



# DRUMLANRIG CASTLE *fishings*

[www.buccleuchsporting.com](http://www.buccleuchsporting.com) [www.fishnith.co.uk](http://www.fishnith.co.uk)



## *Contents*

1.0	An Introduction to Buccleuch Fishing.....	2	3.13	Gaffs.....	5
2.0	The Drumlanrig Castle Fishings.....	2	3.14	Stale Fish.....	5
3.0	The Lochs, Ponds & River Beats.....	3	3.15	Access.....	6
3.1	The Lochs & Ponds.....	3	3.16	Fishing Huts, Keys & Boats.....	6
3.2	The River Beats.....	3	3.17	Accidents.....	6
3.3	Rent.....	4	3.18	Dogs and Fires.....	6
3.4	Runs.....	4	3.19	Ghillies/Tuition.....	6
3.5	Catch Records.....	4	3.20	Return of Caught Fish.....	7
3.6	Booking.....	4	3.21	Gyrodactylus Salaris.....	7
3.7	Sub-Letting and Sharing of Rods.....	4	4.0	Nith Fishings Improvement Association.....	7
3.8	Fishing by Estate Employees.....	4	5.0	Loch Grid References.....	7
3.9	Reservations.....	5			
3.10	Catch Limit.....	5	APPENDIX A	River Beat Maps.....	8 - 11
3.11	Methods of Fishing.....	5	APPENDIX B	Other Sporting Available.....	12
3.12	Flies, Lures etc.....	5			

# Introduction

## 1.0 AN INTRODUCTION TO BUCCLEUCH FISHING

**River** - The River Nith is the largest and best known river in the Dumfries and Galloway Region of South West Scotland and has established a reputation for the quality of its Salmon and Sea Trout over the years. The river rises deep in Robert Burns country in south Ayrshire, continuing its path through scenic Nithsdale from Sanquhar to Thornhill, Auldgirth and Dumfries to its mouth in the Solway at Glenclele.

The average weight of Salmon caught is usually around 8lb although fish of over 20lb are not unusual. Grilse average 4-5lb and Sea Trout 2lb with some in excess of 5lb. The Sea Trout fishing is best in the summer months although September can see some fine sport. The height of the Salmon season spans September through to the end of November on the Nith where the season is longer than on most rivers, extending from 25th February to 30th November.

**Loch** - All lochs (7) are stocked with quality Rainbow Trout and are located near Thornhill and set within glorious countryside on the Estate of the Duke of Buccleuch & Queensberry, KBE.

## 2.0 THE DRUMLANRIG CASTLE FISHERIES

The Drumlanrig Castle Fisheries are found on the Duke of Buccleuch's Queensberry Estate and have been carefully managed for generations as the private waters of Drumlanrig Castle, the magnificent home of Their Graces, the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch and Queensberry. The 17th Century pink sandstone castle provides a splendid backdrop to the river which is at its most attractive where it runs through the grounds of the Estate.

The fishing comprises a length of seven miles (mainly double bank fishing). The river broadens from a rocky gorge into a mainly gravelled riverbed with suitable pools and reaches which provide good accessible fishing for both Salmon and Sea Trout. This is divided into four stretches known as the Lower, Middle and Upper Beats (Castle Beats) and the Nith Linns. Maps are detailed in Appendix A, pages 8-11.

The small, nearby market town of Thornhill serves a large rural district and is situated fifteen miles north west of Dumfries. The motorway (M74) to the north of Carlisle is an hour's drive from Thornhill (A76) for visitors from the South, whilst Edinburgh and Glasgow are approximately sixty miles north.

Accommodation can be arranged by the Sporting Office on Tel: 01848 600415.



