

## **Northumberland National Park and County Joint Local Access Forum**

### **Position Statement on Access to Water by users of unpowered craft**

The Northumberland National Park and County Joint Local Access Forum position statement concerning access to water by unpowered craft:

1. To endorse and to support the Rivers Access Campaign as proposed by 'Canoe England' in seeking to resolve outstanding issues regarding the legal rights of passage over inland waterways.
2. To support the legal and sustainable use of unpowered craft on rivers and waterways in England and Wales in a responsible and appropriate way.
3. To encourage Northumberland County Council and Northumberland National Park Authority to consider access to water for users of unpowered craft.
4. To encourage users of unpowered craft to only use waterways where they have express consent to do so and to be aware of other users of waterways, in particular fishermen, as well as wildlife disturbance and privacy issues.
5. To support the use of voluntary codes of practice to reduce the potential conflict between users of unpowered craft and other river users.
6. To encourage access to all rivers under voluntary access agreements such as those which have been operating on the Tyne for many years.
7. To encourage the creation of bodies which represent the managers of whole river systems (such as the Tyne Riparian Owners and Occupiers Association) so that agreements do not have to be made with individual land owners / managers.
8. To be aware of the particular issue of the need for access and exit points to and from the river.
9. To be aware of the need to ensure the protection of sites of nature conservation and cultural heritage importance (particularly designated sites- SSSIs, SACs, SPAs and priority habitats under the UK BAP and Scheduled Ancient monuments).

Proposed by WG1 July 2009

Meeting 23 July suggested replacing 'canoe' with 'users of unpowered craft'

Approved by JLAF at their meeting on 23 July 2009

Amended with Point 9 to be ratified at the JLAF meeting on 22 October 2009

