

RIVER SPEY

BADENOCH & STRATHSPEY ~ MORAY FIRTH

ADVISER: David Craig, Strone Steading, Newtonmore. PH20 1BA.
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GRADE: Grade I/II Rapids (Some Grade III in very higher reaches.)

USES: Scotland's most popular and ideal river for multi-day descents by canoe.
Limited rafting (almost exclusively Ballindalloch to Knockando/Carron Bridge)
Excellent salmon fishing, especially middle and lower sections.
Salmon season: 11th Feb ~ 30th Sept. *No salmon fishing on Sundays.*
Trout & some pike fishing in mainly upper sections. (Arctic char in Loch Insh.)

O.S. Maps: Sheets 35; 36 & 28. Also Harveys "Speyside Way" (Waterproof) Map

ACCESS POINTS: (Recommended but in no way 'binding' ~ there are many other possible/ ideal/reasonable points of access)
NB ~ **The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003** allows for **reasonable** and **responsible** pedestrian/non-motorised craft access, anywhere along the river, which is not over an area of curtilage (e.g. a house garden) or cropped field, is considerate of the activities of other land or river-users and causes no damage to property.

Laggan Bridge – (GR.615942) River right, below road bridge.

Lochain Uvie – (GR.674957) River left via larger of two lochans. Park in lay-by below Creag Dhubh crags.

Newtonmore - (GR.709980) River right, below Speybridge. Vehicular access to left bank only available if resident on Speybridge Campsite. (Avoid unauthorised vehicle/trailer parking at the private/commercial lorry park at the Chef's Grill.)

Kingussie - (GR.759997) River right, below bridge leading to Ruthven Barracks. (Use gate on downstream side of the road.)

Loch Insh SW – (GR.822043) Lay-by opposite gate lodge. Access SW corner of Loch Insh via arch under railway. (Please employ great care when opening and then firmly securing the somewhat dilapidated gate presently in place.)

Loch Insh NE- (GR.837045) Commercial water-sports centre site NE corner of Loch. ('Curtilage' thus require to liaise with owner/staff)

Kincraig – (GR.835054) River right below church. Park in lay-by opposite church. Please close the gate.

Aviemore - River left, downstream of both road and foot bridges, from car park serving the Old Bridge Inn.

Boat of Garten - River left, downstream side of road bridge. Parking possible in lay-by opposite access point.

Broomhill Bridge - River left by bridge. Careful, temporary vehicle parking possible, downstream side of bridge.

Grantown on Spey - (GR.028266) River left ~ approx. 450 metres above main-road bridge (by parking areas).

Cromdale - River right below bridge, by the church. Please, only long-term parking here in the roadside layby (river right).

Dellefure Burn - (GR.085316) - River left. (Limited parking space by track leading to fishing hut. Do not block track.)

Advie Bridge - (GR.120354) - River left. Need to park on verge, ~ outside five bar gate.

Deleigh Pool – (GR138353) – 1 Mile downstream of Advie Bridge. Access via signposted ('New Access Point') track. Follow track, passing maintenance sheds to your left, until reaching ample parking/turning area by water's edge. Ample, safe, secluded parking here. No eddies at this point ~ straight on to moving water, over rocks when low water but 'manageable'.

Ballindalloch March Pool (++) - (GR 158369) – River left, where B9102 comes within 10 metres of the river ~ closest of all access-points. Presently difficult, access here at this 'traditional', long(est)-standing launch site. Alongside B9102 (in 03/16) a 2m high/300m long fence was constructed with no access gate ~ contravening Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. Fence does not go to the river, thus **access is still, just possible at ends of fence**. Small laybys (some restricted by boulders) on north side of road away from river. Better parking for larger groups available 900 metres downstream at the Ayeon Pool, detailed below.

Ballindalloch Ayeon Pool (++) - (GR.167368) - River left, some 900 metres downstream of 'March Pool'. Vehicular access through gate via a good track into a field with sub-based turning circle, close to the river. To facilitate responsible toileting, a portable toilet (funded by paddlers) is available at this location ~ early-April to mid-Oct. (Core Path SRA 11)

((**Camping: Ballindalloch Old Station** ~ camping area/toilet by disused railway line/part of the Speyside Way at Cragganmore, can be accessed over fields via a stile river-right, approx. 150 meters above iron/lattice-work, disused rail bridge. Car parking available by this Cragganmore camping area via B9137 just off A95 ~ en route to Cragganmore Distillery.))

Cragganmore Bridge (++) - (GR.169368) - River left below railway bridge, also possible for use by those camping at the small Speyside Way Ballindalloch campsite & toilet. (Core Path SRA 12)

Cragganmore – (GR.171367) River right. Accessible immediately before the houses signposted Cragganmore village from the A95. Lay-by on south side of B9137, with footpath opposite, leading (25m) directly to the riverside/steepish bank. (SRA 10)

Marypark or Blacksboat Bridge (++) – River left just upstream of bridge. This is the bridge just downstream of 'The Washing Machine' rapid. (Camping still possible by Blacksboat Station via Core Path SRA 09 ~ but no facilities.)

~ Easy, quick cycle access along the Speyside Way from Knockando for those prepared to 'shuttle-transport' by bike to the above indicated (++) access points. (Possible for other accesses/egresses via Speyside Way down as far as Craigellachie.)