For any enquiries regarding the status of the river or specific information on fishing please contact:

Rab Kerr GHILLIE

TEL: 07765 002142 or

The Sporting Office

TEL: 01848 600415

FAX: 01848 600244

EMAIL:

[sporting@buccleuch.com](mailto:sporting@buccleuch.com)

## 3.0 LOCHS, PONDS & RIVER BEATS

### 3.1 LOCHS & PONDS

All lochs are located near Thornhill and are set within glorious countryside on the Estate of the Duke of Buccleuch & Queensberry, KBE.

Loch/Pond	Acres	Rods	Boat	Type	Situated
<b>Kettleonhead</b>	35	30	✓	Rainbow Trout	To the east of Thornhill in the Lowther Hills, ideal for fishing clubs and competitions.
<b>Morton Castle</b>	8	8	✓	Rainbow Trout	A few miles to the east of Drumlanrig Castle, the ancestral seat of the Earl of Morton.
<b>Starburn</b>	3	4	✓	Rainbow Trout	Within the surrounding woodlands of the Drumlanrig Castle Estate.
<b>Slatehouse</b>	2	3	✓	Rainbow Trout	In the parkland of Drumlanrig Castle, piers were built in 2005 to provide good bank fishing.
<b>Coldstream</b>	1.5	3	✗	Rainbow Trout	Within the woodlands surrounding Drumlanrig Castle and provides good bank fishing.
<b>Hillhead</b>	2.5	3	✗	Rainbow & Brown Trout	In the woodlands surrounding Drumlanrig Castle, opened in 2007 and provides good bank fishing.
<b>Farthingbank</b>	2	3	✗	Rainbow & Brown Trout	Within the woodlands behind Drumlanrig Mains, restored in 2007 providing good bank fishing.
<b>Morton (Coarse)</b>	1	7	✗	Tench	A few miles to the east of Drumlanrig Castle, close to Morton Castle, providing good coarse fishing.
<b>Dabton (Coarse)</b>	1	10	✗	Tench	A mile to the north of Thornhill in the Dabton woodland plantation, provides good coarse fishing.

### 3.2 RIVER BEATS

No river fishing is permitted on Sundays, although fishing on our stocked Trout lochs may be available (contact Sporting Office for availability).

Beat	Rods	Methods	Situated
<b>Lower</b>	3	Fly preferred Spinning permitted at Ghillies discretion	Although slightly differing in lengths, the beats are balanced for quality and each contains a proportion of low and high water pools, thereby ensuring fishable water at all times except perhaps during periods of extreme drought or high flood.
<b>Middle</b>	4		
<b>Upper</b>	3		
<b>Nith Linns</b>	4	Fly preferred Spinning & Worming	This beat runs for 2 miles immediately above the Upper Beat and is mainly fished from the true left (East Bank). It has many streams and pools which provide good lies for both Salmon and Seat Trout as well as Brown Trout. Rocky in nature, with steep banks.

There are four beats. The Lower, Middle and Upper Beats are known collectively as the Castle Beats. The fourth beat is the Nith Linns Beat.

# *Lochs, Ponds & River Beats*

## 3.3 RENT

See attached price list. All prices are inclusive of VAT. No River Board Rod Licences or any other charges are required in Scotland.

## 3.4 RUNS

Providing weather conditions are favourable, Salmon will run early in the year, with greater runs throughout the season up to and including November. Sea Trout also run early and can be expected in quantity from May onwards.

## 3.5 CATCH RECORDS

Please see [www.fishnith.co.uk](http://www.fishnith.co.uk) for last season's catch records.

## 3.6 BOOKING

On confirmation of the booking a non-refundable deposit of 50% must be submitted to the Sporting Office. The balance is payable no later than 4 weeks prior to commencement of the let.

If a Tenant is unable or unwilling to fish, the rent will not be returnable unless 4 weeks prior written notice of cancellation is received by the Sporting Office and then only if an alternative booking can be arranged. To cover re-letting costs a minimum charge of £25 will be levied.

The Estate cannot accept any responsibility for the cancellation of bookings due to bad weather. It is therefore recommended that Tenants, particularly those booking in advance, should obtain appropriate cancellation insurance cover as no refund of rent will be issued.

