their website: www.richmondangling.org.uk/

River Ure **(Tributary: River Laver)**

There is very good fishing to be had by joining some of the local clubs and Associations who have water on the River Ure, even for the traveling rod the cost of joining could be well worthwhile.

1) Hawes and High Abbotside AA have water around Haws. Grayling in this area are not numerous but it is well worth the try. For details and permits contact Three Peaks Ltd, Hawes. Tel: 01969 667443.

2) Wensleydale AA have water above and below Bainbridge. As with Hawes, grayling are not numerous but can be large when found. Fly and worm only. Permits, information and accomodation can be obtained from The Rose and Crown, Bainbridge. Tel: 01969 650225.

3) Aysgarth. The Aysgarth Falls Hotel has 440 yards of bank. For information and permits contact the hotel on 01969 663775.

4) Bradford City AA has four miles of fishing to the west of Aysgarth and a short stretch at Worton Bridge, upstream. No day tickets are sold. Membership application forms and full details can be found on the website at www.bradfordcityaa.co.uk Alternatively, contact Mike Briggs, Membership Secretary Bradford City AA. Tel: 01274 684906 / 07759 815202

5) Masham AC has 2.5–3 miles of excellent fly only water around Masham. Although there are no day tickets, the club does have a limited number of grayling season tickets (1st Oct – 28th Feb). Apply to John Bosomworth, Tel: 0774 7031619.

6) Ripon Piscatorial Association have 6 miles of water in the Ripon area, the top two miles being the better for grayling. For details see website www.riponrpa.co.uk/

7) The Grantham Angling Association has some grayling fishing, but does not issue day tickets. Information and membership details from Grantham Angling Association Fly Fishing Section, Hon Sec Paul Kitson. www.gaaffs.org/about_us.html

River Laver

This small river is predominantly a trout water, but does hold nice grayling.

1) Ripon Piscatorial Association have two miles of the River Laver. For details see website www.riponrpa.co.uk/

River Wharfe

There are several clubs that have grayling water on the river but do not issue day tickets. They do have membership at a reasonable cost. These clubs are :

Bradford No.1:
www.bradfordno1.com/
Bradford City AA:
www.bradfordcityaa.co.uk
Keighley AC:
www.keighleyanglingclub.co.uk

1) Appletreewick, Barden and Burnsall A.C. has several miles of river from Grassington downstream to Barden Bridge. Permits and information from The Red Lion at Burnsall or from Bryan Ayton, Tel: 07710 240537. Grayling season from 1st of Nov to 31st Jan.

2) Bolton Abbey Estate has 4 miles of double bank fishing from Strid Wood down to below Bolton Bridge. Grayling season from 1st Oct to 31st Dec, fly only and all fish to be returned. Permits from Estate Office, Tel:. 01756 710227.

3) Addingham AA have a short length of water close to Lobwood Pumping Station. Fly or bait. Permits from Addingham Post Office.

4) Bradford City AA has fishing at Addingham. No day tickets sold. Same contact details as for River Ure above.

5) Ilkley AA control water from New Brook St Bridge, Ilkley to the stepping stones at Ben Rhydding. Permits from the Tourist Information, Ilkley, Tel: 01943 602319 or Ilkley Riverside Hotel, Tel: 01943 607338. www.ilkleyanglingassociation.co.uk/

6) Leeds and District ASA have a long length of the river at Pool in Wharfedale, from above Pool Bridge down stream to below Arthington. Any method no night fishing. Permits from Pool Bridge Service Station, Tel: 0113 203 7140.

PEAK DISTRICT

DERBYSHIRE AND STAFFORDSHIRE

Grayling Society Areas 8 and 5
By Brian L. Clarke

The waters of Izaak Walton fame. Derbyshire in the north has the Dark Peak area, peat moorland laying on millstone Grit, with the River Derwent and its tributary the River Noe. Further south, the White Peak, lush grassland with rivers like the Dove, Manifold and the Wye with its tributary the Lathkill bubbling up from deep underground in the limestone. There are many other small streams, brooks and becks holding grayling, mainly in the south of the Peaks area. All of these waters flow into either the River Dove or Derwent systems, into the River Trent, then into the Humber and the North Sea.

Derbyshire's grayling waters unfortunately are in an area where long-established club and fishing groups own or lease the fishing, membership fees can be high and waiting lists can be long. Recently Staffordshire's River Churnett has joined the list of rivers to produce good grayling joining the Dove above Utoxeter.

AREA 5 SPECIFIC

By Paul Deaville

Staffordshire's grayling waters are unfortunately in an area where long-established clubs/ syndicates/fishing groups own or lease the fishing, hence their membership fees can be high and waiting lists long. But fear not, there are options below.

The rivers mentioned below eventually join the river Trent, then proceed via the Humber into the North Sea.

River Derwent

1) Matlock A.C. has bait fishing through Matlock Bath. As there is close public access, fly fishing is not permitted. Permits available from Bob Price Newsagent, Matlock Bath. Tel: 01629 582560. **(COARSE SEASON ONLY)**

2) The Derwent Hotel has a short but well worth fishing section of water upstream of the road bridge at Whatstandwell. D/ts from hotel, Tel: 01433 651395.

3) Derby Railway A.C. has water on the Derwent below Whatstandwell. Although it does not give D/ts this club is well worth considering joining, even for none locals. For membership details see club listings or website www.drac.org.uk

4) The Square and Compasses at Darley Dale, upstream of Matlock, has a short (approx. 300 yd) stretch of mixed fishing, suitable for trotting, but fishable with fly. Tel: 01629 733255 for ticket information.

River Dove

(Tributaries: River Manifold, Bentley Brook, River Churnet, River Tean and Sutton Brook)

The River Dove forms part of the county boundary between Staffordshire and Derbyshire. Staffordshire's River Churnet which joins the River Dove above Uttoxeter is part of the long list of rivers that are known to produce good grayling.

1) Prince Albert Angling Society has fishing rights on beats of the River's Dove, Trent and Sow. For more information visit (see earlier for website details).

2) Leek And District Fly Fishing Association has several beats on the rivers Dove and Churnet, the main one being upstream of Ilam in the famous Dovedale. No DT's are issued by the club but, it is a club well worth considering. For more information visit www.ladffa.com/

3) Derby Railway AC has several stretches of water on the River Dove which are worth a try. For more information visit: www.drac.org.uk/

4) Dove Valley Angling Association has approximately 6 miles of fishing on the middle Dove, and also some fishing on the Churnet. For more information visit: www.dvaa.co.uk/

5) Fenton and District Angling Society have many and varied stretches of the Rivers Dove, Churnet, Sow and Blythe along with Sutton Brook. For more information visit: www.fdasofficial.co.uk/

6) Saracens Head Angling Group has a selection of waters on the Rivers Dove, Tean and Blithe. For more information visit: http://saracensheadanglinggroup.co.uk/

The Peak Passport Scheme allows access to beats on the rivers Dove, Manifold. Hamps and Sence using a pre-pay token system. See the website at: www.peakpassport.co.uk/
Information also from Andy Heath on 07896 344448.

Sutton Brook

1) Derby Railway A.C. has water on the brook, a beautiful little stream Nr. Sutton on the Hill. For details see Derwent.

River Wye

1) Haddon Estates. Fishing on the Wye through Bakewell to Rowsley. There are a limited number of day tickets for the trout season and fly fishing only. Grayling fishing through the winter is by syndicate members only. For details of all the fishing contact the River Keeper, Mr Warren Slainey, Tel: 01629 636255.

2) Accommodation and fishing can be arranged through the **Peacock Hotel at Rowsley.** www.thepeacockatrowsley.com

River Dane

The River Dane is a tributary of the River Weaver that originates in the Peak District area of England. It forms the border between first Cheshire and Derbyshire on the west and east, and then between Cheshire and Staffordshire where it then flows north-west through Cheshire before meeting the Weaver near Northwich.

1) Middlewich Anglers. Byley Bridge. D/ts £5 available from Daves of Middlewich, Lewin St, Middlewich CW10 9BG. Tel: 01606 833853 www.davesofmiddlewich.co.uk Email: davesofmiddlewich@fsmail.net

River Rother

Urban fishing around **Rotherham** and **Chesterfield**. Contact Brian Clarke, Area 8 Secretary for details.

SOUTHERN COUNTIES

Grayling Society Area 2

Grayling can flourish in the clear waters of the southern chalk-streams.Yet for years they have been regarded by some riparian owners and river keepers as vermin that competed with the brown trout population and needed to be eradicated. Thankfully a more enlightened attitude is gradually prevailing and on many stretches of the chalk-streams grayling are now being given the respect they deserve. Wholesale electro-fishing to remove the grayling is becoming a thing of



River Wye (Derbyshire)



Lower Test (Hampshire)

the past and whilst there is still some way to go, the grayling is increasingly being seen as a valuable and truly wild sporting fish.

HAMPSHIRE

River Test (Tributary: River Dever)

1) Wherwell Estate, Wherwell has 7 beats on several miles of the Test and carriers. Upstream dry fly or nymph, with barbless or debarbed hooks. Grayling season 11th Oct to 12th March. For bookings Tel: Estate Office 01264 860242.

