

# Rules and regulations governing the use of Kielder Water

WARNING: a rescue service is not provided on  
Kielder Water

Rules amended 2021

Kielder Waterside  
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Northumberland  
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[www.nwl.co.uk](http://www.nwl.co.uk)

## KIELDER WATER USERS' RULES & REGULATIONS 2021

### INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Kielder Water, Northern Europe's largest man-made lake, which offers excellent opportunities for a variety of water sports. There are large stretches of open water, which can provide exhilarating sailing, as well as quiet creeks and backwaters, which are ideal for fishing and picnics. The size, shape, and location of the lake however, mean that everyone who takes to the water must exercise due care. The lake is large, has several inlets and areas of water, which are out of sight of the various shoreline facilities. The lake is subject to sudden squalls and the water is always very cold, even in summer. Particular care is needed if you go on the water on weekdays, when there may be very few other boats about, or if there are children on board. Kielder Water has areas where craft aren't allowed to access, these areas are demarked by white diamonds, excluded restricted areas are clearly shown on the map.

### Please pay particular attention to the following points:

- **The owner or person in charge of each craft is responsible for:**
  - Ensuring that the craft is suitable for use on the lake and that it is properly equipped, maintained, and has sufficient life jackets or personal floatation devices for everyone on board. (See Rule 7 and 58).
  - Deciding whether to set out or continue on the water, having regard to the prevailing or expected weather conditions and the capabilities of himself/herself and the crew (See Rule 11).
  - Having adequate third-party liability insurance cover (see Rule 5).
- **Personal Floatation Devices (Life Jackets) must be worn by all water users and on all jetties as described (See rule 58).**
- **If you get into difficulties, STAY WITH YOUR BOAT and attempt to attract the attention of the Ferry Osprey, other boats, or people on the shore (also see Rule 59, carrying of flares).**
- **Online daily boat registration can be done through [Bookwhen.com/Kielder Waterside](https://www.bookwhen.com/Kielder-Waterside), a copy of the booking reference number will be required for authorisation.**
- **A mobile phone should always be carried in a waterproof pouch. Signal is patchy depending on where you are on the lake, certain networks work better than others.**  
**It is recommended that everyone has downloaded the "What Three Words" app on their phone to help pinpoint anyone who gets into difficulty and needs assistance.**

**THERE IS NO RESCUE SERVICE IN OPERATION AT KIELDER WATER**

Northumbrian Water Limited, the Clubs and Organisations based around the lake strongly recommend that all Lake Users, especially those new to boating, should take appropriate training courses to improve their skills. Training courses are available at Kielder from the Calvert Trust, the Scout Association, Kielder Water Sailing Club, Kielder Water Ski Club, Merlin Brae Ski Club. Contact with these organisations may be made via the Reception at Kielder Waterside **(01434 251000)**.

These Rules and Regulations have been drawn up by Northumbrian Water Limited in consultation with the regular users of the lake to meet operational requirements and to prevent conflict between various activities. The rules are based on almost 40 years of experience.

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## Rules and Regulations

**The following is a comprehensive list of Rules and Regulations applicable to all users on Kielder Water whether they are club members or day visitors. The rules are divided into sections for easy reference but must be read in full before venturing on to the water.**

**The use of Kielder Water runs from the 1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> October**

(\*Conditions apply to registered Annual Users, Military Training, Security or Safety Reasons)