For current booking information, please contact the Sporting Office (Tel: 01848 600415, Email: [sporting@buckleuch.com](mailto:sporting@buckleuch.com), Fax: 01848 600244). If we are unable to accommodate your requirements, we are glad to place names on a waiting list to fill cancellations. Bookings can also be taken via the website: [www.fishnith.co.uk](http://www.fishnith.co.uk).

## 3.7 SUB-LETTING AND SHARING OF RODS

Tenants are permitted to assign their rods to other fishermen provided they inform the Sporting Office in advance so that the Water Bailiffs know the identity of the Rods.

NB: It will be the responsibility of the original Tenant for payment and to ensure that the other Rods with him are aware of the rules and regulations.

## 3.8 FISHING BY ESTATE EMPLOYEES

Employees of the Queensberry Estate are permitted to fish on all beats where rods are available. Fishing Tenants have priority on the pools and employees are requested to move if a Tenant arrives to fish a particular pool.





## 3.9 RESERVATIONS

Permits should be carried by Rods whilst they are on the water and must be shown on request. If the maximum number of Rods on the water is not allocated, Buccleuch Sportings reserve the right to assign these Rods. Drumlanrig Castle reserves the right for two Rods to fish at any time. This is exercised only occasionally, and every effort will be made to contact the fishing Tenant(s) should this intention be known beforehand.

## 3.10 CATCH LIMIT

**River** - Rods are not permitted to kill more than 2 Salmon (including Grilse) and 2 Sea Trout (including Herling) per day. Any Sea Trout over 3lb must be returned. Thereafter all fish should be returned as quickly as possible with the minimum of handling. It is strictly prohibited to take, destroy or injure smolt and fry of Salmon.

**Loch** - Rods are permitted to kill the first four fish caught, evening tickets 2 fish, thereafter rods may continue to fish on a 'catch and release' basis.

## 3.11 METHODS OF FISHING

For lochs fly fishing only is permitted with barbless hooks. For river beats fly fishing is preferred. Spinning is not permitted when the gauge at the Drumlanrig Bridge registers below 1' (except in the deeper, slower moving pools). Otherwise, it is at the discretion of the Ghillie, depending on water conditions. Worm fishing is only permitted on the Castle Beats when the River is running above 2 1/2' at the Drumlanrig Bridge gauge and is permitted in the Linns at all heights throughout the season. The weights used by fishermen shall not exceed two pieces of No. 1 shot. Fishermen may not use more than 2 hooks when worm fishing and only then if the hooks are tied in close proximity on a single strand of line. Hooks shall not exceed 13mm in length and 7mm gape. Natural minnow, artificial or natural prawns or shrimps may not be used as bait or carried on the water at any time.

## 3.12 FLIES, LURES ETC

A good choice of fly for Salmon would be Red or Orange Ally's Shrimp tied on a double hook in sizes 8, 6 or 4. Other suitable flies are Stoot's Tail, Hairy Mary, Yellow Dog, Blue Charm and Brown Turkey. These should be mostly around size No 6. In high water a 2" Yellow Dog is suggested.

For Sea Trout, a reasonable selection would be Peter Ross, Greenwell's Glory, Medium Olive and Black Spider. The usual size being No. 12 and 14 but, at night up to size 10 may be required. For spinning, a Devon or Blue Silver Minnow is recommended.

## 3.13 GAFFS

The use of a gaff is prohibited

## 3.14 STALE FISH

During the whole season, all gravid or stale fish must be returned to the river immediately with as little damage as possible.

## *Lochs, Ponds & River Beats*

### 3.15 ACCESS

Access and parking facilities are shown on the large scale plan supplied to fishing tenants on request. All gates are to be closed and roads must be unobstructed. Vehicles may not be driven across agricultural land.