2) Fullerton Fishery has 900m of river north of Stockbridge near the Mayfly public house/restaurant. The grayling season is from 1st October to 31st December. Single barbless or debarbed flies and all fish to be carefully returned. Prior bookings only (for 4 rods maximum) contact Mr. Tom Liddell on 01264 860221.

3) River Test at Romsey. For charges and fishing locations, contact Test Valley Borough Council at 01794 527700.

4) Timsbury. 1.5 miles of main river and 1mile of carriers. Fly or bait from 1st October to 15th March. For bookings and further information contact Heidi Dear, Tel: 01264 365165 or 07759 331385.

5) Broadlands. Grayling fishing available from November 1st by appointment/ booking only. Please contact Jon at jon@broadlandsfishing.com to arrange.

River Anton

1) Fullerton Fishery has 900m of fishing on the river, max 4 rods only. For details see River Test.

River Dever

1) Bransbury Mill Fishery, Barton Stacey, has 0.75 miles of water with good tree cover and good stocks of grayling. Fishing for GRAYLING SOCIETY MEMBERS ONLY from 1st October to 7th November (when trout start to spawn) for details and permits contact Chris de Cani, Tel: 01962 760442.

River Itchen

1) Lower Itchen Fishery, Southampton. Bookings and information from 02380 472672 (Keeper), or 02380 814389 (Office).

WILTSHIRE

River Avon

1) Upavon. Peter Prince has 2/3 of a mile of the upper Avon, a short but prolific section of river. He issues Full Season permits (trout and grayling seasons) Grayling Season permits, Oct to Feb, and D/ts. All D/ts to be pre-booked, Fly only before Oct after which bait may be used. Wading is advised though bank fishing is possible. For permits and details Tel: Peter Prince 01980 630008 or 07770 92544.

2) Salisbury and District A.C. issue D/ts for a limited number of their waters on the Avon. For details of available waters and permits contact Mrs J. Elliot, Tel: 01980 622828.

3) Avon Springs Fishery Durrington all tickets for the river are now sold via the agent Fishing Breaks (details overleaf) and not directly through the fishery.

4) Manningford Trout Fishery
Pewsey SN9 6NR. Tel: 07544 801844. Email: fisherymanager@manningfordtrout fishery.co.uk Website: www.manningfordtroutfishery.co.uk/prices-availability/

5) Ben Bangham FlyFishing

- River Lambourn - 1 day per week (3 rods)
- River Test - by appointment/booking
- River Avon - by appointment/booking.

Please contact Ben at: flyfishingben@gmail.com, or call 07736 326858 to arrange.

River Wylye

1) Langford Lakes Nature Reserve. Half a mile, single bank, at Steeple Langford. Contact the Reserve Office on 01722 792011, or at www.wiltshirewildlife.org

Agents:
Grayling fishing is available through the following agents, but expect to pay more:

River Wylye:
Steeple Langford. Book through Mark Shuldham, Tel: 07798 730974.

River Dever:
Fishing Breaks. Tel: 01264 781988.

Rivers Itchen and carriers:
The Rod Box. For details see www.rodbox.com or Tel: 01962 883600.

River Test:
Orvis. Tel: 01264 349519.

Rivers Test and Itchen:
Famous Fishing. Tel: 01722 716050.

Rivers Test, Anton, Dever, Avon, Lambourn, Kennet, Itchen, Wylye, Nadder and Frome:
Aardvark McLeod offer day tickets on 32 miles of the Rivers Test, Anton, Dever, Avon, Lambourn, Kennet, Itchen, Wylye, Nadder and Frome all year round in Hampshire, Wiltshire, Berkshire and Dorset. Further details available directly. Website: www.aardvarkmcleod.com
Email: mail@aardvarkmcleod.com or call the office on +44(0)1980 847389.

Fly Odyssey offer day tickets on the Rivers Test, Itchen and Anton in Hampshire up until the end of January on some beats. Further details are available on www.flyodysseychalkstream.co.uk
or contact Gilly Bate on 07817 304232 or Email g.bate@flyodyssey.co.uk

FREE FISHING!

1) River Itchen, Winchester. The river proper and the Navigation. Details on 01962 840500.

2) The Swan at Stoford has a very short section of water on the Wylye for guests only. Although very short, for the angler visiting the area it is worth a cast. Fly only, and for details Tel: The Swan 01722 790236.

3) Lambourn. Behind The Swan Pub, Newbury. Check for details.

SOUTH WEST

Grayling Society Area 1

CORNWALL

River Tamar & Tributaries

The Tamar and tributaries; Inny, Lyd, Kensey, Carey and Ottery are typical moorland streams, running over a mixture of gravel, rocky and clay riverbed, the rivers are rain fed and subject to spates. The grayling are mainly found in the middle reaches of the river and the tributaries named can be particularly good rivers to try.

1) Launceston Anglers Association Day tickets and annual membership available. www.launcestonanglers.org.uk/

2) Arundell Arms Hotel Lovely fishing hotel with day tickets, guiding and tuition available. www.thearundell.com/

3) Westcountry Angling Passport www.westcountryangling.com/

4) Beats available in Devon and Cornwall and beyond. A token system is used which can be purchased online or in various retail outlets. They are now running an online app **(The Fish Pass)** which may help for those happy with modern tech.

5) Devon School of Fly Fishing Exclusive beats on the Tamar and Inny with tuition and guiding available.
www.devonschoolofflyfishing.com/

DEVON

River Exe & Tributaries

(See also SOMERSET)

The River Exe and tributaries; Batherm, Culm, Barle, Creedy and Haddeo. A moorland

stream which starts its life on Exmoor and empties into the sea at Exmouth. Grayling are mainly to be found in the middle and upper reaches along with the tributaries, you also may come across chub and other coarse fish which gradually become more predominant in the lower reaches.

1) Dulverton Angling Association For annual membership offering several beats in the area.
www.dulvertonanglingassociation.org.uk/

2) Lance Nicholson Tackle Shop Day tickets available on the Barle and Little Exe.
www.lance-nicholson.co.uk/fishing/

3) Crediton Fly Fishing Club Day tickets and annual membership available for the Creedy and Culm. www.fly-fishing-club.co.uk/

4) Tiverton & District Angling Club Day tickets and annual membership available for the River Culm. Predominately a coarse fishing club so suited to those who enjoy trotting. www.tivertonanglingclub.com/

5) Exeter & District Angling Association Day tickets and annual membership available for the Rivers Exe, Culm and Creedy. At the lowest reach of the grayling population and predominately a coarse fishing club so suited to those who enjoy trotting.
www.exeteranglingassociation.co.uk/

6) Westcountry Angling Passport Beats available in Devon and Cornwall and beyond. A token system is used which can be purchased online or in various retail outlets. They are now running an online app **(The Fish Pass)** which may help for those happy with modern tech.
www.westcountryangling.com/

6) Devon School of Fly Fishing Exclusive beats on the Exe with tuition and guiding available.
www.devonschoolofflyfishing.com/

DORSET

River Frome / River Piddle

Although the River Frome is a chalk stream, all the grayling fishing is below Dorchester town, here the river widens and the banks are quite steep sided, therefore the river is prone to flooding and takes on the appearance of a spate river and care must be taken in high water. Most of the lower reaches are suitable for fly fishing, but bait fishing is the most common method practiced during the winter months.

1) Dorchester & District Angling Society Annual membership and day tickets are available. Mainly coarse fishing but a couple of nice beats on the Frome for grayling.
www.d.das.com

2) Frome Valley Fly Fishing Beat available from this trade member of the Grayling Society. fromevalleyflyfishing@gmail.com

3) East Burton Estate Several day ticket beats are available here.
www.eastburtonestate.co.uk/

4) Christchurch Angling Club A good one for those who enjoy trotting and other coarse fish. www.christchurchac.org.uk/

5) Dorchester Angling Club Annual membership but expect a long waiting list. Day tickets are available but only during the trout season. www.grhe.co.uk/

5) Purbeck Angling (tackle shop) Can advise on fishing available in the area on the tidal stretch around Wareham harbour, there are a few grayling, and some good coarse fishing. www.purbeck-angling.edan.io/

SOMERSET

River Exe

See also Devon and Haddeo (Tributary)

The River Exe is a moorland stream which starts its life in Exmoor Country Park, Somerset and empties into the sea some 50 miles away at Exmouth, Devon.



River Avon at Amesbury



River Frome

1) Dulverton Angling Society has some nice beats on the Exe and Haddeo for fly fishing only for grayling with fish to over 2lb available for members at £25 per year. Contact Lance Nicholson Tackle in Dulverton, Somerset for membership. 01398 323409.

River Tone

The River Tone is a rain fed river running over gravel, rocky and clay riverbed. Around Taunton town and below, the river is wide and deep and subject to heavy flooding. The tone has healthy numbers of grayling and coarse fish, some free fishing is available. Taunton town centre approx. 1 mile of free fishing from French weir to Firepool weir, although fly fishing is possible in places, the water is better suited for winter trotting.

1) Taunton Angling Association Annual membership and day tickets are available, mainly a coarse fishing club but some grayling will be evident. www.tauntonanglingassociation.co.uk/

2) Taunton Fly-fishing Club This club has a number of beats on the River Tone above Taunton for grayling. There is a waiting list. www.tauntonflyfishing.co.uk

River Avon (Bristol) & Tributaries

Bristol Avon and tributaries; Chew, Marden and Midford Beck. Mixed fishery river with more coarse fish in the lower reaches.

