

A Brief Guide to Fishing on the Eden

By Simon Johnson



The following guide is intended to be a brief but not fully comprehensive guide for those anglers visiting the Eden for the first time.

Species Key: S (Salmon) ST (Sea Trout) T (Trout) G (Grayling)

Fishing Associations

Kirkby Stephen AA (www.kirkbystephen.net)

Kirkby Stephen and District Angling Association controls some 9 miles of fishing on the River Eden with a further 4 miles on the River Belah and Scandal Beck. All these waters offer fly fishing for wild brown trout amid beautiful scenery. Day tickets are available. **T G**

Appleby AA (www.applebyangling.co.uk)

Appleby AA controls about 14 miles of the Eden. Beats are spread along the river from Warcop through to Kirby Thore. Day tickets are available on certain beats. **T G**

Penrith AA (www.penrithanglers.co.uk)

Penrith Angling Association has some of the best wild brown trout and grayling fishing in the country, set in the unspoilt and idyllic scenery of the Eden Valley. PAA controls in the region of 42.5 miles of bank, with excellent trout and grayling fishing on the rivers Eden, Eamont, Lowther, Petteril, Lyvennet, Leith, Dacre Beck, Briggie Beck and Trout Beck. Day Tickets are available on certain beats. **T G S ST**

Brampton AA (www.bramptonangling.plus.com)

The Association continues to provide angling for residents of Brampton and surrounding areas on the Rivers Irthing, Gelt and King Water. The Association also welcomes members from outside the area and issues permits to fish to visiting anglers. **T G**

Carlisle AA (www.carlisleanglingassociation.org)

The Association now provides angling for residents living within a five mile radius of Carlisle City Centre. Anglers outside the five mile limit are welcomed and permits are available for game and coarse angling on a daily, weekly, and seasonal basis. **T G ST S**

Private Beats (Day Tickets)

Great Ormside Fishings (www.edenflyfishers.talktalk.net)

Two miles of excellent fly water above Appleby. **T G**

Culgaith (Black Swan) (www.blackswanculgaith.co.uk)

3.5 miles of the Eden near Culgaith with several named pools. **T G S**

Eden Lacy (www.edenlacy.co.uk) Eden Lacy fishing comprises 1.8 miles of the left bank. It is one of the most attractive beats on the river comprising 12 named pools with a fishing hut set amongst a wooded and wild flower area opposite the renowned Lacy Caves. It is an ideal place to relax with privacy being ensured through the distance from any public road. The whole stretch abounds in wildlife. **T G S T S**

Lazonby Estate (01228 560122 – Edwin Tailford)

The fishing comprises two truly stunning beats totalling around 5 miles of fishing. Very secluded and private. Superb wild trout fishing. **T G S T S**

Winderwath Estate (Eamont) (01768 88250)

The lower end of the River Eamont is famous for the quality of the brown trout. There are two beats, one flows alongside the ancient church of Ninekirks and has several good pools. The other is at Udford which is wider and flows more slowly into the Eden **T G S**

Warwick Hall (www.warwickhall.org)

Warwick Hall beats on the River Eden in Cumbria offer 2 beautiful and productive stretches of water for the dedicated fly fisherman.

These salmon beats are believed to be amongst the best on the Eden and indeed, are ranked among the best in England. Very high quality trout and grayling fishing is also available. Very high standard accommodation is also available. **S S T T G**

Moorhouse Fishings (www.moorhousefishings.com)

The Moorhouse Hall fishings consist of two double bank beats (Crosby and Holmegate) in the vicinity of Crosby-on-Eden. Access is normally to the left bank, which has a good track fit for all but the smallest vehicle along the whole length of both beats. The beats provide excellent salmon and trout fishing (including sea trout). Good grayling fishing is available during the winter months. **S S T T G**

Go Wild (www.gowild.edenriverstrust.org.uk)

Go Wild is The Eden Rivers Trust's innovative roving voucher angling scheme. We have 28 challenging fishing beats spread throughout Cumbria's beautiful Eden valley. The beats are all on private land, accessible only via the Go Wild scheme and are all real hidden gems. **T G**

Bio-security

The River Eden is home to the largest population of native crayfish in Europe....we are keen to keep it that way!

Please ensure that you do not bring any invasive hitch hikers with you, especially if you normally fish on a river where signal crayfish are known to be present.