Knockando - (GR.190416) – Two sets of access steps, river left below Tamdhu distillery. Ample vehicle parking in the old station carpark. Please do not drive or park vehicles on to on the Speyside Way (~ line of the old railway track). Purpose built toilet and changing area on river bank by access steps. (Core Path SRA 08)

Carron – River left, downstream side of road bridge. Access to river via gap in fence leading to small path (Core Path SRA 07) just right of the entrance to Laggan House driveway. Careful, temporary parking possible for loading/unloading in a passing place. For longer-term parking use layby on north side of road towards Carron village close to old village hall ~ approx 200m NW of bridge **or** enclosed parking area by distillery entrance but tricky getting in/out of gate with a trailer. If practical, best move vehicle(s) to planned egress.

Aberlour – For close egress to car-park ~ river right on the grassy bank by Victoria foot-bridge ~ water conditions allowing, within an area 20 metres above/below the bridge. Can be difficult to moor or lift boats from water without damage, because of large sharp rocks placed to support the bank. Alternatively 300m downstream of bridge, river-right at ‘Sandy Hole’ an excavated, stony area where it can be easier to lift out boats for temporary stop at Aberlour, where there some nice cafes!

Craigellachie (1) – Easy access, river right, sandy beach, immediately below the Telford bridge. Small public car park close by.

Craigellachie (2) – River-right by small black fishing hut, some 500 metres below the road bridge, & approx. 300m above the confluence of the Fiddich Water. Park boats within the ‘L-shaped’ fenced area, approx. 25metres north of the fishing hut. Landowners (Moray Council) reasonably/rightfully request no group camping on riverbank here but rather for paddler-groups to use the very ample, public camp-area/toilets at Boat o’ Fiddich Park accessed (300m) along Speyside Way. On moving on downstream from this location, endeavour to stay river-right until the next rapid.

Boat o’ Brig – River left above or below bridge. Access via track leading past water-board building. There is also a small Speyside Way car-park right bank between the bridges. Access to river possible here river right but difficult because of dumping of large boulders from railway maintenance works.

Fochabers - River right below road bridge. Lengthy (approx. 400m) ‘Pedestrian access’ via a track from a sizeable parking lay-by situated on the river side of the Spey Bay road (B9104) just off the A96.

Spey Bay - River right adjacent to buildings and vehicle parking (Tugnet).

If leaving vehicle(s) at Spey Bay either liaise with folks in Whale & Dolphin shop, with a view to leaving cars in their car area by shop or contact Grampian Police Service-Line (0845 6005700) to initiate vehicle(s) being left in public car-park. (‘Concerned’ members of public have, on occasion, reported cars left for a few days in the public car-park.) Always tell someone (family/friend) you are to be on the river and how long you expect your journey to take.

At all times whilst enjoying the beauty and majesty of this wonderful river, please in return ~

Park, launch and land with care and consideration at all locations. Close or leave gates as you find them.

Respect the activities of other river users. By the same token, expect they will in turn respect your responsible use of the river and its surroundings. Follow the ‘Paddlers’ Access Code’

Use a whistle to attract attention when approaching anglers ~ who, in many cases, may be facing downstream in an area of noisy water, unaware of your impending approach.

Be prepared to identify yourself /organisation if reasonably requested by any fellow river user. It is ideal, if companies/organisations can clearly display a logo or name of organisation on their boats.

Leave absolutely no litter. If you brought it in, then please, you take it out. (And, if at all practical, please remove any litter left by other previous less caring, less responsible persons.)

If toileting outdoors, do so out of site, at least 30 metres away from the river, with utmost of consideration for others and the environment. Bury solids/leave no trace. Definitive guidance is contained within the SCA website, under Access & Environment/Environmental Guidelines/Human sanitation at ~ <http://www.canoescotland.com/Default.aspx?tabid=563>.

Group Camping: Under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, those organising ‘collective wild camping’ ie ‘larger groups’ (let’s say 6+) are require to intimate to the landowner/manager their ‘intention’ to camp at a certain location. The landowner/manager cannot refuse permission to camp but can, for ‘good/explained’ reasons, linked to land-management, suggest another location on their land, reasonable for the purposes of camping.

If camping, work on the principle of ‘Leave No Trace’. Definitive guidance is contained within the SCA website at ~ <http://www.canoescotland.com/Default.aspx?tabid=621>

Fires can be lit but only in a safe location, well away from trees and other flammable vegetation or structures, ideally on a stone/shingle base (dry river-bed ideal or by carefully lifting and later replacing turf or other vegetation). Once extinguished, no evidence of the fire should remain.

For detailed information on Outdoor Access in Scotland visit ~ www.outdooraccess-scotland.com

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Well known for its 'Classic Descents' this is a major river that can usually be relied upon to give reasonable water levels at all seasons. Probably one of the most beautiful rivers in Britain, the Spey flows through Badenoch & Strathspey ~ part of Cairngorms National Park, into Morayshire and ultimately the Moray Firth. Whilst, before venturing on to the Spey unguided one should be a skilled, proficient paddler, there are few highly technical rapids on the river. On sections downstream of Grantown-on-Spey there are a good number of entertaining/testing Grade II rapids. Spey becomes more technical in low-water condition, because of numbers of rocks appearing and current setting under overhanging trees. River can obviously become dangerous in high spate conditions.

A true 'water-path', this river is navigable for most of its length ~ from source at Loch Spey (where the Spey shares its water shed with the turbulent River Roy). A major hazard (requiring great care/portage) above Laggan Bridge is Spey Dam, which like the River Roy steals the Spey's waters and takes them westward (to help power an aluminium smelter). However, good water-levels and much portage are required to make the very highest reaches navigable. Approx. 1km upstream & 1 km downstream of Garva Bridge are short Grade III rocky rapids requiring care and at Garva Bridge the rapid is virtually impassable in low water conditions and Grade III standard if 'navigable'. Although Laggan Bridge is a fairly good access point, Newtonmore is normally recognised as the highest reasonable starting place unless river is fairly high. Roads run close to the river throughout its length.