1) Keynsham Angling Association Annual membership and day tickets available on the Avon and Chew. www.keynsham-angling.co.uk/index.htm

2) Knowle Angling Association Annual membership available on the River Chew. www.knowleangling.co.uk/

3) Avon & Tributaries Angling Association Annual membership available for various waters including the Midford Brook and River Frome. www.ataafishing.net/

SOUTH EAST

Grayling Society Area 3

HERTFORDSHIRE

River Tewin

Tewin Flyfishing Club can be contacted on Tel: 07599 511733 or e-mail:tewinflyfishingclub@hotmail.co.uk www.tewinflyfishingclub.co.uk

KENT

River Teise

Details on www.teiseanglers.org.uk

There are reports of grayling in the **Great Stour** in Canterbury.

USEFUL ORGANISATIONS IN ENGLAND

NATIONAL BODIES

The Angling Trust
www.anglingtrust.net

Environment Agency
www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Wild Trout Trust
www.wildtrout.org

Natural England
www.naturalengland.org.uk

Salmon and Trout Association
Fishmongers Hall,
London Bridge, London, EC4R 9EL
www.salmon-trout.org

National Federation of Anglers
This organization is now part of The Angling Trust (see above).

Angling Foundation
Stoneleigh Park Pavilion,
National Agricultural Centre,
Stoneleigh, Warwickshire
Tel. 01203 414999 Fax. 01203 414990
www.anglingfoundation.co.uk

Trout & grayling fishing opportunities in

WALES AND THE BORDERS

Grayling Areas 4 and 6

By Glyn Williams and Geoff Bevan

There is some excellent trout and grayling fishing to be found in Wales, from the Dee in the north to the Taff and Rhymney in the south.

Mid Wales has the upper reaches of the Severn together with its many tributaries, the most important of which is the Vyrnwy.

In the mid to south area we have the Wye and tributaries and finally, in the south we have the Taff and Rhymney.

Access is variable with plenty of day ticket water but for others it is necessary to join the local clubs and associations.

Here is some information which will enable you to fish for our wonderful Welsh sports fish, broken down by catchments areas.

NORTH WALES

River Dee

The lower reaches of the River Dee are predominantly mixed fishing and the first notable wild trout and grayling fishing opportunities are on the first major tributary, the **River Alyn**.

1) Warrington Anglers Association has, among many other river beats, two stretches on the Alyn. Refer to website for season ticket details: www.warringtonanglers.org.uk

2) Rossett & Gresford Flyfishers' beats have increasing stocks of trout and grayling above Rossett. Membership only, refer to www.Rossettandgresfordflyfishing.co.uk

Returning to the main **River Dee** the next opportunities are:

3) Bangor on Dee Salmon Anglers Association has some excellent wild trout and grayling fishing with day tickets available from Middle Shop, Royal Oak or Buck Hotel in the village. Refer to website also: www.bodsaa.org.uk

4) Bryn-y-Pys AA have water below Overton Bridge at Erbistock down to Bangor-on-Dee. Day tickets from Deggy's Fishing Tackle, 2 Ruabon Road, Wrexham, LL13 7PB Tel: 01978 351815.

5) The Prince Albert Angling Society controls stretches on the main river at Llandderfel, Cynwyd, Newbridge, Erbistock and Bangor on Dee but issue no day tickets. Membership available – probably with a waiting list in operation. See website: www.paas.co.uk

The next tributary upstream is the **River Ceiriog**, which is believed to be the river with the steepest gradient in Wales and contains some fine wild trout and grayling fishing.

6) Ceiriog Fly Fishers at Chirk have 8 miles of fishing on some of the lower stretches of the Ceiriog. This club has merged with Corwen ADAC. Season tickets only via Corwen and District Angling Club, see **(11)**.

Back on the main **River Dee**:

7) Llangollen Maelor Angling Association has several miles of fishing in the area and from January 1st 2012, incorporates what was previously Maelor A.A. Membership and day tickets are available, see websites: www.llangollenangling.net and www.maelorangling.co.uk Day tickets from Watkin & Williams, Ironmongers, 4, Berwyn St, Llangollen, LL20 8ND. Tel: 01978 860652, open 7 days.

8) Wirral Game Fishing Club have beats at Erbistock, Overton and Chirk as well as a mile-and-a-half stretch at Corwen. Membership only. Refer to website: www.wirralgame.org.uk

9) Midland Fly Fishers Ltd has 4 miles of excellent water from Glyndyfrdwy downstream. Day tickets are available from Watkin & Williams, Ironmongers, 4 Berwyn St, Llangollen, LL20 8ND Tel: 01978 860652, open 7 days.

10) Capenhurst Angling Club has water below Carrog. Membership only, details from Mr.A.T.Howden, Secretary, 24 Saughall Hey, Saughall, Chester CH1 6EJ. Tel: 01244 880621. Mobile: 07712 170813. Further details on www.capenhurstanglingclub.co.uk

11) Corwen & District Angling Club has water on the main river and on tributaries (Alwen and Ceirw) in the Corwen area. Day tickets available on certain beats. Full membership also available. Secretary: Barry Cubbins, 30 Glenavon Road, Prenton, Wirral CH43 0RE Tel 07500159105. Website: www.cadac.org.uk

12) Ty Isaf Farm, Bala has water between Llanfor & Llandderfel. Tel: Mr.Evans 01678 520574.

13) Bala & District Angling Association has excellent wild trout and grayling possibilities on the Dee from Bala Lake downstream to Llandderfel and in the lake itself. There is also trout fishing available on the Tryweryn, Llafar and Lliw. Membership available, refer to website: www.balaangling.co.uk and Day tickets and permits are available from a number of outlets in Bala:

Post Office,
High Street, Bala.Tel: 01678 520317.

Y Gwyniad,
33 High Street, Bala. Telephone 01678521654

Bryntirion Inn,
Llandderfel. Tel: 01678 530205.

River Severn

Visit www.severnriverstrust.org.uk for up-to-date details of water that is available as part of the Passport scheme.

1) As one progresses up the Severn from its estuary, the first fishing of interest lies on the first tributary where the **Gloucester Angling Club** holds the rights to seven miles of the River Leadon near Upleadon and Durbridge Mill. This is principally a mixed fishery but some trout and grayling are in evidence. Membership only. Details on club website. Also River Leadon day ticket now available. See www.gloucesteranglingclub.co.uk

The next tributary of interest is the **River Teme** which itself has many important tributaries containing some excellent wild trout and grayling fishing. The first tributary of the River Teme of interest is the **Leigh Brook** with the **Cradley Brook** at its head.

2) The Gamefishers' Club has a stretch on each. Membership only. Details from website www.gamefishersclub.org

3) The Prince Albert Angling Society has several beats on the River Teme from Ham Bridge up to Ashford Carbonell. Membership only. See www.paas.co.uk

4) The next tributary of note is the **River Rea** on which **The White Swan Piscatorials** have beats at Cleobury Mortimer, Hopton Court and Detton Bridge. Membership only. Details from website: www.whiteswanpiscatorials.org.uk

5) The Gamefishers' Club has a stretch on the River Rea at Mawley Hall. Membership only. Details from website: www.gamefishersclub.org

6) Tenbury Fishing Association has about four and three-quarters of a mile on the River Teme and **Ledwyche Brook**. Membership and day tickets available. Details on: www.temevalley.co.uk/teme_valley_fishing.htm

7) The White Swan Piscatorials have a stretch of the Lower Ledwyche Brook. Membership only. Details from website: www.whiteswanpiscatorials.org.uk

Returning to the **River Teme**:

8) Tenbury Fishing Association has about four and three-quarters of a mile on the River Teme and Ledwyche Brook. Membership and day tickets are available. Details on website: www.temevalley.co.uk

9) There are two stretches of **free fishing** in

Ludlow. One from Dinham Bridge to Ludford Bridge, known as the Breadwalk, and the other from the Horseshoe Weir downstream for a quarter of a mile to the large pipe over the river. Details available in Theo Pike's book *Trout in Dirty Places*. (pub: Merlin Unwin Books 2012) .

10) The next tributary upstream is the **River Onny.** This water is also available on the Severn Rivers Trust Passport, visit www.severnriverstrust.org.uk for details.

11) The Plowden Estate has syndicate fishing on the West Onny. For particulars Tel: 01588 68040.

Back on the **River Teme** we next come to Leintwardine.

12) The Leintwardine Fishing Club which was founded towards the end of the nineteenth century. There is a long waiting list for membership of this exclusive club. The Leintwardine Fishing Club allows residents of Leintwardine and their guests to fish the first 200 metres stretch of the river below the bridge on condition that they obey the usual protocols of fishing.

A short distance upstream from Leintwardine village the **River Clun** joins the River Teme and has some fine trout and grayling possibilities.

13) The Pheasant Tail Fly Fishers have a number of beats on the Rivers Clun, Redlake and Kemp close to Clungunford and Aston on Clun. Membership only. Details on www.ptff.fishing or Email info@ptff.com

14) The Salopian Fly Fishers have one mile of the River Clun near Clungunford. Membership only. Details on the website: www.salopianflyfishers.co.uk

Returning to the **River Teme** above its confluence with the River Clun there are possibilities at the following locations.