### 3.16 FISHING HUTS, KEYS & BOATS

A fishing hut is available for each beat and the key is obtainable from the Sporting Office at Drumlanrig Mains. Goods left in the huts during the course of the day are left at the owners' risk. Please ensure huts are left in a good condition. Any damage to the huts should be reported to the Ghillie or Sporting Office. Loch boats are available on some lochs at an additional cost (see pricelist for details). Boathouse keys, where appropriate, are obtained from the Sporting Office and must be returned on expiry of the permit. At the end of the day, the boat must be returned to the boat house which must be securely locked and barred before the rods leave. Life jackets are provided and must be worn. Any defect or damage to the boat or boathouse should be reported immediately so that repairs can be effected.

### 3.17 ACCIDENTS

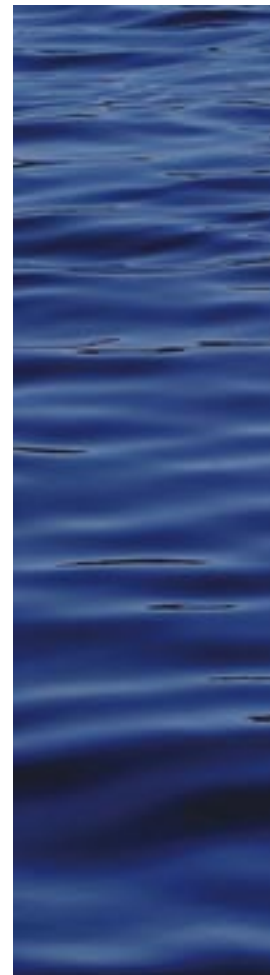
Fishing Tenants will use the boats, boathouses, stiles, crossing places, access routes, parking spaces, fishing huts and paths at their own risk and no responsibility will be accepted by The Buccleuch Estates Ltd or Buccleuch Sportings Ltd for any loss, damage, accident or injury which may be sustained and which may be due to the use of the above facilities. If an accident occurs, Tenants are required to inform the Sporting Office and an incident form must be completed.

### 3.18 DOGS AND FIRES

Dogs will not be permitted to accompany fishermen except by prior arrangement with the Sporting Office, and only then if they are kept under close control at all times. This is necessary because of the presence of sheep and cattle in the majority of fields adjoining the river. No fires may be lit. Please do not leave any litter anywhere.

### 3.19 GHILLIES / TUITION

If a fishing Tenant wishes the services of a Ghillie or tutor (at an extra cost), then this should be organised through the Sporting Office in good time to ensure availability. The Estate employs a full-time Ghillie/Bailiff, Rab Kerr, who will be on hand to answer any queries or offer advice on the beats. He can be contacted either through the Sporting Office or on Mobile 07765 002142. If a fishing Tenant is unfamiliar with the river and wishes to be shown the pools for a short time at the beginning of his fishing let, he should ask for this facility at least three weeks beforehand when the necessary arrangements can be made. If a Ghillie is retained, then there is no such necessity as he will be fully familiar with the water.





### 3.20 RETURN OF CAUGHT FISH

Fishermen must record all fish caught (including fish returned) on the back of the Fishing Permit and should return the forms to the Estate Office at the end of each day or no later than 2 weeks of the let at the latest. It is a statutory requirement to record accurate returns of fish caught and so Tenants are particularly requested to be punctilious in making these returns. All permits will be numbered to ensure a complete record is obtained.

### 3.21 GYRODACTYLUS SALARIS

In an effort to prevent introduction of the Gyrodactylus Salaris parasite to the river system, tenants are required to thoroughly clean and treat tackle, waders and fishing equipment, in accordance with the Scottish Executive Guidelines before taking access to the river. A Certificate of Confirmation to this effect will require to be signed by Tenants. An information leaflet can be obtained from the Sporting Office or:

SEERAD, Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh, EH14 1TW TEL: 0131 244 6225 [www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)

DEFRA, Fisheries Division II A, Room 106, Whitehill Place East, London. SW1A 2HH TEL: 020 7270 8826 [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