ACCESS

In addition to that contained within the Scottish Land Reform Act, which allows for responsible pedestrian; cycle; horse and non-motorised boat access, there is a public right of navigation on the River Spey. Within the terms of the Access Legislation the Spey is designated as Core Path within the boundaries of the Cairngorms National Park and Highland Council. 'Navigation' extends to movement over the water ~ up, down and across stream. However, obviously it is imperative that there is mutual respect and co-operation between all water users. In recent years substantial bridges have been built through constructive communication between the paddle-sports and angling bodies. All paddlers should respect the rights of anglers and make all **reasonable** effort to minimise disturbance and prevent upset. Paddlers can expect anglers to extend a similar level of respect and co-operation. Those who paddle the Spey regularly are grateful for the co-operation of the riparian owners, ghillies and Spey Fishery Board staff, who give of their time to liaise with us, thus keeping open constructive, mutually beneficial lines of communication. Those setting up organised outdoor events require to liaise with land-managers where access/egress is to be taken. Recommend contacting relevant Local Authority(ies) Access Officers for guidance in organising such events.

THE RIVER

Canoeists can start a scenic, leisurely paddle from opposite the campsite at Spey Bridge just above Newtonmore. The stretch to Kingussie can be shallow but offers a variety of small, fun rapids ~ ideal for a first time experience on moving water. Apart from a couple of minor rapids below the Ruthven Bridge at Kingussie, the river meanders slowly through the Insh Marshes, an important bird sanctuary, and into Loch Insh ~ a major pool in the River Spey.

Please be aware that pair of ospreys nest on the n.east end of the island near to Kincaig Church April to August. To avoid disturbance of the birds please note of the following:

There is a heightened risk of disturbance if water users linger in close proximity to the nest i.e. within 50m. Moving past without stopping is not a problem. Avoid landing on the island between April and Aug. incl. ("Reckless disturbance" of any wildlife is an offence under the provisions of the Nature Conservation Act (Scotland) 2004 and can lead to prosecution.)

Fallen trees and overhanging branches are the main hazards on these upper sections. However, downstream of Aviemore, there are fewer tree hazards and only a few short, easy rapids. Then, past Boat of Garten the river moves slowly through very flat land. This slow moving stretch continues to around Broomhill Bridge. (Just below Broomhill, at Boat of Balliefurth ~ GR. 013245 ~ is an ideal, easily accessed campsite.)

The majority of rapids throughout the length of the Cairngorms National Park area are Grade I (Laggan to Delliefurie Burn below Cromdale). However, on the approach to Grantown-on-Spey, the river becomes rocky and once through the road bridge the water starts to move more decidedly seaward. We have now moved into the prime fishing beats of the Spey. Going under Advie Bridge it is worth, in low water conditions, moving river right to under the second 'arch', beyond the middle support, to avoid the rows of post stumps remaining under the left 'arch' from a previous bridge structure. From Ballindalloch the river offers a variety of Grade II rapids.

The Ballindalloch to Knockando section includes some of the best of the white water on the Spey. Suitable for and popular with proficient paddlers, this is the single most paddled section of the river. Please alleviate any potential parking problems at the Ballindalloch site by moving vehicles on down to Knockando, where there is ample parking space. Alternatively, one can access the bridge from river right close by the bunkhouse situated in the old Ballindalloch Railway Station. The shuttle on this section is very easily done by bicycle using the Speyside Way, making for a shorter journey, on the return to Ballindalloch from Knockando. As well as being environmentally friendly, using bicycles in shuttles here can avoid potential parking problems at the Ballindalloch parking/launch area as it minimises vehicle numbers and requires no vehicles to be left at the start point.

Downstream of the bridge at Ballindalloch the River Avon (pronounced Aann) enters the Spey from the right. Here, a more interesting Grade II rapid on a double bend introduces the heavier section of the river. Next is Blacksboat Rapid (GR. 181380), a location where the river bed drops fairly sharply and, particularly in low water conditions, the Spey's waters are funnelled into a straight, fast flowing, turbulent water chute providing a real, natural roller-coaster ride. Running parallel with the river at this point, and on downstream to Spey Bay, is the Speyside Way. This is a scenic long-distance footpath stretching to Aviemore, with a spur to Tomintoul, following part of the route of the dismantled Strathspey railway line and from Tugnet along the coast, almost to Buckie.

One is now in an area where small places are big in worldwide terms of malt-whisky names! In a little over two kilometres below Blacksboat Bridge the river bends and one can see the chimneys of the Tamdhu Distillery, signalling the approach to Knockando ~ probably the best known of all Spey rapids (and a fine malt!). At Knockando the river provides interest in most conditions although, as with many of the Spey rapids, it can become a little "washed-out" when the river is high. This two-part rapid has been designated, through local agreement (see below) as a white water training area. The access and egress point is immediately below the rapid on the left bank with a steep path leading up to the old disused railway platform. For ease of loading and unloading and carrying boats it is possible to park, whilst loading or unloading, on the old railway line by the top of the access path. However, as the railway line is now part of the Speyside Way the track should not be obstructed and vehicles moved on to the car-parking area once loading/unloading is completed.

