

# **COBBINSHAW ANGLING ASSOCIATION**

## **COBBINSHAW RESERVOIR - PUBLIC ACCESS POLICY**

### **1. GENERAL BACKGROUND**

- (a) CAA is a private angling association with circa 300 members. We have operated a private trout fishery on Cobbinshaw Reservoir since 1905, and currently employ 2 full time staff who live locally. We operate a fleet of 22 Coulam, 16ft boats that are all equipped with 4hp engines.
- (b) The reservoir is divided by a causeway that has 2 large connecting pipes which allow water and fish to pass through. The main reservoir is approx 245 acres; and the smaller area west of the causeway is approx 45 acres. The areas immediately around the pipes often carry underwater currents depending on water levels in the respective parts of the reservoir.
- (c) Most fishing on the main reservoir is by boat during the period March to end October, with limited boat fishing until mid December, plus some bank fishing over the winter through to end of February.
- (d) There are no boats on the small loch. All fishing is from the bank and takes place all year round, mainly for pike over the winter months.

### **2. LAND REFORM ACT**

- (a) The Land Reform Act 2003 effectively gives the general public in Scotland a right of access to all land [and water] in Scotland with the exception of certain exclusion areas specified in the Act. The right of access is restricted to pedestrian and non-motorised transport, and requires to be exercised responsibly.
- (b) The Act is supported by an Access Code which sets out the detailed arrangements under which the right of access should be exercised, including the responsibilities of landowners, land managers, the general public and regulatory bodies. The Access Code is not part of the legal structure but is considered strongly persuasive when authorities deal with disputes.
- (c) The Act and Code make clear that the right of access should not impede or interfere with any business activity operating on the land / water where access is sought.
- (d) Cobbinshaw Angling Association is the designated land manager under the Act and is responsible for facilitating public access to the reservoir in accordance with legislation.

### **3. COBBINSHAW ACCESS POLICY**

- (a) Having regard to Land Reform Act and the guidance contained in the related Access Code, the board of directors has agreed the following public access to Cobbinshaw Reservoir as follows:

#### **General conditions**

- (b) Motorised access is not permitted. The road access to the reservoir is private with no public parking available. Vehicles will need to be parked on the public road and any equipment carried to the water.
- (c) Access to the harbour area, pontoons, angling lodge and related car parks is not permitted.

- (d) All access must be agreed in advance with the Association by calling the fishery [01501 785208] or by emailing [andrewa53@icloud.com](mailto:andrewa53@icloud.com)
- (e) All persons accessing the reservoir do so at their own risk.
- (f) The reservoir contains cold, deep water that can cause cramp and breathing problems, so be careful and ensure you have the necessary expertise and equipment to keep safe.
- (g) Avoid being in the water within 50 yards either side of the causeway due to the risk of under water currents.
- (h) It is advisable to have a companion with you who can help in any emergency.
- (i) Any children should be closely supervised by a responsible adult and clothed appropriately for local conditions and any activity they may be involved in.
- (j) Be visible at all times to other water users. Wear hi-viz clothing and head wear, protective helmets as appropriate, and appropriate floatation equipment or life jackets. Swimmers should have a pulling float in hi-viz colours.
- (k) All rubbish and other debris must be taken home with you.
- (l) Any pets must be kept under strict control at all times, preferably on a leash; and keep pets well away from anglers.
- (m) Do not interfere with any farm animals or allow pets near them.
- (n) Do not light fires or barbecues.
- (o) The toilets and other facilities at the loch are for anglers only.

### **Access to Main Loch**

- (p) Access for water sports or swimming is not permitted on the main loch during fishing hours - 9am to 1 hour after sunset - from March to October inclusive because it would interfere with fishing and give rise to health and safety issues. Access is permitted out with these times / dates when angling and boat activity is much reduced.
- (q) When accessing the main loch, you must stay well clear of any anglers - at least 100 yards - who may be fishing from boat or bank:

### **Access to Small Loch**

- (r) Access is allowed all year round.
- (s) When accessing the small loch, you must stay well clear of any anglers - at least 100 yards - who may be fishing from the bank:

**AW Anderson**  
**Honorary Secretary**  
**On behalf of the board of directors**  
**Cobbinshaw Angling Association Ltd**