Welsh Assembly Government Agriculture and Fishers, Policy Division 2, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ TEL: 02920 823567

## 4.0 THE NITH FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

The Nith Fisheries Improvement Association (NFIA) was formed in 1934 to foster the development of the Nith and its tributaries for angling for Salmon, Sea Trout and Trout. The Association's efforts over the years have helped establish the river as one of the few in Scotland which has consistently improved in habitat and the quality of its fishings over the last 50 years. Membership includes Angling Associations, riparian owners and individual anglers. There is an annual fee which is open to individuals with an interest in angling. Applications for membership or further information may be obtained from local fishing tackle shops in Nithsdale or by visiting the website [www.rivemithfishings.co.uk](http://www.rivemithfishings.co.uk). If tenants of the Drumlanrig Castle Fishings wish to make a donation, their contributions may be paid to Buccleuch Sportings Ltd who will forward it on to the NFIA treasurer.

## 5.0 LOCH GRID REFERENCES

Kettletonhead ..... NS900 000  
Morton Castle ..... NS880 000  
Starburn ..... NX860 980  
Slatehouse ..... NS860 000

Coldstream ..... NS840 000  
Hillhead ..... NS840 000  
Farthingbank ..... NS840 000



## LOWER BEAT

### CARRONFOOT POOL

One of the best pools on the river. Fish seem to lie on the far bank of the river. Good for either fly or spinning. Always fish from Tibbers side.

### QUARRY POOL

Good fast stream that runs from the corner for about 100 metres. Excellent for fly fishing, the next 100 metres is more of a spinning pool. Ledge of rock runs up through middle of this part. Fish tend to lie along the side of this. Good gravel bed on the Tibbers side of the river. Fish from here.

### BULLOCKHOLM POOL

This is probably the best pool on the river at the present time. Fish from the rocks at the top end right through. Either fly or spin. You can fish this pool from either side but best with the fly from the east side of the river from Waterside Farm.

### DOCTOR'S POOL

Fish tend to lie on the far bank of the river. Fish right through to the last groin where fish tend to lie on lower side. Gravel bed on the Tibbers side so fish from this side.

### VIRGIN POOL

The last pool on the beat. Best with the fly for the first 100 metres. Row of Alders on the Tibbers side makes fishing quite difficult but the last 100 metres is ideal for spinning. Good salmon/sea trout stream.

### WHITEHILL POOL

This pool is best fished from the east side of the river. Good for either fly or spinning. Large rocks on the Tibbers side of the river where the fish tend to lie.



**ISLA HOLM STREAM**

Not much use for holding salmon but a good stream for trout / sea trout. Fish this from either side.

**CROWBANK POOL**

Good salmon holding pool. Gravel bed on west side of the river. Best fished from west side.

Good fast stream between Crowbank Pool and Lower Crowbank Pool. Good for sea trout. Fish with fly from west side.

**LOWER CROWBANK POOL**

Good salmon holding pool. Not much good for the fly fisher, but very good for spinning.

**STEPPING STONES POOL**

Good for salmon/sea trout. Best fished from west side of river.

**TIBBERS CASTLE POOL**

This pool was made in 1996. Looks good for holding salmon. Fly could be best bet. Best fished from west side of river.

**MORTON POOL**

Yet another pool made in 1996. Again, could be good for holding salmon / sea trout. Fish either fly or spinner. Fish this spot from the west side.

**WILLOWHOLM POOL**

This is a really good salmon pool. A good strong stream running into a large holding pool which is good for both fly fishing or for spinning. Half way down there is a ledge of rock on the west side of the river. Gravel bed on the east side. Best fished from the west.

