

The River Urr

The River Urr is a picturesque river that nestles between the Kirkcudbrightshire Dee and Nith, entering the Solway at Kippford. It is 35 miles long and, like the other Galloway Rivers, is a spate river that fishes best on a falling water after a good fall of rain. The Urr is one of only three Scottish rivers that is open until the end of November and is renowned for its large 'greyback' salmon at the back end of the season. Fresh run fish can be caught right to the end of the season, which runs from the 15th March until the 30th of November. In most years fish over 20 lb are caught. A 15lb fresh salmon caught in September 2004 is shown below. Sea trout are caught in fair numbers on the Urr from April onwards and can be found even in the very uppermost reaches of the river. Most sea trout weigh between 1 and 3lb, with the best recent sea trout being 8lb. Wild brown trout can be caught on both Dalbeattie Angling Association and Castle Douglas Angling Association's beats.



Things to do in the local area

The stunning scenery in the Urr Valley is one of the reasons that fishing on the Urr is so pleasurable. With the nearby Colvend Coast being a National Scenic Area, there is plenty to see and do in the local area for any non-anglers in your party. Hotels, B&Bs, self catering accommodation and campsites are available throughout the local area.

Dalbeattie

For those interested in local history, the town of Dalbeattie is worth a visit. In the late 18th Century the town exploited the basin formed by the Dalbeattie Burn (also known as Kirkgunzeon Lane) and the mouth of the Urr in its quest to develop as a port. The town later became a mill town and a granite quarrying centre. Dalbeattie is also the birthplace of William McMaster Murdoch, First Officer (First Mate) of the RMS 'Titanic' of the White Star Line, which sank after its collision with an iceberg in 1912. More information from www.dalbeattie.com

Castle Douglas

Castle Douglas is a small market town, which has over fifty specialist food shops and is recognised as a 'Food Town'. There are numerous other shops of interest in the town and it's easy to while away a few hours here. For bird-watchers, the town is situated beside Carlingwark Loch which supports a host of bird species as well as a variety of plant and insect life. Further information from www.castledouglas.net

Kippford

The pretty village of Kippford is positioned directly on the Urr estuary. It is a popular yachting centre and is also a base for many pleasant coastal walks.

Urr Fishing Season:

Salmon	15 th March until 30 th November
Trout	15 th March until 6 th October

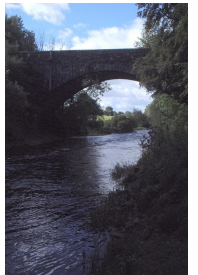
- River Board rules apply
- No Sunday fishing on any rivers in Scotland

The Urr 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

Pool descriptions and contact details

The available fishing on the Urr is currently controlled by two angling clubs.

Castle Douglas Angling Association (CDA) - For the visiting angler, CDA has over 5 miles of the middle reaches of the Urr, starting at Step End and finishing at Grange Water. Pools that are particularly popular include Step End, Cauls, Davie Craig, Red Brae, Spottes Dam, Battery, Jeans and Grange Water. A map with pool names is available from ticket outlets. The fly water upstream of Spottes Bridge is a delight. Fishing methods are restricted dependent upon water height in the pools above this point, but below the bridge worming is permitted all year at any water height on the CDA stretch. For tickets please contact McCowans, Castle Douglas (01556 502009).



Dalbeattie Angling Association (DAA) - DAA controls 3.5 miles of the lower Urr, all good fly water, with spinning permitted in high water conditions. The lower beat, Craignair, is tidal at its bottom end and has nine named pools plus a number of other good spots. The upper beat, Firthhead, on which worming is permitted, has a pleasing mixture of pools glides and runs and is ideal fly water in most conditions. DAA extends a warm welcome to responsible visiting anglers, with daily and weekly visitor tickets available throughout the season. However, on Saturdays in Oct/Nov the number of visitor tickets is limited to 10. Every effort is



made to ensure that the visiting angler can enjoy his or her day. A map with beat boundaries, pool locations and parking areas is provided with the ticket. Access to all parts is relatively easy, with the

Firthhead beat being particularly suitable for less mobile anglers. For tickets contact McCowans, 50 King Street, Castle Douglas (01556 502009).

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



Loch Roan (pictured above) is an ideal spot for some quiet fishing in idyllic surroundings. The water is fishable by fly only. Bank fishing is not permitted but boats and life-jacket hire is included in the ticket price. The water is open from 10 am until 10 pm. Both brown trout and rainbow trout are stocked on a regular basis by CDAA. Tickets are available from McCowans in Castle Douglas (01556 502009).

Buittle Reservoir is situated three miles from Dalbeattie and is controlled by DAA. This 25 acre reservoir, in a natural setting, is stocked regularly with rainbow trout and also has a population of wild brown trout. Some of the wild brownies have attained a large size with up to 4.5 lb caught. Tickets are reasonably priced. There is a three fish limit (thereafter catch and release). Bank access is excellent but there are also 2 boats for hire. The reservoir is fly only and tickets are available from McCowans in Dalbeattie and Castle Douglas.



Loch Urr is renowned for its large pike and its situation amongst the forests at the top of the Urr catchment makes for tranquil fishing. No charge is made for fishing from the west side of the loch, but please ask for permission prior to setting up. **Carlingwark Loch** in the centre of Castle Douglas provides free coarse fishing for pike and perch. Free coarse fishing is also available at **Loch Rutton** in the village of Lochfoot (follow A75 to Dumfries). **Cowans Loch** is a short drive from the Urr and provides two lochs of quality coarse fishing including carp, tench, roach and rudd.



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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 most 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 Dumfries and Galloway, including coarse fish populations.



The aim of the GFT is to restore and maintain aquatic biodiversity in Dumfries and 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 URR



Fishing in South West Scotland

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