



**GETTING ON THE WATER?
CANOE ENGLAND MEMBERSHIP
GIVES YOU A LICENSE TO
PADDLE 4,500KM OF WATERWAYS**



Campaigns

Canoe England's Rivers Access Campaign



Canoe England has a Rivers Access Campaign and is working hard lobbying the Government to change the access situation. The Access issue is firmly on the Government's agenda, not only through the work of the BCU Officers but also because of all the lobbying undertaken by members and non-members alike. It is important that the Access situation is raised to the general public in order to gain awareness of the inequalities of the situation and to gain greater support.

For more information on the campaign and changes that are taking place visit the website

WHY IS THERE A CAMPAIGN?

Access to rivers is a concern for us all; even wading in a river that has no access could mean that you are committing trespass. The purpose of the Rivers Access Campaign is not only to raise awareness of the access issue on inland waterways in England and Wales but to bring about a change. The campaign is being undertaken by the British Canoe Union (BCU) on behalf all members of the public.

Facts

- Only 2% of rivers in England and Wales have Public access
- The public do not have access along 65,000 kms of rivers in England and Wales
- Whoever owns the land along the river (the riparian owner) also owns the property rights to the river bed. They don't own the water itself, only the land it passes over.
- If a river doesn't have a public right of navigation and you haven't got consent from the riparian owner, you're committing trespass by paddling or even wading in it.
- Nearly all the most beautiful inland rivers are not accessible to the public.
- Canoeing is an increasingly popular recreation, and is not socially exclusive
- Canoeing is an affordable means of getting "on the water" for everyone, especially young people, families and the retired.
- Providing greater access to the rivers will enable a healthier and fitter nation as canoeing and other water sports are very much about participation.

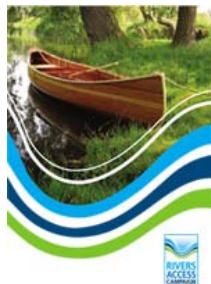
**We have been given the RIGHT TO ROAM
But not PERMISSION TO PADDLE!**

England and Wales are two of the hardest places in the world to gain access along rivers.

In the rest of the world access along inland waterways is open to all users without restriction



RAC Poster



RAC Leaflet