15) Bucknell House has approximately three quarters of a mile of the river which is available to those using the Caravan & Motorhome Club CL site. Tel: 01547 530640.

This fishing is also available through the Wye and Usk Foundation. Visit www.fishingpassport.co.uk for details.

16) Milebrook House Hotel Milebrook House Hotel has approximately three miles of water which is available to residents on the river from Bucknell upstream to Knighton. Details on Tel: 01547 528632 or website www.milebrookhouse.co.uk or

Above Knighton the river has a habit of disappearing underground and resurfacing further downstream as it passes through limestone strata. However when there is water in the river hereabouts fishing is possible at:

17) Lower House Farm Lower House Farm has approximately one mile of fishing available to those who call. Tel: 01547 528670.

18) Monaughty Poeth near Llanfair Waterdine, LD7 1TT has about 500 metres of double bank fishing as well as a Caravan Club CL site. Tel: 01547 528348.

Returning to the **River Severn**, a short distance upstream from Worcester at Hawford, the River Salwarpe enters from the north-east.

19) The White Swan Piscatorials have a stretch of the River Salwarpe at Hawford. Membership only. Details from website: www.whiteswanpiscatorials.org.uk

A short distance upstream of Bridgnorth the **River Worfe** joins the Severn from the north-east.

20) The Salopian Fly Fishers have some fishing on the River Worfe. Membership only. Details on www.salopianflyfishers.co.uk

Further up the main river the **Cound Brook** enters from the west.

21) The Gamefishers' Club has stretches on the Cound Brook close to Eaton Mascott, Cantlop Bridge and Berrington. Membership only. Details from website www.gamefishersclub.org

A little further upstream the **River Tern** joins the Severn from the north-east.

22) The Environment Agency has one of its free fisheries on the River Tern. Details on www.dofreefishing.co.uk/england/free-fishing-shropshire.html

23) The Nantwich Angling Society has a stretch at Waters Upton near Hodnet. Annual membership only. See website for details www.nantwichangling.co.uk

24) The Prince Albert Angling Society has a couple of beats on the River Tern near Upton Magna. Membership only. Details on website: www.paas.co.uk

25) The Rea Brook joins the Severn in Shrewsbury and the **Shropshire Anglers' Federation** website: www.shropshireanglersfederation.in has approximately three miles available on season or day tickets which can be obtained from Frankwell Post Office or Total Angling, Units 18-20 Vanguard Way, Battlefield, Shrewsbury Tel: 01743 46269.

26) A short distance upstream from Shrewsbury the **River Perry** joins the Severn from the north. **Warrington Anglers' Association** has a short stretch at Ruyton XI Towns. Membership only. Details on website www.warrington-anglers.org.uk

The next major tributary is the **River Vyrnwy** which, with its own tributaries, has some very fine wild trout and grayling fishing venues.

27) At Llanymynech the **Montgomery-shire Angling Association** has about half a mile of double bank fishing. Membership and day tickets available. Details on website www.montgomeryshireanglingassociation.co.uk or Tel: 01938 554971.

28) The Prince Albert Angling Society controls several stretches. Membership only. Details on website www.paas.co.uk

29) Crewe Pioneer Anglers has a stretch in the lower reaches. Tel: 01270 214859 for details & permits.

30) Close to Four Crosses the **Warrington Anglers' Association** has a short stretch. Membership only. Details on website: www.warrington-anglers.org.uk

31) Bryn Vyrnwy Caravan Park, near Llansantffraid issues day tickets. Tel: 01691 828252.

32) Five farms in the Meiford area allow fishing for a nominal fee. Details and tickets from the following farmers:

John Williams, Newbridge Farm, Meiford, SY22 6HS Tel: 01938 500376

John Jones, Lower House Hall Farm, Newbridge Farm, Meiford, SY22 6HR Tel: 01938 500276.

Wilf Simmons, Bron-y-Maen Farm, Meiford, SY22 6BS Tel: 07554 119551.

Mr Evans, Upper Man Farm, Meiford, SY22 6BZ Tel: 01938 500218.

Mr Breeze, Cilmawr Farm, Meiford, SY22 6XZ Tel: 01938 500307

The first tributary of size to join the River Vyrnwy is the **River Tanat** on which there are the following possibilities.

33) The Horseshoe Inn at Llanyblodwel has about one mile and issues day tickets. Tel: 01691 828969.

34) The Gamefishers' Club owns a stretch on the River Tanat upstream of Llanyblodwel. Membership only. Details from website www.gamefishersclub.org

35) The Green Inn at Llangedwyn has a stretch of fishing on the River Tanat and supplies day tickets. Tel: 01691 828234.

36) Back on the River Vyrnwy near Llansantffraid the **Bryn Vyrnwy Caravan Park** issues day tickets. Tel: 01691 828252.

The next tributary is the **River Cain**

37) Green Hall in Llanfyllin offers a small but good stretch of the river. Tel: 01691 648364.
38) The Severn Rivers Trust has four Passport beats on the RIver Cain. See website www.severnriverstrust.com



River Wye



River Irfon

The next tributary is the **River Banwy** on which there are a number of possibilities.

39) The Prince Albert Angling Society controls three stretches on the River Banwy. Membership only. Details on website www.paas.co.uk

40) At Llanfair Caereinion the **Montgomeryshire Angling Association** has about half a mile of fishing on the River Banwy. Membership and day tickets available. Tel: 01938 554971 or see website www.montgomeryshireanglingassociation.co.uk

41) Llysun Farm, Llanerfyl has a mile of double-bank fishing on the River Banwy. Tel: 01938 820347

42) Back on the River Vyrnwy the **Glyndwr Fishery near Dolanog** controls two and a half miles of excellent fishing but only season tickets available. Tel: 01363 774926 or visit website for details. www.glyndwrfishery.co.uk

Returning to the **River Severn** above its confluence with the River Vyrnwy.

43) Montgomeryshire Angling Association has nearly two miles of single bank mixed fishing. Membership only, details on: www.montgomeryshireanglingassociation.co.uk or Tel: 01938 554971.

44) Warrington Anglers' Association has one mile of single bank fishing east of Welshpool town centre. Membership only. Details from website: www.warringtonanglers.org.uk

Further up the main river the next tributary is the **River Camlad** with the unique property of being the only river to flow from England into Wales.

45) Montgomeryshire Angling Association has a short stretch of the river near Forden. Membership and day tickets available. Tel: 01938 554971 or details on website www.montgomeryshireanglingassociation.co.uk

A short distance up the main river the **River Rhiew** enters from the north-west.

43) Near Berriew, the **Montgomeryshire Angling Association** has a short stretch of the river near Forden. Membership and day tickets available. Details on website www.montgomeryshireanglingassociation.co.uk or Tel: 01938 554971.

At **Newtown** there is a very good stretch of **free fishing** below the new bridge.

44) Further up the River Severn at Newtown there is a very good free stretch below the new bridge. Water in and above the town is controlled by **Severnside and Newtown Angling Club.** has water in and above the town. Day tickets are available from Newtown Angling. Details on website:www.newtownanglingpowys.co.uk/

45) Caersws Angling Association controls several miles of the River Severn around Caersws and Llandinam. Day tickets available from the Spar Shop in Caersws.

46) The Llanidloes and District Angling Association has stretches of the River Severn below and above the town. Details on www.llanidloes.com/angling_club

47) In Llanidloes there is free fishing on the River Severn at the **Environment Agency Fishery,** an 800 metre stretch below the sewage works. Further details from Environment Agency. Tel: 01743 272828.

48) Above the town of Llanidloes the **Llanidloes and District Angling Association** has water on the River Severn below and above the town on the Rivers Severn, Dulas and Clywedog. Details on website http://www.clywedogtroutfishing.co.uk/ and go to the river permits section.

In **Llanidloes** there is **free fishing** on the River Severn at the Environment Agency Fishery, an 800 metre stretch below the sewage works. Further details from Environment Agency. Tel: 01743 272828.

River Wye & Tributaries

The River Wye offers rich and diverse

opportunities for grayling fishing both on the main river upstream from Bredwardine and on its notable primary tributaries, the Monnow, Lugg, Llynfi, Irfon, Ithon, and Elan. Many of these primary tributaries support important secondary and even tertiary tributaries of which the Dore, Honddu, Arrow, Hindwell Brook are the most significant for grayling.

1) The Wye and Usk Foundation Passport Scheme offers a superb range of day ticket fishing on these rivers, and can be contacted on 01982 551 520 or www.wyeuskfoundation.org

2) Hay-on-Wye has **free fishing** on Town water downstream of the bridge to the Pump Station.

3) Glaslyn Estate near Rhayader, superb fishing for holiday guests but no day tickets. Tel: 01597 810258 for booking details.

4) The Red Lion Hotel at Bredwardine The Red Lion Hotel at Bredwardine has 4 miles of water known as The Moccas Fishery. Primarily this is a salmon and coarse fishery but it is worth noting that a number of trout and grayling have been caught hereabouts. Realistically this beat marks the downstream limit of trout and grayling on the river. See hotel website for particulars: www.redlionhotel.com

5) Between **Hay-on-Wye** and **Builth Wells** there are some magnificent beats available on the main river through the **Wye and Usk Foundation** on ww.fishingpassport.co.uk

6) At Builth Wells**, The Groe Park and Irfon Angling Club** has fishing on the main river and the Irfon. Information available on the website www.builthwellsangling.co.uk/ Tickets are available from Nibblets, the Ironmongers shop, Caer Beris Manor Hotel and Conti's Newsagents in the main street.