## Powers of Northumbrian Water Limited, Registration & Insurance

1. Northumbrian Water Limited or its authorised agents are not responsible for any loss, injuries or damage sustained by any person, their property or any third party as a consequence of his or her entering or remaining upon Northumbrian Water Limited property and engaging in any form of water or land-based activity.
2. All persons entering onto Northumbrian Water Limited property for whatever reason must comply with any direction given by an officer of Northumbrian Water Limited and failure to comply with these directions can result in the banning of that person and his or her craft from the lake.
3. All users of Kielder Water must also abide by any by-laws, rules or temporary rules that are laid down in connection with the use of Kielder Water, at all times.
4. No craft shall be launched on Kielder Water until the registration fee has been paid and the allocated registration number prominently displayed on the vessel (preferably displayed on the Port Bow). Only craft belonging to Annual Users may be stored on Northumbrian Water Limited property or moored on Kielder Water. If any such craft is sold, it must be removed from Northumbrian Water Limited property or Kielder Water within one month of the sale, unless the new owner is also a Kielder Water Annual User, when the craft must be re-registered in his or her name as soon as practicable. Individual moorings are not transferable.
5. **Each craft** must be insured against third party claims to a minimum of **£2,000,000 (Two Million Pounds sterling)**.
6. MV Osprey (Ferry) has priority over all other water users on the lake, the Ferry Jetties are for the sole use of the MV Osprey and all other craft are prohibited to dock on them.

## Suitability of Craft / Weather Conditions

7. The owner or person in charge of each craft is responsible for ensuring that the craft is in a suitable condition for use on the lake and that it is properly equipped, maintained and has sufficient life jackets or personal floatation devices for everyone on board.
8. Rigid Inflatable Craft, except for tenders to Yachts or Motor Cruisers, shall be not less than 3 metres in length, have a solid floor and at least 3 inflatable sections.
9. Personal Watercraft or Jet Skis are **not** allowed on Kielder Water.
10. Tenders must only be used as a means of getting to and from a moored boat, which also includes overnight moorings (see Rule 11 below).
11. The owner or person in charge of each craft (including tenders) is responsible for deciding whether or not to set out or to continue on the water, having regard to the prevailing or expected weather conditions and the capabilities of him/herself and the crew. A windsock is positioned at Kielder Waterside to allow users to assess the wind speed before heading out.

## Activities.

### **12. SWIMMING, BATHING AND PADDLING ARE NOT ALLOWED AT ANY TIME IN KIELDER WATER**

13. Recreational diving is not permitted in Kielder Water. Diving operations for Operational maintenance e.g. moorings and jetties, or for the recovery of sunken craft or property, must be carried out only by qualified, registered, and professional divers and with the written permission of Northumbrian Water Limited. A Diving Permit to Work, issued by Northumbrian Water Limited, is required. Diving Operations must be carried out in accordance with the Diving at Work Regulations 1997 (SI 1997/2776) and any other relevant Health and Safety Legislation.
14. No competitions, races, or water-based activities involving two or more boats may take place without the written permission of Northumbrian Water Ltd, except those organised by and for Annual Lake Users. Organisers of such activities must pay due regard to Health and Safety and a full Risk Assessment and Event Management Plan must be carried out, documented, and submitted to N.W.L not less than 14 working days before the event commences.

A sufficient number of safety craft **must** be available to provide cover for all such events, except for those in which only Yachts are involved.

15. Each Kielder Water User Club and organisation shall operate a safe system to monitor craft in active use on the lake. The person in charge of each craft is responsible for indicating the time of departure from its normal operating base, the number of people on board and its time of return. (This rule does not apply to the movement of boats within the Whickhope Moorings, Kielder Yacht Club has its own safe system in place).

## Safety Craft

16. All Safety Craft must comply with the 6 Knot Speed Limit unless in a potential or actual rescue, training situation or with written permission from Northumbrian Water Limited.

## Launching

17. All visiting craft shall be launched from the East Slipway at Kielder Waterside unless specific permission to use an alternative site has been given in writing by Northumbrian Water Limited.
18. Access to all Jetties and Slipways must always be kept clear with no equipment or trailers causing an obstruction to other users.

## Prevention of Pollution

19. Causing pollution of a waterway or of the surrounding land is an offence and could lead to prosecution. Fuel, oil, paint, solvents, and other chemicals shall not be discharged or allowed to leak into the Reservoir, on to the surrounding land or into any drain or sewer. Particular care must be taken when refuelling craft and portable tanks must be filled ashore. (Any accidents that may result in pollution must be reported to Northumbrian Water Limited immediately – 01434 251000).
20. Before launching, all W.C outlets must be sealed up to the satisfaction of Northumbrian Water Limited or their agents.