We fully endorse the 'Check Clean Dry' campaign and would politely ask that you take the 'Clean Angler Pledge'. We also support the call for a ban of felt soles on wading boots. (see <http://wildeden.blogspot.com/2011/01/phase-out-felt-ert-takes-lead.html>)

CHECK- carefully examine all of your equipment at the end of your trip to see if there are any visible signs of unwanted material attached. This includes any type of plant or mud. Remove anything visible.

CLEAN - use water to wash your equipment clean. High pressure water works great to remove anything that may be attached to your equipment. It's ok to clean with water from the river or lake where you have been fishing or boating because you will leave behind non native species that you may have picked up. However, never clean your equipment at your put-in spot since you can easily be cleaning off hitchhikers that have been with you since your last trip. If you cannot clean before you leave a site, then make sure to clean at home where there is no chance that an invader can reach a watercourse.

DRY - a thorough drying of your equipment will kill any live invaders you may have picked up. Make sure that every bit of hidden moisture is gone.

Adopting these simple steps will help ensure stop the spread of destructive aquatic invasive species and will also help to keep the wonderful Eden free of crayfish plague.



Fishing Tackle

Chest waders are essential. The use of wading staffs is strongly recommended for the more streamy sections (especially if you are a chalk stream softie!). **Please observe the bio-security advice as detailed above.**

Trout

Go Wild / Headwaters – 6 -7ft 3/4wt

Upper River – 8.5 – 9ft 4wt

Middle / Lower River – 9-10ft 4/5wt

95% of all fishing situations will be covered by the use of a floating line. (WF / DT)

Flies

This is very much a matter of personal choice. However, some general river patterns in a variety of sizes will cover most eventualities.

Dries

- Klinkhammer
- F Fly
- Parachute Adams
- Compardun
- Black Midge
- Spinner Patterns (evening)

Nymphs

- Most patterns incorporating a Tungsten bead work very well in a range of different sizes and weights.

Salmon

Rods of between 13 – 15 ft (9-10wt) will cover most situations.

Flies

Popular patterns will all catch on their day!

Catch and Release

There is an Environment Agency Byelaw in place on the Eden requiring all salmon captured prior to June 16th to be released.

Many beats have their own rules regarding size limits and numbers of fish that can be taken. ERT strongly encourages the catch and release of wild fish. However, if you wish to take a fish for the pot (and it's within the rules of the beat and local byelaws) please ensure that it is just big enough to meet your needs. Please use barbless hooks or crush barbs down prior to fishing as this greatly facilitates the quick and efficient release of fish by keeping handling down to a minimum.

Catch and release is mandatory on all Go Wild Beats.

Guides & Ghillies

A number of angling guides provide professional services on the Eden..

Some beats have fulltime ghillies and keepers who may be available to meet and from time to time over the weekend. There is of course no charge for their advice.

If you have a good day we would ask that you perhaps consider a tip for these hard working river professionals.

Guides & Tuition

Glyn Freeman – www.cumbriaflyfishing.co.uk

Clive Mitchell-Hill – www.bordergameangling.co.uk

Paul Procter – www.paulprocterflyfishing.co.uk

Geoff Johnson – www.theedenangler.co.uk

John Pape – www.edenflyfishers.talktalk.net

Jeremy Lucas – www.wilderness-flyfishing.co.uk

Please consider booking the professional services of these highly skilled guides on your trip to the Eden.

Eden Fishing Tackle Shops

John Norris
21 Victoria Road,
Penrith
CA11 8HP

01768 864211
www.johnnorris.co.uk

Charles R Sykes
4 Great Dockray
Penrith
CA11 7BL

01768 862418
www.charlesrkykes.co.uk

McHardys
South Henry Street
Carlisle
CA1 1SF

01228 523988
www.mchardys.co.uk

Accommodation

Tufton Arms Hotel (Appleby) Very friendly and family run sporting hotel.

www.tuftonarmshotel.co.uk 01768
351593

Accommodation associated with fishing beats

Culgaith – Black Swan Inn
www.blackswanculgaith.co.uk

Eden Lacy – Holiday Cottages
www.edenlacy.co.uk

Warwick Hall www.warwickhall.org

Eden Tourist Board –Accommodation
<http://www.eden.gov.uk/visit-eden-in-the-lake-district/accommodation/>

