

Clear Access, Clear Waters

# A campaign for fair, **shared, sustainable open access**

British Canoeing **will** do the following:

1

Champion the case for fair, shared, sustainable open access on and along inland waters to be confirmed in law.



3

Commit to inspire more people to be active outdoors; connecting people with their environment and promoting the benefits on mental and physical well-being.

2

Continue to act to protect and improve the health of our rivers; working to protect, preserve and enhance the natural environment.



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Clear Waters**

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# British Canoeing's commitment to fair, shared, sustainable open access



Access on English waterways has been disputed for more than 60 years. British Canoeing believes there is a strong case to demonstrate an existing right to navigation on rivers, other parties disagree.

The growth of canoeing and the enjoyment levels of paddlers rely on access on and along rivers and waterways, in clean, healthy environments.



At a time where our waterways face greater threats than ever before - from pollution, invasive non-native species and climatic pressures - the public must be fully engaged in protecting them. Clear waters can only be achieved with clear access for all.

British Canoeing would like to see the outdoors open to all sustainable recreational pursuits to responsible users, enabling everyone to enjoy the health and well-being benefits of being in, on or beside water.

Inactivity is causing all sorts of problems for young people – diabetes, obesity and other health issues – many of which can be solved by exercise and being outdoors.

Access to the environment, specifically our waterways, has the potential to create a deep and lasting connection with nature, encouraging pro-environmental behaviours. But just 4% of English waterways are uncontested leaving tens of thousands of miles of river open to dispute and disagreement.

Few of us live near the coast; however, the majority of the population live near a river, canal or lake. It is not right that these spaces are often 'off limits' or closed off from the public and more must be done to enable greater access to waterways.

Everyone has a responsibility to take reasonable measures to help safeguard the environment for both

the present and future generations. Through its pledges, British Canoeing is committing to leading the paddling community towards a clearer position on access and a brighter future for the environment.

English waterways are a fantastic resource that should be available for everyone to enjoy responsibly, without prejudice or exclusion.

If future generations are to respect the natural environment and be engaged in its protection, then there must be clarity over rights of access.

**Fair, shared, sustainable open access**, it's not too much to ask for is it?

Find out more at [britishcanoeing.org.uk/access](https://britishcanoeing.org.uk/access)