## Navigation

21. All persons in control of craft shall observe the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea.
22. All craft shall keep clear of the Kielder Water Ferry (MV Osprey), associated jetties, moorings, and landing places.
23. No craft other than MV Osprey shall use the ferry terminals at Belvedere, Kielder Water and Tower Knowe except in the case of an emergency or with the express written consent of Northumbrian Water Limited.
24. The speed limit for motor powered craft is **6 knots (approximately 8 mph)** except for (a) ski boats operating within the authorised water ski areas; (b) authorised safety craft (See also Rule 15). Motor powered craft shall not endanger or inconvenience other craft or other land-based activity with excessive wash.
25. All motor-powered craft must comply with planning regulations by not exceeding 65 decibels when the boat is travelling at 6 knots, 25 meters from a measuring instrument on the shore.
26. Kielder Water can only be used by Day Visitors between the hours of **09.00 to 17.00 or sunset (whichever is sooner)** **The use of Kielder Water runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> October.**  
No boating after dark is permitted except with the express written consent of Northumbrian Water Limited (Permission will only be given for Military training, Security or for Safety reasons).

- 27. Northumbrian Water Limited have designated Prohibited Areas that are closed to all craft and Restricted Areas that are open only to specified craft. These areas are shown on the attached map.
- 28. Persons under the age of 16 taking part in sailing (including board sailing), rowing and canoeing must be under the supervision of a competent adult. No one under 16 years of age may drive any powered craft unless directly supervised by a trained adult on board.
- 29. All boat users must keep a safe and reasonable distance from all fishing boats and other water users (including bank fishermen).
- 30. No craft shall be moored at any time to racing marks (red and yellow buoys with numbers or letters) or to ski slalom marks or ski jumps.
- 31. No boats other than water ski boats may enter the ski bay at Kielder Waterside and the Merlin Brae ski school area at Little Whickhope. Boats may enter the **Plashettes ski area** only when there is no water-skiing taking place.

### Additional Rules applying to Water Skiing

- 32. Anyone using their own boat to Water Ski on Kielder Water must be a member of British Water Ski and Wakeboard.
- 33. All boats used for Water Skiing must be of suitable type and size, equipped and insured in accordance with the recommendations of British Water Ski and Wakeboard.
- 34. The number of Water Ski craft permitted on the lake is limited by the Planning Consents to a maximum of two craft operating at any one time at Kielder Waterside Ski Bay, two craft operating at any one time at the Plashettes Ski Area and one craft operated in the Little Whickhope Inlet by the Merlin Brae Ski School.

### Additional Rules applying to Fishing

- 35. Fishing can be from any personal craft or from a Northumbrian Water Limited fishing boat.
- 36. At least two but no more than four persons must be in any Northumbrian Water Limited craft from which fishing is taking place. All persons must always wear a personal floatation devices/lifejacket (see rule 56).
- 37. Boats from which fishing is taking place must remain 100 metres from any course buoy when racing is taking place.
- 38. Everyone fishing from a boat must carry a valid Environment Agency rod licence and a Northumbrian Water Limited Fishing Permit.
- 39. No fishing may take place in any Restricted Zone, at any mooring or jetty, or within 200 metres of the foreshore at Kielder Waterside. Fishing boats must not tie up to any buoy, mooring or water ski facility at any time.

- 40. Bank fishing is not allowed in the designated water-skiing areas when water skiing is taking place.
- 41. Fishing boats must keep a safe and reasonable distance from other craft at all times, including craft using moorings, craft at anchor and craft manoeuvring to pick up a mooring buoy. Fishing boats under power must give way to sailing boats.
- 42. Fishing boats which are close to the shore will be free drifting and should be given a wide berth, as fishing lines may be cast down wind and back casts up wind. (See rule 40).