At the instigation and subsequent provision of ground by Knockando Estates, linked with funding from SportsScotland, in May 2002 a toilet and changing rooms facility was opened at Knockando Rapid, for use by paddlers and walkers. This is an excellent example of an estate working hand in hand with the governing bodies of sport. Knockando Estates are not only prepared to negotiate with recreational users but also realise, in economic terms, the value of outdoor pursuits to the area of Strathspey. Many thanks are extended to the Wills family for their forward thinking and co-operation. Situated river left, half way up the riverbank, by the steps just below the end of the rapid, the unit comprises a male and female changing area and "composting toilet". Please endeavour to leave the facility cleaner than when you arrived. Any "foreign objects" dropped down the toilet will completely negate the composting process. However, a handful of the sawdust (provided in bins) should be thrown down the toilet after use. To ensure long term access to this key facility, we must make every effort possible to use these facilities with all due care and respect.

The scenery from Knockando to Fochabers is some of the most picturesque on the Spey with an interesting variety of rapids. This is an extremely pleasant, entertaining section underestimated, indeed unknown to many paddlers. Many appear to assume that only the Ballindalloch to Knockando section offers white water. In the final twenty miles to the sea the river passes through steep, tree laden banks, past stunning red cliffs and pinnacles of ancient, iron-rich glacial deposit. Then one moves into flatter land but still presenting a number of entertaining rapids and very few slow pools. There are many key salmon fishing pools on this section. Here more than almost anywhere else on the river, expect to liaise with and negotiate past large numbers of anglers. (Estates managers have requested the use of whistles ~ likely to be heard over the noise of the water ~ to attract the attention of the angler, as canoes approach. Thus allowing the angler to indicate which side they would prefer canoes to pass. See attached 'Anglers Guide'.)

BEWARE ~ On the approach to Boat o' Brig beware of a large boulder situated in the middle of the flow at a left-hand bend (eroded red cliff area river right) know as 'Otter Hole'. Then on the Braewater Estate approx. 1½ miles above Fochabers, after the final section of steep red banking, known as The Redheughs, look out for on river right two large croys/groynes (~ man-made rock dykes built out into the water). These obstacles are probably the most likely to cause boat wreckage on the whole of the Spey. However, with care, they can be avoided. Many large uprooted trees present on the section below Fochabers ~ requires care in choosing lines through the ever changing single banks. In approaching the lower, tidal section, in certain conditions, severe turbulence can occur, thus making paddling quite difficult. It is inadvisable to enter the sea in conditions of off-shore winds. This said, for much of the time this whole final section is a very pleasant approach to the waves at Spey Bay, where the fresh meets the salt.

(In addition to the O.S. maps listed at the start of this guide, Harveys Maps have produced an excellent waterproof map (ISBN 1-85137-337-3) which covers the length of the Speyside Way. This publication would be a valuable asset for anyone navigating the Spey, downstream of Aviemore.)

Book published 2014: '**River Spey Canoe Guide**' written by experienced Spey paddler Nancy Chambers.

Ballindalloch to Knockando Section

Since the early 1980's substantial bridges have been built through constructive communication between paddlers and anglers particularly on this, the most frequently used section of the Spey. Some years ago, the late Sir David Wills (proprietor of Lower Pitchroy, Phones and Knockando Estates) kindly agreed to the designation of Knockando Rapid (Whin Pool, Stream Pot & Sole ~ ref. map on next page) as a 'White Water Training Area' which, also due to the co-operative nature of Knockando Estates has, on the bank close to the rapid, a toilet and changing facility. When making prolonged use of the Training Area, please stay within the area marked by white posts on either bank and on fishing days (Mon. ~ Sat. incl.) avoid 'playing' in the pool (Pouches) above the Knockando Rapid. Easy portage back to the top of the Training Area is available along a path, river-right. Vehicular access will be from the public road to Knockando (Tamdhu) Station river left. Paddlers are requested, if at all possible, to egress out through the sizeable recessed eddy and up the steep pathway (near to the changing hut) on the left bank just where the fast water ends at top of Station Pool.

Resulting from on-going, constructive discussions with Knockando Estate's factor and ghillies, local paddlesports organisations recognising the pressure in terms of high usage, unique to the Ballindalloch to Knockando stretch, are actively addressing practical ways to reduce paddler/boat numbers through this section. Please help this effort by ensuring the Ballindalloch to Knockando section is the most appropriate for your paddling purpose ~ there are excellent beginner venues upstream of Ballindalloch and many entertaining rapids downstream of Knockando ~ a particularly scenic section ~ all the way to Spey Bay. None of that contained in the above two paragraphs affects paddlers journeying on this wonderful canoe- touring river.

Knockando Estate also requests that, where possible, canoes and rafts adhere to the following guidelines:

Through Knockando Estate with the exception of the first two pools ~ 'Slobs' & 'Greenbank' ~ where paddlers are requested to stay river-left, please move river-right through all other Knockando main pools. The request to move to river right is heralded by large signs just upstream of two key pools 'Poolarder' & 'Pouches' but ~ for all pools through Knockando Estate with fishing huts close-by ~ including further downstream, the 'Long Pool' ~ please try to stay river-right, whenever practically possible.

Paddlers who wish to seek local advice when passing through Knockando waters, (includes from approx. 1 km. below Blacksboat Bridge to approx 2km. above Carron Bridge) then please contact the Estate by calling the factor, Duncan Dunbar-Naismith ~ 07919 183260//e.mail ~ office@knockando-estate.co.uk .