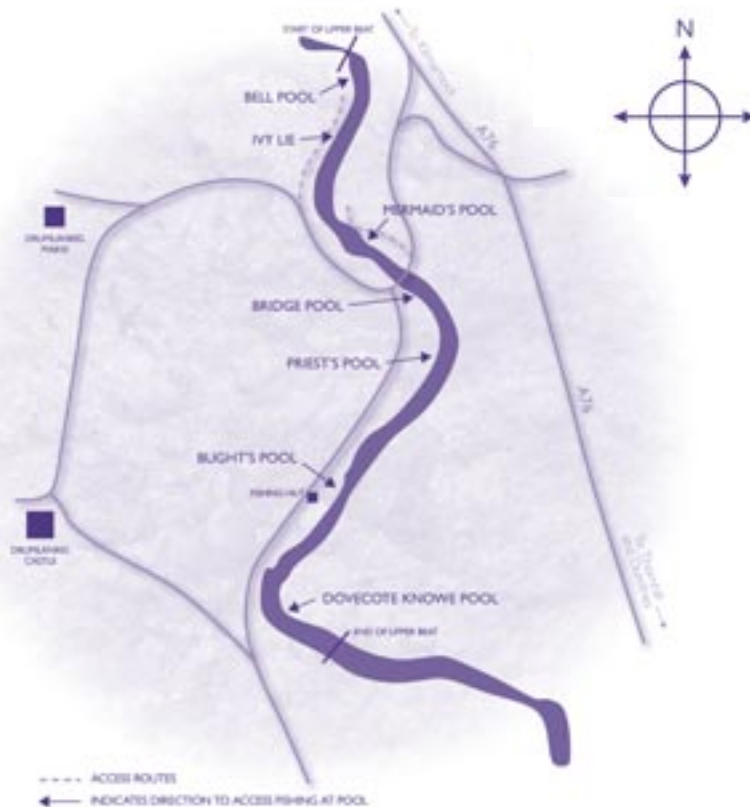
**SANDY FLATS POOL**

Very good for trout / sea trout. Deep pool between the two groins which is good for holding salmon. Spin this area. The rest of the pool is best for the fly fisher. Always best fished from the Morton Mill side.

**MIDDLE BEAT**



## UPPER BEAT



### BELL POOL

Not as deep as it appears, and hard to work the fly adequately.

### IVY LIE

Best over 2' when it is one of the best pools on the beat.

### MERMAID'S POOL

Deceptively shallow except immediately under and above the rock. Fish tend to congregate above the rock on south side, and as water falls move up to the Nith Linns.

### BRIDGE POOL

Fish tend to lie tight into far bank and below centre pier. Spins well.

### PRIEST'S POOL

Fish lie on the north side and in lower water. There are a number of intriguing lies.

### BUGHT'S POOL

Fish lie in the north side in lower water. A gravel strand runs down the centre of the river from fallen beech stump to SEPA hut. In higher water beware as the weight of water will prevent you retracing your steps. A deep gully on the south side will ensure a damp exit.

### DOVECOTE KNOWE POOL

The best pool on the beat at any height and one of the few holding stretches. Only fishable from the north bank.

## THE NITH LINNS

### HELLS CAULDRON POOL

Steps from the A76 take you down on to the river.  
A long narrow pool ideal for spinning from the rocks.  
Very difficult walking.

### MALCOLMFLAT POOL

Steps from the A76 take you down to the pool. Best for the fly fisher, and for spinning if the river is running at about 2 1/2'.  
Fish from the rocks as wading is very difficult.

### LONG STRAIGHT POOL

Another good pool on the beat. Heavily wooded on both sides of the river. Steps lead down from the A76. Ideal for both fly and spinning. Runs for about 250 metres. Fish from side as wading is very difficult.

### MILESTONE POOL

One of the best pools on the beat. One for the fly fisher.  
Access from the A76; steps take you down to the river. Runs for about 200 metres. Fish tend to lie behind rocks in the middle of the river. Heavily wooded on both sides of the river. Able to wade along the side.

### AUCHENSELL POOL

Fish this pool from the rocks. Ideal for the worm fisher and also ideal for the spinner lower down. A lovely spot with woods coming down to the river's edge.