### **Additional Rules applying only to Canoeing and Kayaking by Day Visitors**

- 43. There must be a minimum of two persons aged 17 or over on the water together when undertaking these activities.
- 44. Evidence of competency in the form of a recognised training certificate (all users) and or qualification must be presented when registering (Paddle Discover Qualification or the 2 Star Level).
- 45. Canoes and Kayaks must have adequate fixed buoyancy fitted before setting out on Kielder Water.
- 46. Registration arm bands/ numbers should be worn on the left arm to confirm they are registered to be on the water.
- 47. Registration documents must always be kept on the person for spot checks to be carried out by our Ranger team.
- 48. Craft must not paddle further than 200m from the shore.
- 49. Canoes and Kayaks can be used up to and including Force 3 winds (nine knots).

### **Additional Rules applying only for Paddle Boarding and Sail Boarding by Day Visitors**

- 50. There must be a minimum of two persons aged 17 or over on the water together when undertaking this activity.
- 51. Evidence of competency in the form of a recognised training certificate (all users) and or qualification must be presented when registering (Paddle Discover Qualification or the 2 Star Level).
- 52. There must be a minimum of two Paddle Boards out at any one time, so if one person were to get into difficulty there is assistance on hand.
- 53. Registration arm bands/ numbers must be worn on the left arm to confirm they are registered to be on the water, users must also wear a personal floatation device (See rule 56).
- 54. Paddles must have some form of floatation so when they drop in the water, they don't sink, and a leash must be worn attaching the user to the board.

- 55. Registration documents must always be kept on the person for spot checks to be carried out by our Ranger team.
- 56. Paddle Boards must not travel further than 50m from the shore.
- 57. Paddleboards can be used up to and including Force 2 winds (six knots).

### Equipment for all craft

- 58. All persons using Kielder Water must wear appropriate clothing for the prevailing weather and water conditions. Water skiers and board sailors must wear a dry or wetsuit.  
Personal Floatation Devices consisting of a life jacket of BS EN 12402-3 standard or a personal buoyancy aid of BS EN 12402-3 Standard must be worn by:
  - (a) Everybody in Open Boats, Canoes, Kayaking or on Jetties at all times.
  - (b) All Water Skiers, Wind Surfers and Paddle Boarders.
  - (c) Everybody when on deck in both Yachts and Motor Cruisers.
- 59. Where possible, all craft, excluding tenders, must carry two hand-held orange smoke flares, unless a safety boat is in attendance.
- 60. All boats must carry a towing line and have adequate means of bailing.