Otherwise, paddlers should follow the key points laid out in the **Access Code for Paddlers** produced in conjunction with the Scottish Canoe Association and Scottish Natural Heritage. This publication is available from the SCA office.

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 allows for reasonable and responsible pedestrian/canoe access, anywhere along the river, which is not over an area of curtilage and causes no damage to property or crops.

For detailed information on Outdoor Access in Scotland visit ~ www.outdooraccess-scotland.com

Any cases of unreasonable behaviour linked to access to or navigation of the river should be reported as soon as possible and with as much detail as is available ~ type of incident, location and where known/appropriate names of those involved to ~

David Craig ~ SCA River Spey Adviser: dave@spiritofthespey.co.uk

SCA Office: <http://www.canoescotland.org/AccessEnvironment.aspx>

Roger Knight ~ Director Spey Fishery Board: director@speyfisheryboard.com

And to relevant Local Access Officer ~

Cairngorms National Park Authority (Laggan to Dellefure Burn): adamstreetersmith@cairngorms.co.uk

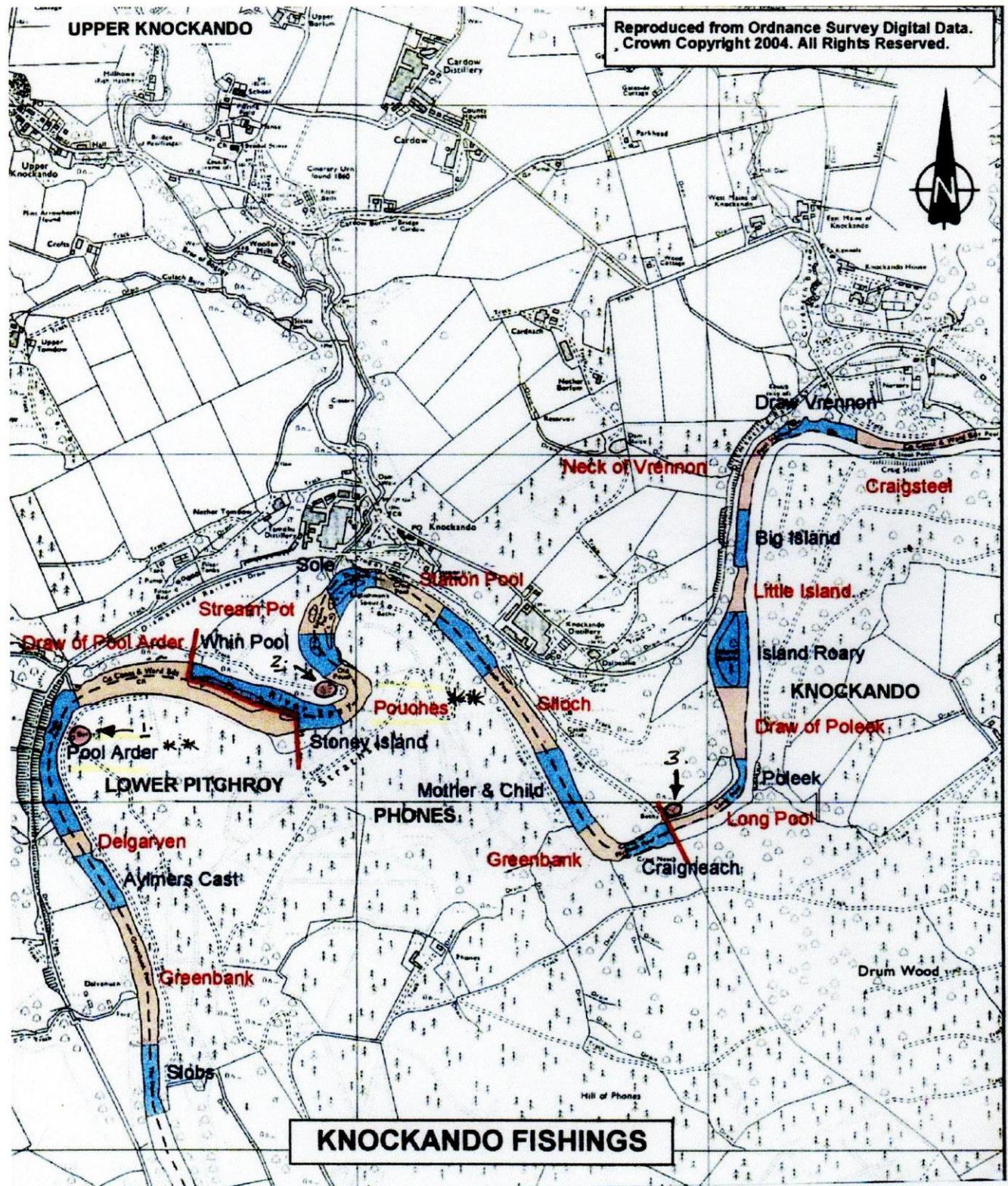
Highland Council (Tulchan Estate only): stuart.eastaugh@highland.gov.uk ;

Moray Council (Ballindalloch to Spey Bay): ian.douglas@moray.gov.uk

This system of incident reporting is applicable to all River Users ~ paddlers, anglers, etc.

UPPER KNOCKANDO

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KNOCKANDO FISHERIES

Key ~
→ ○ = Fishing Huts. 1/2/3.
** = Pool Arder & Pouches
~ please stay River-Right.