7) Upstream of Builth Wells is the **Wye and Usk Foundation** has more beats. Details available from the office at www.fishingpassport.co.uk

8) There are beats on the Upper Wye, and Elan around Rhayader which are accessible through the **Rhayader & Elan Angling Association** www.rhayaderangling.co.uk Permits available from Daisy Powell's Newsagents, West Street, Rhayader. Tel: 01597 810451.

9) In the vicinity of **Builth Wells** there are many possibilities for grayling fishing on the main river as well as the tributaries, the Irfon, Cammarch and Ithon.

River Monnow

1) Monmouth & District Angling Society has three stretches on the Monnow. See website for details: www.clywedogtroutfishing.co.uk/

2) The Monnow Fisheries Association has water on the Monnow and Trothy. For further information contact the Secretary on 01989 770667 or visit www.monnow.org

3) The Cwmbran Angling Association has two miles of fishing on the Monnow above Osbaston weir. Details from the website www.cwmbrananglingassociation.com/

On the upper Monnow and its tributaries the Dore and Honddu, the **Wye and Usk Foundation** offers a range of Passport fishing beats details can be found on the website www.fishingpassport.co.uk

River Irfon

1) The Wye and Usk Foundation has beats on the Irfon. Details from website (www.fishingpassport.co.uk)

2) Builth Wells, Groe Park and Irfon AC have 3 miles. Tel: 01982 552759 for tickets and information.

3) Hendre Farm, Builth Wells has 3 miles. Tel: 01982 551070 for tickets and information.

4) Permits are available for the **Cammarch Hotel** water on the Irfon from the hotel. See website for particulars: www.cammarch.com

5) Permits are available for the **Lake House Country Hotel** water on the Irfon from the hotel. See website for particulars: www.lakecountryhouse.co.uk

Garren Brook

1) The Wye and Usk Foundation (www.fishingpassport.co.uk) has a Passport beat on the lower stretches of this brook.

River Ithon

1) The Wye and Usk Foundation has beats on the Ithon. Details from website www.wyeuskfoundation.org

2) The Llandrindod Wells Angling Association has fishing on approximately 4 miles of the River Ithon in the vicinity of the town. has fishing on approximately 4 miles of the River Ithon in the vicinity of the town. Information on the website http://fishingwales.net/llandrindod-wells-angling-association/

3) Further upstream towards Penybont day tickets are available from **Bryn Thomas Farm, Penybont** (Tel: 01597 851315) for about 2 miles of fishing on the River Ithon.

4) The Severn Arms Hotel, Penybont issues day tickets for a few stretches of the River Ithon which are mainly upstream from Penybont. See website: www.severn-arms.co.uk or Tel: 01597 851224 for details.

Rivers Lugg and Arrow

The Lugg and Arrow rivers have sub-stantial grayling populations and are situated in magnificent countryside. Notable grayling beats on the River Lugg are those at Eyton and Lyepole and on the River Arrow are The Leen and Court of Noke.

1) The Hereford and District Angling Association has fishing on the lower Lugg and a few grayling have been recorded hereabouts. Details of permits from website www.hdaa.blogspot.com

There is a stretch of **free fishing** through **Leominster** town. Details available in Theo Pike's book *Trout in Dirty Places*. (pub: Merlin Unwin Books 2012)

2) The Rivers Lugg and Arrow Fisheries Association in conjunction with **The Wye and Usk Foundation** have a number of beats available on highly productive waters. The Lugg and Arrow rivers have substantial grayling populations and are situated in magnificent countryside. Notable grayling beats on the River Lugg are those at Eyton, Dayhouse, Mortimer's Cross and Lyepole and on the River Arrow are Eardisland, The Leen and Court of Noke. www.fishingpassport.co.uk

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

River Coln



1) The Bull Hotel, Fairford has 1.5 miles of water from the Market Square downstream. D/ts are available from the hotel with special rates for hotel guests. Fly only and 6 rods available. To book Tel: 01285 712535.

CHESHIRE

River Dane

This river holds stocks of coarse fish, trout and grayling. The following clubs and associations control waters knows to contain grayling although much of the access is via club membership only

1) Prince Albert Angling Society. Waters near Holmes Chapel and Somerford Booths. Some additional grayling stocking has occurred around the Swettenham area. No day tickets. www.paas.co.uk

2) Eaton Fly Fishers Club. Have a stretch of river of Swettenham but no day tickets are available. www.eatonflyfishers.co.uk

3) Northwich Anglers have water on the Dane and day tickets are available. www.northwichanglers.co.uk

4) Warrington Anglers have a length near Holmes Chapel but no day tickets are available. www.warrington-anglers.org.uk

5) Bay Malton Angling Club also have water but no day tickets are available. www.baymaltonanglingclub.co.uk

6) Dunham Massey Angling Club also have waters but I cannot confirm the day ticket situation. www.dunhammasseyanglingclub.com

7) Lymm Anglers have waters as well but we cannot ascertain the day ticket situation. www.lymmanglingclub.com

SOUTH WALES

Grayling Society Area 4

River Taff

Has a growing reputation for trout and grayling fishing. One day ticket now covers most of the river downstream of Pontypridd abailable from **Garry Evans fishing tackle** in Cardiff (garryevans.co.uk) Tel. 02920 619828. Also **Osprey Angling Association** (ospreyffa.co.uk) have several stretches around Pontypridd tickets again available from Garry Evans.

River Rhymney

Good grayling fishing in the Llanbradach and Caerphilly area with day tickets available for waters controlled by **Royal Oak A.C., Llanbradach A.C. and Caerphilly A.S**. from **Tony's Tackle** in Caerphilly (tonystackleandguns.co.uk) Tel. 02920 885409. Please note that Tony's Tackle is closed on Wednesdays.

River Ogmore

The most westerly river in South Wales with a reliable grayling population. Recently it's been populated by grayling from the River Ewenny, which is a tributary of the Ogmore joining it just before the estuary.

Ogmore Angling Association has 90% of the fishing and day tickets can be purchased from the club on line or from Ewenny Angling Tel 01656 650604 but please note that grayling fishing on the Ogmore finishes on 17th October at the end of the sewin season. www.ogmoreangling.com

River Ewenny (tributary of Ogmore)

1) Pencoed and District Angling Club has nice stretch which has received grants from the Grayling Society. Day tickets available Tel. 07728364214. www.padac.org.uk

2) Ogmore Angling Association has water downstream of the Pencoed club water and issue a winter grayling ticket to full members only. www.ogmoreangling.com

GRAYLING FISHING IN EUROPE

FINLAND

Yes, there are grayling in Finland. To find them you have to travel to Northern part of the country. In Lapland you can find them in many rivers but also in lakes. The best places are in Western Lapland.

The **River Teno** is an excellent place to catch grayling, and there are good stocks almost everywhere in the long river. 40 cm is very common but also 50+ can be found. The problem there is the new fishing rule. Last summer the prices were raised and the fishing time was reduced. The same will continue minimum three years.

In the 'arm' of the country there are also good grayling rivers. The best places can be reached only by the helicopter or by hydroplane. Of course you can also hike but I don't recommend it.

In Eastern Lapland grayling are mostly small, and there are many more mosquitos than, for example, in Teno.

In Middle Finland there are also grayling waters but the size of the fish is far from those in Lapland.

SWEDEN

By Harry Salmgren

Sweden is a wide country from south to the north. The southern-most grayling habitat is **Lake Vättern**. Even though the land-locked salmon fishing from the shore has become very popular, grayling are easiest caught from a boat or belly boat. Around Vättern many preservation efforts are being put into the smallish brooks and streams where grayling spawn, to help the numbers to grow. The population is in danger though, so catch and release is suggested. But for an angler travelling by car, Brandstorp near Habo, as one example, offer venues from land suitable for grayling fishing. One of the biggest towns is Jönköping at the southern end of the lake whereas Karlstad in the northern end of Lake Vänern, is closer to another area for grayling near the River Klarälven. Angling for grayling there has less importance generally nowadays though due to fewer catches.

Suggestion: For an angler interested in grayling, the area further north to north-northwest, closer to the Norwegian border, offers both better venues and catches. An area Frank Sawyer also particularly visited, was the **River Storån**. In that area, an hour away, you have **Nordic Footprints AB** serving visiting anglers. Members of the Grayling Society get a 10% discount. See: www.nordicfootprints.se/index2-en

The **River Dalälven** is said to be the geographical border between north and south in Sweden. Gysinge village is one convenient destinsation for grayling anglers, althoug zander and pike are the prime targets for many visitors . However, the large river is also suitable for boat. More info here: www.nedredalalven.se/index.php/en/fishing

Suggestion: Around Daläven, as big as it is, there are many possibilities for lodging. There are possibilities to get guides, licenses and what not. One of the information points in this area is Färnebofjärden. www.nationalparksofsweden.se/choose-park--list/farnebofjarden-national-park/

Central Sweden

Throughout Sweden there are numerous places for exciting grayling fishing. Frank Sawyer was also planning go to to Härjedalen and Jämtland but problems with his back stopped him. Many others did visit, until the catches went down for bad local fish politics. Now it all has changed for everyone… OK, perhaps not exactly all. But there are serious C&R-Anglers too. So, just to give a hint at some of the gems found on the way up north, I´ve added these venues in Jämtland:

Idsjöströmmen, is nowadays "living" proof that a watershed can be restored after waterways have been bulldozer cleaned, like the River Lögde – later in this review.



