

The River Bladnoch

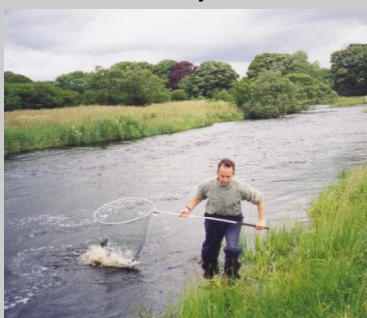
The River Bladnoch rises out of Loch Maberry and weaves its way down through forestry and farmland to the top of the Machars peninsula in South West Scotland. It has a variety of different types of fishing habitat and offers excellent fly and spinning water along its length. As the river is a spate river, it fishes best after a good fall of rain.



The Bladnoch holds both game and coarse fish species. The river has always been renowned for its spring salmon fishery. Although the fishery is now reduced in comparison to previous years, it still produces rod caught spring fish annually from February onwards. The Bladnoch has a good run of summer salmon (typically up to 10lb) but the main fishing tends to take place towards the latter part of the season when grilse are abundant from June onwards. During October, the Bladnoch DSFB and Galloway Fisheries Trust (GFT) encourage hen fish either to be returned to the water unharmed or donated for use in a hatchery programme.

Wild brown trout are regularly caught in the Bladnoch, often up to 4lb. The largest wild trout in recent years was an impressive 8lb! Big pike, perch and roach are also found in the main river. As elsewhere in Scotland, there is no annual close season for coarse fish.

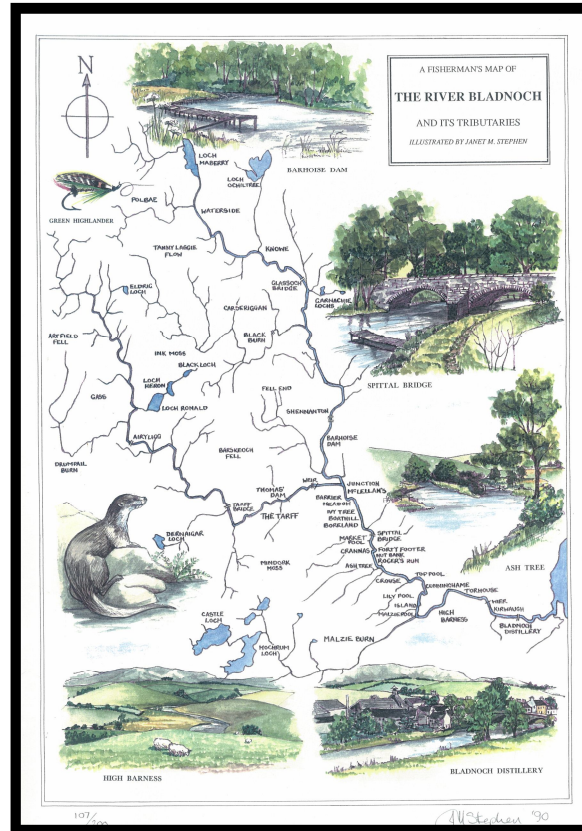
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Special Area of Conservation

The importance of the River Bladnoch as a good quality habitat for salmon has been recognised by it being designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for Atlantic salmon under the Natura 2000 network. This will protect and enhance the Bladnoch spring salmon population. Between 2004 - 08, the GFT spent about £300,000 under the Conservation of Atlantic Salmon in Scotland (CASS) project improving salmon spawning grounds and juvenile habitat across the river and its tributaries.



Bladnoch Fishing Season:

Salmon 11th February until 31st October
Trout 5th March until 5th October

- River Board rules apply
- No Sunday fishing on any rivers in Scotland

Beat descriptions and contact details

The Bladnoch offers a wide range of angling to cater for most tastes. Day and week permits are offered on many beats, with accommodation readily available nearby. For further details on all beats, prices, ticket availability and online booking see www.fishgalloway.co.uk

Kirwaugh - lowest beat on the river, can be very productive (even during low water conditions) for spring fish and grilse. Bladnoch Inn also offers accommodation. Contact **01988 402200**.

Mochrum Park - five beats throughout the river (including the River Tarf) offering a wide range of fishing to suit all conditions. Very good spring salmon fishery. Fishery also offers accommodation. Contact **01671 830471**.



Clugston Estate - excellent fly fishing beat for salmon, grilse and brown trout (covering 8 miles, including the Tarf). Also offers excellent loch fishing for trout nearby. **01581 50209** for details.

Dalreagle - single bank fishing for salmon and grilse with good sized brown trout. Suitable for both fly fishing and spinning. Also big pike.

Airylegg - three miles of fishing on the upper Tarf in pleasant surroundings. Fishes best for salmon towards the end of the season under spate conditions. Good for trout fishing. **01988 402390** for details.

See www.fishgalloway.co.uk for recent catches and river flows

The Bladnoch DSFB strongly encourages 'Catch and Release' until the 1st of June to protect spring fish. If you return fish, you may qualify for a free side of smoked salmon - see www.gallowayfisheriestrust.org for details

Still waters in the surrounding area

There are a number of still waters in the area which provide a



range of fishing experiences in unique surroundings. For the coarse angler, Glendaroch Loch near Kirkcowan provides carp, tench, bream, rudd, roach, perch and eel fishing. For details and tickets, please contact Galloway Angling Centre on 01671 401333. For specimen pike, coarse and



rainbow trout fishing there is the Three Lochs fisheries. With a caravan park on site, Three Lochs is an ideal place to base a fishing holiday in

South West Scotland. Call 01671 830838 for details. The Newton Stewart Angling Association also offers day tickets on Loch Ochiltree for rainbows and brown trout. Tickets available from Galloway Guns and Tackle 01671 403404 who also sell tickets for pike fishing on Loch Maberry. Clugston Loch offers excellent boat fishing opportunities to catch large stocked brown trout and rainbow trout in lovely surroundings —please contact 01581 500209 for details.

Further information, recent catch information and online booking for these fisheries can be

found on www.fishgalloway.co.uk



Galloway Fisheries Trust (GFT), formerly West Galloway Fisheries Trust, was the first fisheries trust to be established within Scotland. The Charitable Trust was launched in 1989 by four District Salmon Fishery Boards (DSFBs) in southwest Scotland, with a remit to administer the Rivers Luce, Bladnoch, Cree and Fleet.



Rivers which today fall within the area administered by the Trust now also include nearly all of those situated on the Scottish side of the Solway Firth (Border Esk, Annan, Kirkcudbrightshire Dee and Urr) and the GFT works closely with these DSFBs and their environmental managers. The Trust is also actively involved in the management of many of the region's still waters.

As the Trust's responsibilities have changed, it has expanded from serving only the interests of salmon and now actively works to conserve all of the fish populations in Galloway, including coarse fish species.



The aim of the GFT is to restore and maintain aquatic biodiversity in Galloway by means of practical, responsible and sustainable approaches to land, water and fishery management, based on sound science, for the benefit of the community as a whole.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact the Trust using the details below.

THE RIVER BLADNOCH



Fishing in South West Scotland



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Newton Stewart



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