Island.
BLACKSBOAT BRIDGE (BALLINDALLOCH)

[Additional Information](#)

GYRODACTYLUS SALARIS

A salmon parasite known as Gyrodactylus Salaris (GS) is present in the rivers of some European countries, especially Norway, and it is of great importance that it is not brought into the UK. If it did get into our rivers the consequences would be disastrous to canoeing and many of our rural industries. Whilst live fish imports present the greatest risk of importing the parasite, recreational users of water, such as canoeists, sailors, windsurfers and anglers have the potential to bring the parasite into the country if they do not follow some simple precautions.

The Scottish Canoe Association website carries detailed advice for paddlers travelling abroad. Visit www.canoescotland.com and click on Access & Environment then go to Waterborne Diseases then Gyrodactylus Salaris or link to ~

<http://www.canoescotland.com/Default.aspx?tabid=702>

As well as the Scottish Canoe Association's own advice there are links to further advice (in English) from the Norwegian Canoe Association. This is a very serious issue that all recreational users of water should be familiar with. Please help to keep this disease out of the UK and do what you can to help raise awareness of the dangers.

SIGNAL CRAYFISH

A fresh water inhabitant, the Signal Crayfish is a North American species that was imported into England in the mid-1970s. It has now established thriving populations in numerous river systems in Southern Britain and is now found in several streams in Scotland. Studies have demonstrated that it can have very harmful effects on our native flora and fauna, including its liking for fish eggs. The distribution of Signal Crayfish in Scotland is believed to be restricted to a few streams in the south west, although isolated specimens have been reported further north. If you observe Signal Crayfish in Scottish waters, or see evidence of them such as body parts, you should report the sighting to the Freshwater Research Services Laboratory at Pitlochry. Further details can be found on their website at: <http://www.marlab.ac.uk/Uploads/Documents/FW-SignalCrayfish.pdf>.

FRESH WATER PEARL MUSSELS

River users are being asked by the Scottish Wildlife Crime Unit to report to local police anything which might be considered suspicious, surrounding possible damage to the Fresh Water Pearl Mussel. Regrettably, illegal fishing of this valuable creature is still being practised. Any help we can give in reporting any such incidents ~ people walking in the water without fishing rods; using glass bottomed buckets; large quantities of opened shells, etc. would be very valuable in ensuring the continued existence of the Fresh Water Mussel which world-wide, now survives in only a few Scottish rivers. Because their life cycle depends upon their eggs being carried for a time in the gills of Salmon, Fresh Water Pearl Mussels only survive in salmon rivers. The Spey is a key river in terms of FWPM stocks. Please help protect them.

For further details of the FWPM and its protection, log on to www.nwcu.police.uk

NB Any unauthorised fishing on a Scottish river is in law categorised as poaching, thus a criminal offence, punishable by heavy fines and possible confiscation of equipment, including ~ tackle and boats, even vehicles. Towing a line behind a canoe is technically 'poaching', thus a serious breach of the law!

NB2: On the other hand, there has been a serious breach of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 at the Ballindalloch March Pool via the construction of a 7ft high, 300 metre fence blocking rightful, established public access. Please write to Moray Council to ensure access rights are upheld.

LIST OF USEFUL STRATHSPEY CONTACT ADDRESSES & NUMBERS

TOURIST OFFICES

AVIEMORE	01479 810930
CARRBRIDGE	01479 841630 (Easter ~ Oct.)
GRANTOWN ON SPEY	01479 872773
DUFFTOWN	01340 820501
ELGIN	01343 542666

CAMPING/BUNKHOUSE/CANOEIST-WELCOME ACCOMMODATION

1. Invernahavon Caravan Park, Glentruim, Newtonmore. PH20 1BE
(Kerry Campbell) 01540 673534
2. **Speybridge Camp/Caravan Site, Newtonmore*****
(Ms. Joey Leslie) 01540 673275
3. Newtonmore Independent Hostel, Main Street, Newtonmore. PH20
(Sue Oxley) 01540 673360
sue@HighlandHostel.co.uk
4. Strathspey Hostel, Main Street, Newtonmore PH20
(Mr Laurie Skuodas) 01540 673694
strathspey@newtonmore.com
5. The Laird's Bothy, 68 High Street Kingussie. PH21 1HZ
(Fiona) 01540 661334
riccfi@hotmail.co.uk
6. Loch Insh Chalets, Kincaig. PH21 1NU
(Mr Jonny Freshwater) 01540 651272
office@lochinsh.com
7. Mill Cottage, by Loch Insh, Kincaig. PH21 1NU
(Gordon Stewart ~ Bookings Secretary, Mountaineering Council of Scotland, self-catering cottage) 01540 661569
8. Lagganlia Centre, Feshiebridge, Kincaig. PH21 1NG
(Mr Nick March) 01540 651265
nick@lagganlia.com
9. Glen Feshie Hostel, Balacroick, Kincaig. PH21 1NH 01540 651323
10. Dalraddy Holiday Park, Dalraddy, Aviemore.
(This site is just 1.2km from the river. Accessible via a rough track leading from the river GR859071) 01479 810330
11. **Speyside Lodge/Caravan Park, Aviemore PH22 1PX** 01479 811688
12. **Pine Bank Chalets, Aviemore** 01479 810000
pinebankchallets@btoopenworld.com
13. **Aviemore Bunkhouse, Aviemore***** 01479 811181
www.aviemore-bunkhouse.com
14. Aviemore Youth Hostel, PH22 1PR 01479 810910
15. Rothiemurchus Caravan/Camping Park, Coylumbridge PH22 1QU 01479 812800
16. Loch Morlich Youth Hostel, Glenmore. PH22 1QY 01479 861238
17. Glenmore Camping/Caravan Park, Glenmore. PH22 1QU 01479 861271
18. Glenmore Lodge (National Centre) Glenmore. PH22 1QU 01479 861256
info.@glenmorelodge.org.uk
19. Boat of Garten Camping/Caravan Park, PH24 3BN 01479 831652
20. Abernethy Bunkhouses, Nethy Bridge
(Patricia & Richard Eccles) 01479 821370
info@nethy.org/www.nethy.org
21. Abernethy Centre, Nethy Bridge 01479 82279
22. **Boat of Balliefurth Campsite** (Approx. 3k Downstream of Broomhill Bridge)***
River right. (Not Balliefurth Farm) Signposted by river 'Camping This Side'.
£3.00 per person per night. Please pay at white house 500m along track.
(Adelaide & Ronnie Macpherson) Best to book ahead. 01479 821435