Finland – Lake Inari



Sweden – Sampi area

The river was formerly used as a timber route from waste inland logging areas. Since 2002, virtually all caught grayling have been released, after the first humble steps from Lars-Åke and others to introduce C&R in the late 1980s. This has contributed greatly to the famed grayling fishing today.

Suggestions: My personal best memories from Idsjöstömmen are when late Mel Krieger and his wife Fanny invited me to join them, their friends and Jennifer and Lars-Åke Olsson fishing there.
www.scandiwest.com/en-GB

Storsjön. For grayling, you´ll find some interesting venues around the town of Östersund in Storsjön for ex. as the Vallsundsbridge and the surrounding venues around the island Andersön.

Kvitsleströmmarna, west of Storsjön is a both known, but also sometimes very populated by anglers chasing big brown trout migrating through from Storsjön. However, the grayling is the one I like, and often quite big too. Also, the **River Dammån** has interesting venues for grayling.

Suggestion: For further, and more up to date info in this area, contact fishing guide Björn Eriksson. He has the key to more 'secret' places for both grayling and angler.
www.kvitslefiske.se/modules/mastop_publish/?tac=12

Ammerån. East of Östersund, has been known to anglers for a very long time. The village of Skyttmon north of the village Ammer, along road 344, is a convenient base for expeditions in the area.

To the Coast and further up North

Travelling further east from Östersund you could aim for the unique grayling fishing in the sea up north along the coast in the Gulf of Bothnia. Nowadays the coastal area for angling would be from Umeå/Holmsund and north. In my childhood though, grayling were abundant further south, and nowadays only Indalsälven and Testeboån have populations of grayling in the south. However, it is unsure if they spawn in the sea as the more northerly populations also do. Normally you´ll find two relatives of grayling up along the coast further north; river spawners, and grayling which spawn in the sea along the coast and around island shores, like around Holmön. Their fingerling can be found in lesser water sheds along stoney coastal areas not more than 30cm deep. You´ll also find grayling in most of the bigger and smaller rivers going up north.

Some examles: The **River Lögde**, (Lögdeälven) where, in 1998, an American team filmed grayling fishing for US TV. The **River Öre** (Öreälven), the River Lögde and a few other rivers were also together with the **River Vindelälven** prep venues for six practicing teams in Bjurholm for the 2001 World Fly Fishing competition in Lycksele.

Well, you find grayling in almost all rivers except for the smallest ones close to the sea, where very aged but small brown trout thrive. In this area they are called Stenbit – 'piece of rock'– and are fished with top knotted lines and free-floating worms or flies without any weight. (That's how we learned to fly fish as kids).

Inland though, in other watersheds, it is another story. Atlantic salmon and sea trout don´t compete with grayling there. Brownies and, higher up in the mountains white fish and char, get their part of the waters.

One of the most renowned grayling paradises is the famed fishing camp Tjuonajokk. In these wilderness areas of the Sapmi people, there are naturally too many grayling waters for this review, so this time I´ll end with just one!

Suggestion: The Tjuonajokk Fishing camp
www.fishyourdream.com/en/

Members of the Grayling Society get a10% discount on all the Fish Your Dream destinations.

One piece of advice though – if you find the fishing there too easy, try the foursome. It has always been a keen challenge for many anglers: brown trout, char, whitefish, and grayling – the Lady of the Stream!

Then for all 'dreamers', there's the 'Fishtrain' that I´ve dreamed of ever since I

worked in Lapland: the existing railway that cuts through so many unfished streams and lakes, through sheer wilderness, and which only needs a complimentary agenda – fishing stops.

Last time, in 2012, I tried to get the company Inlandsbanan AB interested, but they refused – as earlier. I really hope it will come true! See you on the water!

POLAND

By Dr Stanislaw Cios

Any foreign angler is most welcome in Poland. However, when planning a trip here he will face some challenges. The most important one concerns the licence. There is no precise information in English on the website of the Polish Angling Association to guide the angler (the page with "Fishing regulations in Poland" does not help much). He will not know what type of licences are available, what the price is (usually about 40 PLN per day, but some C&R water are more expensive) and where to buy the licence, not to mention such minor details like bags, size limits and closed seasons. If this information didn't discourage the potential visitor than he may read the following sections.

Basically grayling may be found in two regions in Poland. In the southern part of the country (the submontane region) the best waters are the **River Dunajec** and **River San**. There are four sections in the River Dunajec drainage area, which I recommend. The first one is the upper part – the River Czarny Dunajec, from the town Czarny Dunajec to Nowy Targ. It has a fairly high gradient, crystal clear water and a stony bottom, excellent for spawning. The fish population is dominated by grayling and trout. A large part of the water is C&R. The next section is from the city of Nowy Targ to the inflow into the Czorsztyn Reservoir. This section is under strong influence of the reservoir and in several places such species like roach, perch and chub may be abundant. The third section is from the dam in Czorsztyn until the city of Nowy Sącz, excluding the closed section in the Pieniński National Park (between the villages Sromowce Niżne and Szczawnica). The best part is a C&R water from Krościenko downstream until the confluence with the stream Ochotnica (ca.11km). Since the completion of the construction of the dam in Czorsztyn in the 1990s grayling population has dropped tremendously due to the lack of the possibility of migration to the spawning areas in the River Czarny Dunajec and frequent changes in the water level destroying the fry. The fourth section is the **River Poprad**, which is an affluent of the Dunajec. The whole river holds grayling and there are many beautiful places worth visiting. There is also a good population of barbel, nase and chub. However there is one serious drawback – the water is very muddy after heavy rains, even for a few weeks, due to clay substrate. In contrast, River Dunajec becomes clean and fishable after one day.

As regards the **River San** there are also a few sections offering different possibilities. The water upstream of the Solina Reservoir holds many grayling, but in general they are not large (rarely >35cm). The best section is from the dam in Myczkowce (hypolimnion drain, temperature in the range 4-11°C) until the confluence with the stream Hoczewka (ca. 7km). It is a C&R and fly-only water, holding many nice grayling (even >50cm), trout (>60cm) and huchen (>☺). The water level depends on the release from the Myczkowce Reservoir (it may change quite often). The third section is from the confluence with the stream Hoczewka until the weir in Osława (just above the confluence with the stream Osława). It is also a good water. According to current rules all grayling must be released there (trout may be kept). Two World and one European FIPS-Mouche fly fishing championships were organised on this most beautiful fly-water in Poland and one of the best ones in the world. The river is wide (on average 80-100m), shallow (50-150cm, with only

occasional deep pools) and smooth surface. It is an ideal dry fly water, for the beginner and the expert. Most of the big fish are highly trained in avoiding the angler's flies, so they can really test his skill and patience.

In the northern highland part of the country there are several beautiful rivers, especially Łupawa, Wieprza, Łeba, Reda and Radunia (all emptying into the Baltic Sea), Wda and Brda (affluents of the River Vistula), as well as Drawa (especially the section within the Drawieński National Park – see http://dpn.pl/fishing) and Gwda (with its affluents Czernica, Piława and Dobrzyca). Long sections of these rivers flow through forests. Some parts are C&R waters. Best grayling fishing is early in June and in October-December. During the summer the waters are full of vegetation and kayaks, both being a nuisance for the angler.

One final remark – in most public waters the grayling population is at a very low level (except C&R). This is mainly due to overfishing, poaching and anthropogenic impacts (pollution, stream regulation, destruction of spawning sites, dams and weirs, etc.), but also mismanagement can be greatly improved.

Should any reader be determined to visit Poland, which I strongly recommend, I would be ready to give him some individual advice on how to plan the trip.

Contact: stcios@hotmail.com

CZECH REPUBLIC

By Jitka Rutkayová, Karel Beneš, Jan Šiman and Pavel Vrána

The Czech Republic (or Czechia) is a landlocked nation state in the Central Europe bordered by Germany to the West, Austria to the South, Slovakia to the East and Poland to the North East. The Czech Republic covers the area of 30,450 sq miles and has 10.6 million inhabitants. The Czech Republic includes the historical territories of Bohemia, Moravia, and Czech Silesia. Sport fishermen (anglers) are mainly members of the Czech Anglers Union (Czech: Český rybářský svaz – ČRS). ČRS is a civic organization, its essential functions are:

1. Perform angling activities pursuant to the Fishery Law.
2. Behave, protect, and fish water organisms, their life and environment.
3. Provide methodological help and service for organizational units of the Union and its members, including the purchase and distribution of the fish stock for further production and stocking of the fisheries.
4. Protect nature, water cleanliness and environment.
5. Participate in out-of-school activities for children and youth in the area of fisheries and angling sport, environmental protection, water and environmental cleanliness.
6. Participate in integration of handicapped people into the Union´s activity.
7. Develop and popularize angling and organize angling contests for all levels.
8. Cooperate with the Czech and foreign bodies, organizations, and institutions whose activity touches angling and the environment.