### Equipment for Open Motorboats, Sailing and Rowing Dinghies including Tenders

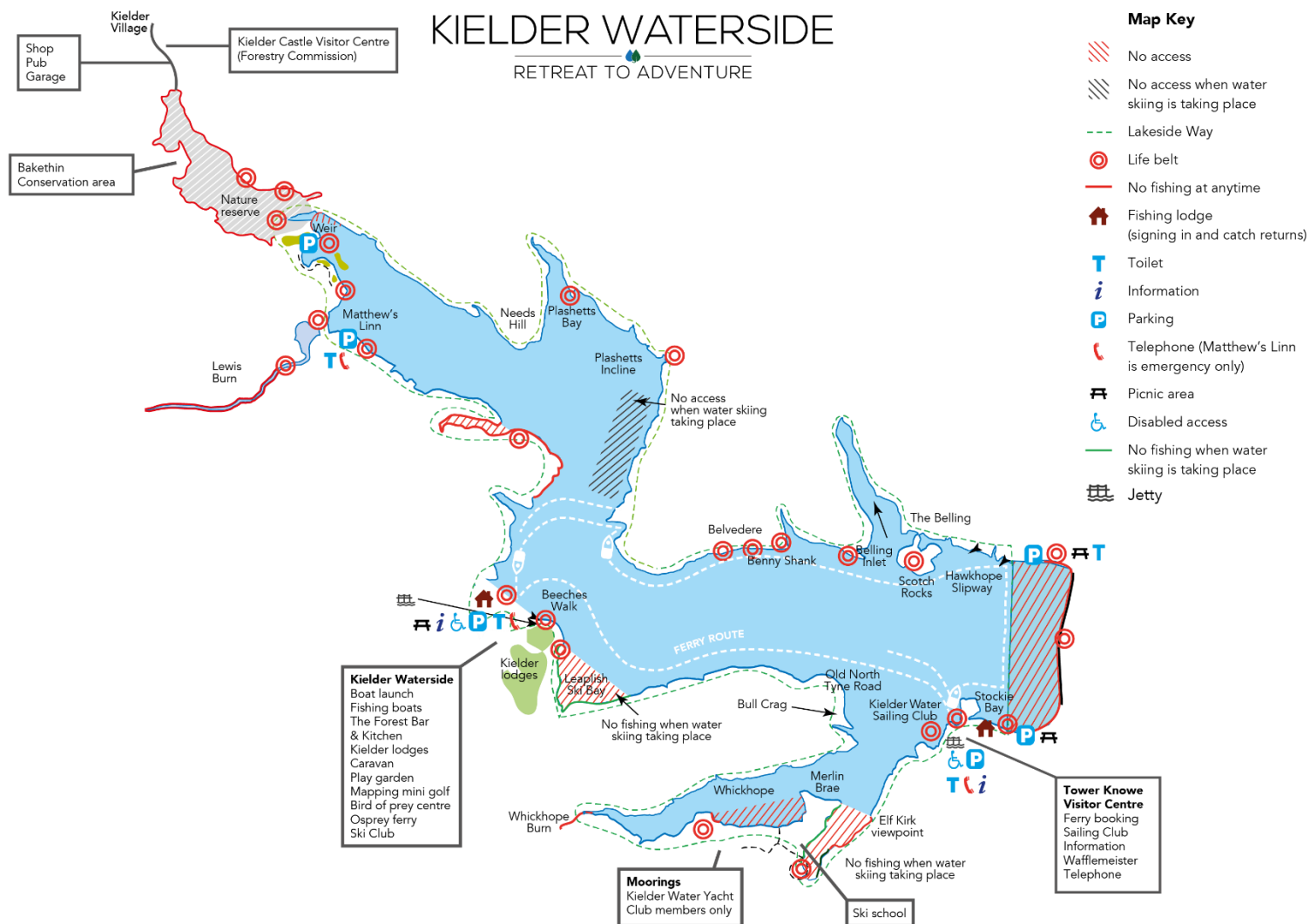
- 61. All these craft must contain oars or paddles and strapped-in or built-in buoyancy enough to support a swamped boat and crew. The towing line shall be securely fixed to the bow or another strong point on the hull.
- 62. All open motorboats must carry a Dry Powder Fire Extinguisher, fire rating 5A/34B or new fire rating BS EN3 and be at least 1KG capacity.

### Equipment for Sailing Yachts and Motor Cruisers

- 63. All yachts and motor cruisers must carry an anchor with at least 2 metres of chain and 35 metres of rope, at least one life ring or horseshoe buoy, a buoyant heaving line of at least 10 metres in length, a fire extinguisher (see rule 56), a first aid kit and a tool kit.
- 64. Yachts and motor cruisers with cookers shall carry a fire blanket BS EN 1869 and an additional fire extinguisher (See rule 60) near to the cooker.
- 65. Mooring to buoys shall be with an appropriate rope protected from chafe and of sufficient breaking strain to secure the boat. In the Whickhope moorings the rope must be backed up by a chain of adequate size for the vessel.

## KIELDER WATERSIDE

RETREAT TO ADVENTURE



**THERE IS NO RESCUE SERVICE IN OPERATION AT KIELDER WATER**