23. Ardenbeg Bunkhouse, Grant Road, Grantown on Spey
(Linked to Craggan Outdoors: 01479 873283) 01479 872824
enquiries@ardenbeg.co.uk
24. Grantown-on-Spey Camping/Caravan Park. PH26 3JG 01479 872898
25. Cromdale House: Old Manse, close to Cromdale Bridge offering camping facility & if required teas/coffee, scones, etc. Accessible toilets/showers in house Area for fire available; wood provided. Camp £4 pp per night.
(Erika Giffard) 01479 872747
erikagiffardmoore@gmail.com
26. Cromdale Centre, in village of Cromdale ~ approx. 1 mile from river.
(Aberdeen City Council, Leisure Development) 01224 208446
27. *Ballindalloch Station: Small campsite with toilet and carparking adjacent (Cragganmore, off A95)
Access from river from left bank below bridge and walk across bridge to site or best look out river-right for a style (not easily seen from the river) approx. 150m. upstream from metal bridge. Then access across field (kindly agreed by Colin Robertson, the farmer) to gate on south side of field. Please close and securely tie the gate as often cows and a 'friendly enough' bull in the field.
28. Aberlour Gardens Caravan/Campsite, Aberlour. AB38 9LD 01340 871586
(Simon & Denice Blades ~ may be able to shuttle paddlers to their well appointed campsite ~ GR 282433)
29. *Boat o' Fiddich Park Camping Area, Craigellachie
Camp area is located in Fiddich Park by the car park & public toilets. Riverbank close to habitation thus not suitable for remote/'wild'-camping. Designated canoe parking area ~ L-shaped fencing, complete with tethering rings ~ 25 metres north/downstream of the black fishing shelter (river right, approx. 400 metres downstream of road bridge). Use steps upstream of the fishing shelter to gain access on to the Speyside Way & campsite/toilets. At top of steps, turn left along the Way; continue 250 metres along the track under the bridge. Camping is on the flat areas beyond the car park and wooden toilet building. Avoid access/egress where bank already eroded/undercut. If anyone fishing when paddling away from this location endeavour to stay river-right until the next rapid. (Please avoid using the litter-bin located by the fishing shelter.)
30. Burnside Caravan Site, Fochabers 01343 820511
(D G Christie) GR 350582

* = Speyside Way Sites ~ ref. Moray County Countryside Ranger (Jed)
Aberlour, Banffshire.
www.speysideway.org

07919 624164
speyside.way@moray.gov.uk

Bold print indicates close proximity to the river. * = most convenient**

Transport shuttles, including to/from Spey Bay, contact ~

Adventure Transport: Jerry Craig ~ (Aviemore) 07919 441573 ~ 8-seater minibus + has own excellent canoe trailer

John Ronald ~ (Dulnain Bridge) 01479 851375//07749 748593 ~ 8 seater minibus & cars + has own canoe trailer

Willie MacDougall ~ **C-U-There Taxis** ~ (Aberlour) 01340 871217 ~ 8-seater minibuses & cars ~ towing facility available (no trailer)

David Ross ~ **Moray Firth Tours** 07724 095739 ~ minibus & car ~ morayfirthtours@gmail.com

Andrew & Beverly Cowie ~ **ACE Taxis** ~ (Fochabers) 01343 820 820 ~ 8 seater minibus & cars ~ towing facility available (no trailer)

Equipment hire + some shuttle-transport availability, contact ~

In Your Element (Mike Dunthorne) on 0333 600 6008 // mike@bootsnpaddles.co.uk

Explore Highland (Donald Macpherson) on 0780 8071810 ~ info@explorehighland.com

Tiso Outdoor, Inverness ~ tiso.online@tiso.co.uk

Version of this Guide is available on-line at www.speyguide.co.uk

For detailed information on outdoor access in Scotland visit ~ www.outdooraccess-scotland.com

The Scottish Canoe Association (SCA) is the recognised National Governing Body for canoeists and kayakers in Scotland. It is a membership organisation with over 2,500 individual members, 80 affiliated clubs and 18 approved centres. The SCA is volunteer-led and overseen by a board of directors.

SPEY ANGLERS' GUIDANCE FOR WHEN CANOES APPROACH

The River Spey, as well as being one of the worlds finest for salmon fishing, is also Scotland's most ideal river for journeying by canoe.

Confirmed by the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, on Scottish rivers there is a statutory right of non-motorised navigation and a right of reasonable and responsible access for walkers, cyclists and horse riders over land and to non-motorised craft on inland water. www.outdooraccess-scotland.com

Thus, it is quite likely that, canoes may be present on the river, approaching from upstream.
(On small sections of extended white-water, rafts may also be used.)