Union and its organizational units (territorial and local offices) can perform the business activities in compliance with generally obligatory legal regulations.

For more information about waters visit: www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_rivers_of_the_Czech_Republic

If you want to go sport fishing (or fly fishing) as a foreigner you must have:

1. A state rod licence. You can buy a temporary state rod licence for 30 days (cost 200CZK) at a municipal office (authorized or municipal authority with extended powers, in nearly every larger town in Czechia). Obtaining this licence is easy, as you just need to fill in simple form, submit your passport, and pay.
2. A fishing permit. Based on your state rod licence you can buy temporary fishing permit from the Secretary of the relevant

regional, or a local organisation of the Czech Anglers Union.

More information can be found here: www.rybsvaz.cz/?page=conditions_for_angling&lang=en

If you wish to stay for longer period, you can obtain state rod licence with longer validity and become a member of the Czech Anglers Union. The rules for sport fishing, including fly fishing, are based on the fishing regulations of the Czech Anglers Union, which are available here: www.rybsvaz.cz/pages_cz/legislativa/fishing_regulation_2017.pdf (the 2018 English version is not available yet).

A few examples of rivers in the catchment with populations of grayling: upper parts of Otava and Vltava river.

River Otava

The Otava is a river in West and South Bohemia. It is 112 kilometres (70 miles) long and is the left tributary of the Vltava. The river flows through several towns, including Sušice, Strakonice and Písek. The river's name is of the Celtic origin. It is a popular river for water sports.

The River Otava originates in the confluence of the River Křemelná and River Vydra near the small village of Čeňkova Pila. At the beginning, the River Otava flows through the narrow valley with many rapids, rocky bottom, and a good stock of native brown trout. Ahead, at the town of Sušice, the stream slows down in the wide and open valley and near another South Bohemia city, Strakonice, it confluences with another grayling-rich water, the **River Volyňka.**

The River Otava can be divided into three parts. The first one is full of large stones with fast flow and ideal conditions for brown trout. The recommended method is dry fly and nymphing with small nymphs. The middle part is broader, the river bed is full of small stones and you can find large pools there. This is the ideal section for grayling. The lower part is deeper, and you should use heavier nymphs or even streamers. The fishing pressure is here relatively high, in combination with predators (such as cormorant) and therefore it is hard to catch bigger fish. The best option seems to be #2-5 rod from 8'6" to 9'6" or longer if you prefer French nymph.

River Vltava

The River Vltava is the longest Czech river. It begins at the confluence of two tributaries – the Teplá Vltava (Warm Vltava) and the Studená Vltava (Cold Vltava) – in the nature reserve of the Mrtvý Luh (Dead Mead), which lies near the small village Nová Pec in the Šumava mountains (Bohemian Forest). The Hot Vltava is considered as the headstream. After the conjuction it continues to the largest reservoir in the Czech Republic, Lipno I. Under the dam of Lipno I is the start of a nice natural part of the River Vltava called Čertovy kameny (Devils stones). It's a stretch of the river where just 10 permits per day are issued.

A relatively broader part of river, which flows through wide valleys, can be found near Slunečná, Dobrá, Lenora and Horní Vltavice (Warm Vltava). Parts of the river are not accessible by car due to National Park Šumava regulations and in some parts wading is not allowed. The first part of river near Horní Vltavice and Lenora has a sandy bed with rocky areas, some big rocks and depth up to 1m (deeper pools up to 3m). Besides grayling, it is possible to catch brown trout, pike and dace.The best grayling periods are the end of April to the end of June and mid of September up to November, although grayling are protected during first period (1st December to 15th June).

Near Volary (Slunečná) the river is bigger river up to 20 m wide with plenty of water weeds and depth up to 1.3m. The longest part of river is in the National Park Šumava. Instead of grayling, which are prevalent here, you can catch pike, perch, dace and chub, or even bream. Those species migrate upstream from the Lipno Reservoir mostly in summer time. This part of the river

is also preferred by paddlers during the summer season from early morning to late evening, so the best season is late September and most of October. You should be careful when wading as you can come across some deep pools (up to 3m).

The most common methods are Czech or French nymphing, wet fly and dry fly-fishing which works the best in the afternoon when graylings are rising. You will be fine with #4 rod (down to #1) with length of 8'6" up to 10' for nymphing. All types of duns on hooks of 16-22 size (mostly olive and blue) work well. Best for nymphing are green, brown and grey sorts of Czech nymphs (Bobeš) or micro nymphs with small tungsten heads (classical gold and silver ones are OK).

The lower parts of the river under the Lipno II. reservoir are wide (20-50m) with a depth up to 1.5m. The river bed is rocky with sandy deposits. Wearing high waders is highly recommended. Fishing is affected by Lipno II., the waterflow varying between 6 to 30m3/s. In the summer time it is about 6 to 10m3/s which is fine. In the upper part around Herbertov you have a great chance of catching big brown trout or grayling. The best season is late May and June, when sedge's hatch starts. Also, October and November are great. The successful flies are bugs, olives, quills, natural palmers, and duns. You can also use nymphing techniques which are recommended here. Even streamers are not bad here with heavier rods (#5-6), especially in the mornings due to rainbow trout. Downstream around the small town of Rožmberk there are some nice places, however access to the water is affected by a deep valley and a public road close to the river. During the summer season there are also plenty of paddlers and from late morning (approx. 10am) to late afternoon (up to 7pm) it is not quiet place.

Finding accommodation is not a big issue as in every part of river there are a lot of campsites, pensions, hotels etc. If you'd like help with accommodation and holiday activities, contact the travel agency CA Manta Travel, email: info@mantatravel.cz.

Also visit a website about fly fishing www.goflyfish.cz (EN). There is nice photo gallery of the rivers, fish, landscape and nature. This website also provides fishing information, fly fisher testimonials (http://goflyfish.cz/references.html) and lots of useful information for visitors.

If you wish to find more details, the person to contact in the Czech Republic is Ms Jitka Rutkayová, phone +420 607 605 778 or email: jitka.rutkay@centrum.cz. If you want to contact the Czech Anglers Association the right person is Pavel Vrána (phone +420 728 701 379, email: vrana@rybsvaz.cz). If you like to get information about current fishing conditions, to help with fishing licences and permits, or wish to use an experienced fishing guide, you can contact Jan Šiman (phone +420 775 107 441, email: info@siman.cz).

ITALY

By Mauro Zavaldi

NORTH ITALY

Piedmont Region

River Sesia

The blue fin grayling paradise.

Rivers & Creeks:
River Sesia, Val Sesia Valley.

Fishing Area:
River Sesia, from the town of Varallo till to the town of Campertogno.

Species:
European grayling (*Thymallus aeliani* "blue fin grayling"), marble trout, rainbow trout, brown trout.

Grayling population status:
Poor but in increasing.

Information, fishing licence and guides:
www.valsesiapesca.it



River Sesia



River Adda

River Toce

Rivers & Creeks:
River Toce, Val d'Ossola Valley.
Fishing Area:
Catch & Release area of "Verampio" around the town of Bacedo, Catch & Release area between the towns of Domossola and Crevoladossola.
Autumn & Winter fishing area:
From the town of Migiandone to the town of Gravellona Toce.
Species:
European grayling, marble trout, brown trout.
Grayling population status:
Poor but increasing.
Information, fishing licence and guides:
www.fipsasvco.it

Lombardy Region

River Adda

The most important grayling population in Italy.

Rivers & Creeks:
River Adda, Valtellina Valley.
Fishing Area:
Entire river from Tirano to Morbegno.
Species:
European grayling, marble trout, rainbow trout, brown trout.
Grayling population status:
Plentiful.
Information, fishing licence and guides:
www.unionepescasondrio.it

River Oglio

Rivers & Creeks:
River Oglio, Valcamonica Valley
Fishing Area:
From the mouth with the Lake Iseo to the village of Rogno.
Species:
European grayling, marble trout, rainbow trout, brown trout (lake trout).
Grayling population status:
Poor.
Information, fishing licence and guides:
www.pescaamoscabrescia.org

Trentino Region

River Adige
Stream Noce

Rivers & Creeks:
River Adige (val d'Adige Valley), Stream Noce (Piana Rotaliana Valley).
Fishing Area:
From the city of Trento to the entire river upstream.
Species:
European grayling, marble trout, brown trout, rainbow trout.
Grayling population status:
Plentiful.
Information, fishing license and guides:
www.apdt.it

River Adige 2

Rivers & Creeks:
River Adige (Vallagarina Valley).
Fishing Area:
River Adige, entire river from the town of Besenello to the town of Avio.
Species:
European grayling, marble trout, brown trout, rainbow trout.
Grayling population status:
Average at present.
Information, fishing license and guides:
www.apdv.org

River Chiese

Rivers & Creeks:
River Chiese (val di Chiese Valley, Val di Fumo Valley, Val di Daone Valley).
Fishing Area:
Around the town of Condino.
Species:
European grayling, marble trout, brown trout, rainbow trout.
Grayling population status:
Average at present.
Information, fishing license and guides:
www.associazionepescatorialtochiese.com