### PALM TREE POOL

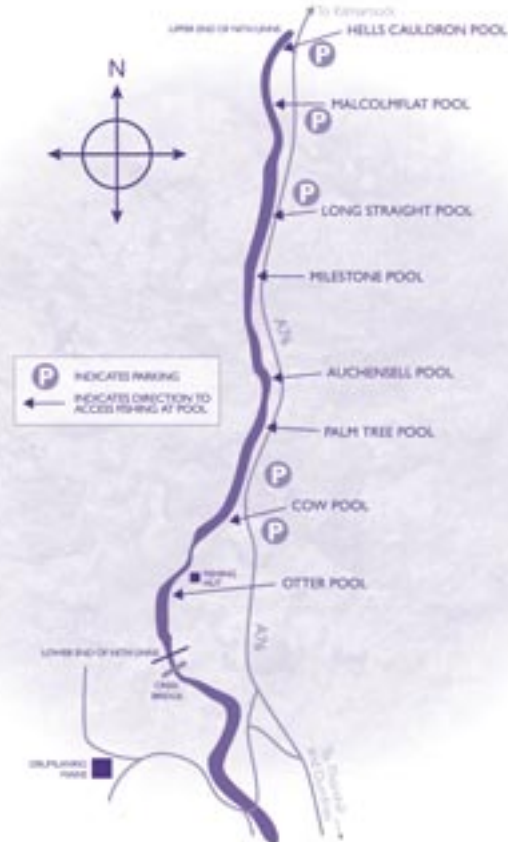
Steps lead down from the A76. Ideal for fly fishing or spinning when the water is at the right height - about 2 1/2'.

### COW POOL

A wonderful spot to spend a day's fishing, with the timber coming right down to the river's edge. A long narrow pool running for about 150 metres. Very rocky underfoot which makes wading very difficult, but can be done with a wading stick. A very good salmon holding pool. One of the best pools on the beat.

### OTTER POOL

The last pool on the beat. Ideal for spinning. A very good salmon holding pool. Fishing from a high rock face. Wading is out on this one. Access is from the quarry on the A76. You can fish this pool at any height of water.





## *Other Sporting Available*

The Estate provides a wide variety of other sporting activities in season including walked up and driven shooting and gundog training. Packages including fishing can be arranged on request.

### **ADDITIONAL SPORT AVAILABLE**

Buccleuch Sportings Ltd offers some of the finest field sports including driven and walked up pheasant, partridge and grouse shooting across the Queensberry, Bowhill and Langholm Estates.

For more information contact the Sporting Office TEL: 01848 600415 FAX: 01848 600244  
EMAIL: [sporting@buccleuch.com](mailto:sporting@buccleuch.com) or visit the website [www.buccleuchsporting.com](http://www.buccleuchsporting.com)

### **BOWHILL**

Offering fishing on the Tweed tributaries - the Rivers Ettrick and Yarrow which run through the Duke of Buccleuch's delightful Bowhill Estate. The Ettrick provides 12 miles of mainly double bank fishing with 80 named pools. The whole river presents an excellent opportunity for fly fishermen. The Yarrow provides both single and double bank fishing with a constant depth of water suited to fly fishing. For further information contact Ann McGregor at the Bowhill Estate Office TEL: 01750 20753 or visit the website [www.fishtweed.co.uk](http://www.fishtweed.co.uk)

### **LANGHOLM**

Offering fishing on the Esk & Liddle. The beats on the Esk form much of the middle section of the system whilst on the Liddle the two beats are in the middle and lower sections. Both the Esk and Liddle flow through picturesque countryside typical of the Border area and much of the bankside is wooded with indigenous hardwoods. For more information contact Iain Bell at the Langholm Fisheries Office TEL: 01387 381951 or visit the website [www.fishborderesk.co.uk](http://www.fishborderesk.co.uk)



**Gift Vouchers  
Available**