There is in place a written 'Paddlers' Code of Conduct' of which the majority of canoeists & rafters will be aware. ['Paddlers' Access Code'](#)

Based on the above, anglers can reasonably expect:

- Individual canoeists or leader of any paddling group will endeavour to ensure the angler is aware of their presence by either shouting or ideally blowing a whistle ~ most likely to be heard over water noise.
- Once contact established the individual/leader paddler will seek information on the angler's preferred line of passage for the group.
- Paddlers will wish to cause minimum disturbance to the angler's direction of casting &, water depth/obstructions allowing, paddlers will move in the direction indicated. Where the angler is standing on the bank, direction indicated may include towards the angler, even under the rod or toward the opposite bank. If the angler is wading, canoeists will be very happy, where possible, to pass behind i.e. between the angler and the bank.
- Leaders will endeavour to have their group pass in fairly close formation, with a reasonable, safe distance between each boat, thus minimising the time taken to pass.
- If an angler is playing a fish, paddlers normally wait upstream until the fish is landed or until there is indication from the angler or ghillie that it is safe to pass towards the direction indicated.
- In the event of inadvertent capsize, paddlers will do utmost to affect efficient rescue and refloat upturned canoe as soon as possible. Currents can catch out even the most experienced paddlers!
- Once past, the canoeist/paddling party will continue on their way downstream. Paddlers will not loiter unnecessarily or 'play' in a pool where someone is actually fishing.

Anglers are requested to:

- Acknowledge they are aware of the presence of paddlers.
- Carefully consider which line is most practical for both angler and paddler.
- Give clear direction as to the preferred side for the craft to pass.
- Not always necessary to take in line. However, refrain from casting whilst boats pass by.
- As soon as the boats have safely passed the angler may very soon resume fishing.

In following our chosen interests on this wonderful river that is the Spey, we are all privileged to be able to share in her beauty and majesty. The key to harmony on the river is mutual respect and overt courtesy between all river users.

Guidance available to paddlers, specific to the Spey at ~ www.speyguide.co.uk

(Issued jointly by Scottish Canoe Association & Spey Fishery Board.)

Spey Users' (Paddlers') Group Environmental Fund

To generate and provide funding for any Spey User Group (SUG) approved essential work or facility on any part of the River Spey, it has been decided to pilot a SUG managed Access Fund. Glenmore Lodge management have kindly agreed to manage the fund throughout 2016 and into 2017. All monies will require to be paid into the Glenmore Lodge Environmental Fund (account details below) but strictly ring-fenced for use only on Spey projects. All paddlesports providers/organisations and clubs who use the Spey are asked to contribute to this Access Fund on a pro-rata basis. Most organisational/club managers consulted to date have felt £1 per client or club member on an annual basis would serve as a reasonable contribution. However, this figure should be used only as a guide and all organisations can contribute as they deem appropriate.

As an example, in 2106 such funding is being used to fund the piloting of the portable toilet facility presently in situ, adjacent to the Ballindalloch Ayeon Pool vehicle turning area (900 metres downstream from the long-established road-side access by the Ballindalloch March Pool).

The co-operation of the Spey Paddling Fraternity is requested for this ground-breaking scheme to ensure we are meeting our responsibilities as takers of access in fostering harmony and provision of high standard of access/egress locations along the length of this, one of Scotland's key rivers in terms of Paddlesports.

Dave Craig.

GLENMORE STATEMENT ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THE SUG ENVIRONMENTAL FUND ~ 2016/17

Glenmore Lodge has agreed to administer this fund on behalf of the Spey users group. It should be pointed out that this is only a temporary arrangement and ideally should not exceed a 12 month period from the date of this document.

Funds can be sent to Glenmore Lodge either in person, by cheque (cheques should be payable to **Glenmore Lodge**) we will not be able to accept any cheques that reference anything other than Glenmore Lodge.

Alternatively monies can be paid direct into our bank account, details at the bottom of this document. Any funds paid directly into our account must reference **Spey Users Group**. This is to ensure it is correctly identified and accounted for.

Unfortunately we are only able to issue receipts for those that hand in monies (cash) in person. Note any receipt will be in the name of Spey Users Group.

All monies will be deposited within the main Glenmore Lodge bank account, however a record will be kept within our accounting system, the exact methodology is still to be decided but likely to be recorded through the sales ledger. A statement of account will be issued on a quarterly basis or upon request.

As mentioned above this arrangement is only temporary and from a governance point of view should not continue any longer than necessary. Investigations should be made into opening a bank account on behalf of the group. Accounts can be opened by community groups and/or charities. However you typically need to formalise the group and provide evidence of your constitution.

It is not necessary to register as a charity unless there is some perceived benefit, for example as a charity you can claim tax relief on donations (gift aid).

Access to Funds

Any access to the funds must be agreed by the members. A formal record should be kept of how the funds were spent. Any request for funds must be notified and verified by 2 separate individuals.

Payments.

Monies can only be paid by BACS; we have no facilities for issuing cheques. Payments can be made direct to suppliers but invoices must be made out to Glenmore Lodge and not Spey users group.

The following link gives useful guidance on financial guidance for clubs and community groups.

<http://www.resourcecentre.org.uk/information/financial-rules/>

Bank details

Please remember to reference **Spey users group** on any pay in.

Bank of Scotland

Bank Account No.	06000495
Sort code:	80-02-27

David Henderson
Finance Manager Glenmore Lodge
1st June 2016

DMC: 07/16