Alto Adige Region

River Adige & River Iscaro

Rivers & Creeks:
River Adige (val d'Adige Valley), River Isarco (Isarco Valley).
Fishing Area:
River Adige, entire river, River Isarco in the city of Bolzano.
Species:
European grayling, marble trout, brown trout, rainbow trout.
Grayling population status:
Plentiful
Information, fishing license and guides:
www.fischen-pescare.bz.it

River Rienza

Rivers & Creeks:
River Rienza (val Pusteria Valley.)
Fishing Area:
Species:
European grayling, marble trout, brown trout, rainbow trout.
Grayling population status:
Average at present.
Information, fishing license and guides:
www.fipsasbz.it

Stream Aurino

The biggest Grayling in Italy

Rivers & Creeks:
Creek Aurino (val di Tures Valley).
Fishing Area:
Around the town of Caminata di Tures.
Species: European grayling, marble trout, brown trout, rainbow trout.
Grayling population status:
Plentiful
Information, fishing license and guides:
www.brunicofly.it

Veneto Region

River Adige

Rivers & Creeks:
River Adige.
Fishing Area:
Around the city of Verona.
Species:
European grayling, marble trout, brown trout, rainbow trout.
Grayling population status:
Average at present.
Information, fishing license and guides:
www.appv.it/

River Brenta

Rivers & Creeks:
River Brenta.
Fishing Area:
From the town of Primolano to the town of Pozzoleone, inclused the city of Bassano del Grappa.
Species:
European grayling, marble trout, brown trout, rainbow trout.
Grayling population status:
Average at present.
Information, fishing license and guides:
www.bacinofiumebrenta.it

River Piave
Stream Boite

Rivers & Creeks:
River Piave, Stream Boite.
Fishing Area:
Around the town of Peraolo.
Species: European grayling, marble trout, brown trout, rainbow trout.
Grayling population status:
Average atpresent.
Information, fishing license and guides:
www.cadorepesca.com/index.htm

Friuli Venezia Giulia Region

River Cellina, River Meduna, River Natisone, River Resia,

Rivers & Creeks:
River Meduna, River Cellina, River Natisone, Creek Resia.
Fishing Area:
River Meduna at Val Tramontina valley, River

Cellina (Upstream from the lake of Barcis), River Natisone around San Pietro al Natisone, River Resia around Povici.
Species:
European grayling, marble trout, brown trout, rainbow trout.
Grayling population status:
Poor but increasing.
Information, fishing license and guides:
www.entetutelapesca.it

Umbria Region

River Tevere

Rivers & Creeks:
River Tevere, Tail Water Tevere (TWT).
Fishing Area:
Between the lake of Montedoglio (tail water) till to the town of Sansepolcro.
Species:
European grayling, brown trout
Grayling population status:
Poor but increasing.
Information, fishing licence and guides:
www.moscaclubaltotevere.it

CROATIA

River Kupa, River Kupica, River Curak

Rivers & Creeks:
River Kupa, River Kupica, Creek Curak (Kupa valley, Croatian side).
Fishing Area:
Kupa: From the dams of Dol till to the spring into the Risnjak National Park.
Kupica & Curak: Around the town of Brod Na Kupi.
Species: European grayling, brown trout, Danube salmon (*Hucho hucho*).
Grayling population status:
Plentiful.
Information, fishing licence and guides:
www.risnjak.hr
(Kupa into the National Park only)
www.kupa-flyfishing.com
(Kupa, Kupica, Curak)



Croatia, River Kupica

THE GRAYLING ANGLING CODE

Wading

Grayling often inhabit salmon rivers, so if your ticket permits you to wade, do so with great care as it is a criminal offence to disturb redds and spawning fish. The Society supports salmon interests in denouncing 'shuffling' (attracting grayling by shuffling your feet to release insects from the riverbed), for not only can redds be disturbed, but it can have adverse impact on fry and other aquatic life. It can also lead to wading being banned or even access being denied, so please don't do it. For your own safety you should wear waders suitable for the conditions prevailing, use common sense over where you wade, and when deep wading employ a wading staff and a buoyancy aid, especially in unfamiliar waters.

Angling Methods

The Grayling Society is not a fly fishing club. Many anglers do use the fly, but bait fishing is widely practiced, particularly in the winter months, and is sometimes essential if fish are to be caught. Whichever method is to be employed, please check and follow the rules.

Give proper consideration to other anglers - don't cut across others fishing, or crowd or obstruct, particularly on the opposite bank, and be prepared to give way after fishing a pool or stretch of river. The number and size of grayling that can be taken is now limited by law, so be aware of these limits, particularly if fishing is good, and accept that some blank days are part of the fishing experience.

The aims of the Grayling Society are '...to promote awareness, conservation and angling for grayling...'

The Grayling Angling Code has been prepared to help us all fish for grayling in a manner that shows respect for the fish and contributes to its conservation and welfare.

Good Conduct

Grayling Society members are expected to engage in good practice wherever they fish. Educating by example, they should be courteous and considerate to fellow anglers and others using the water amenity, park wisely, close all gates, treat hedges and walls as barriers not sporting obstacles and observe the Country Code.

Never leave nylon or other litter on the river bank. Discarded hooks and nylon endangers wildlife.

Rules of the River

Valid permission to fish should be obtained before fishing, supported where applicable with a rod licence. Remember that there is now a national EA bye-law about keeping grayling; up to two grayling, of 30-38cm, per day, may be removed between 16th June and 15th March. Local rules can vary widely, even on adjacent beats, so they should always be consulted and complied with. Should you disagree with one or other of them, don't turn a blind eye and do it your way. If you feel strongly about it, a reasoned and courteous letter to the club or proprietor may prove a catalyst for future change. Constructive feed-back is usually appreciated.

Hooks

It is strongly recommended that anglers use barbless hooks or hooks which have had the barb pinched down, whether using fly or bait. Experience has shown that, providing a fish is played correctly with a tight line, few fish are lost as a direct result of using barbless hooks. Indeed barbless hooks are commonly used in match angling for coarse fish where landing hooked fish is vital and speed in the unhooking of a landed fish is advantageous.

Playing a Grayling

We all know how hard fighting a grayling can be, especially downstream of you in a strong water flow. It is important to bring the fish to hand as soon as possible within the limits of your terminal tackle. Please play the fish quickly whilst avoiding the possibility of 'breaking off' and leaving a hook in the grayling. Do not overplay a grayling for your own amusement.

Fish Handling

When handling any fish which is to be returned to the water it is essential to consider its well-being.

Wet your hands before touching any fish. Dry hands remove the surface 'slime' from the fish which is there to protect against waterborne parasites and diseases. Try not to handle the fish at all by leaning down and unhooking the fish in the water using forceps, anglers pliers, fingers or a product such as the 'Ketchum Release'.

Avoid the temptation to hold a fish up for admiration – it may boost your ego but could harm the fish.

Unhooking underwater is the preferred method. Even merely lifting the fishes head out of the water will reduce its chances of survival.

If a fish has swallowed a hook which cannot be easily and quickly removed, cut off the spare nylon and leave the hook. This will ultimately be less stressful than probing inside the fish with forceps or a disgorger because rusting and digestive fluids will eventually break down the hook.

Returning Fish

Landed fish are tired, especially after a prolonged fight. Contrary to what one may think, a large fish will recover less quickly than a smaller one. When returning any fish hold it carefully in the water facing upstream and keep holding it until it has recovered and is capable of swimming away, perfectly upright, under its own power. Do not hold it with your fingers over the gills - it will drown!

Do not move the fish backwards and forwards in the water in the belief that this will speed up its recovery - it won't. In fact, this action can reduce its chances of recovery because silt or other foreign bodies may enter the gills.

Nets

The traditional knotted mesh is illegal so all nets should be fitted with a knotless mesh. Whenever a landing net is used it should be submerged and the fish drawn over it before lifting it gently up and out of the water. Unhooking should then be carried out with wet hands and the fish either released or despatched as quickly as possible.

Do not put grayling into keepnets as they suffer badly from stress in this situation.

Last Rites

If a fish is to be kept then please despatch it quickly using a priest. Stones, pieces of wood or the butt of your rod are crude and disrespectful alternatives which should not be used.

Respect

Grayling were not put in this world for our pleasure. However, we do gain pleasure from catching grayling and many people enjoy eating them. They are wild creatures and when angling for them we are engaged in a legitimate pursuit. Let us all treat the pursuit of grayling and the fish with the respect this age-old tradition deserves.

Environmental Considerations

Anglers are the watchdogs of the river and its environment. Please report any pollution, or other threat to fish, to a responsible person or agency e.g. fishery manager, river keeper, club official, Environment Agency.

Safety

Like all sports, fishing can be dangerous so, look behind before casting. Wear eye and head protection, particularly in windy conditions - remember also that graphite (carbon) rods conduct electricity, so take extra care when fishing near overhead power lines, electric fences and in thunder storms, when it is advisable to stop fishing altogether.

Final Word

The Society was born out of enthusiasm for the grayling. Like the grayling it is special, and has the respect of many in the worlds of angling and conservation. Let us keep it that way by observing this Code and encouraging people concerned with angling everywhere to be committed to our cause and to our lovely fish.

Whenever and wherever you are fishing for grayling – enjoy yourself! Tight lines!