



Guide to Waters

River Aire : Gargrave/Broughton



Guide to fishing Gargrave Beats – R.Aire : Gargrave/Broughton

COMMENTS

- The majority of the banks along these beats are man-made. The stretches immediately downstream of the top weir (Systagenix, Gargrave) and along the railway have suffered the most from historic straightening but we are working on them!
- The river bed here is highly dynamic, especially (currently) along the Water Treatment Works and below the ‘cross-over’ point as gravels are remobilized following the December 2015 floods.
- **For guidance, left or right hand banks are referred to when looking downstream.**
- The Association, under the guidance of Prof. Jon Grey and the Wild Trout Trust, is undertaking a significant program of bankside and in-stream improvement. You will notice log deflectors along the stretch near the Systagenix factory and the stretch from near the railway bridge to Inghey Bridge. These have been placed onto the bed to create flow diversity which in turns increases habitat diversity (water depth and gravel sorting) and structures in which small fish are able to find refuge.

Large rocks in the river have been rearranged in situ to create additional in-stream structure and improve habitat. Fencing has been erected in some sections to exclude stock with the aim to stabilise the river bank by natural revegetation. Trees have now been planted between the fence and river to establish future bank resilience and cover. These will take a few years to reach any size so it is a long term investment project. To provide short term vegetation improvement, willow whips have been used to strategically create fish cover along those stretches where improvement opportunities are limited.

- The river has a good number of invertebrates with up-wings, caddis and stoneflies dominating in river sampling (undertaken regularly). As more information is gathered, we will add figures to aid in fly selection over the course of the season. Riverfly sampling results are normally posted on the Association’s Facebook Page – [Bradford City AA](#).

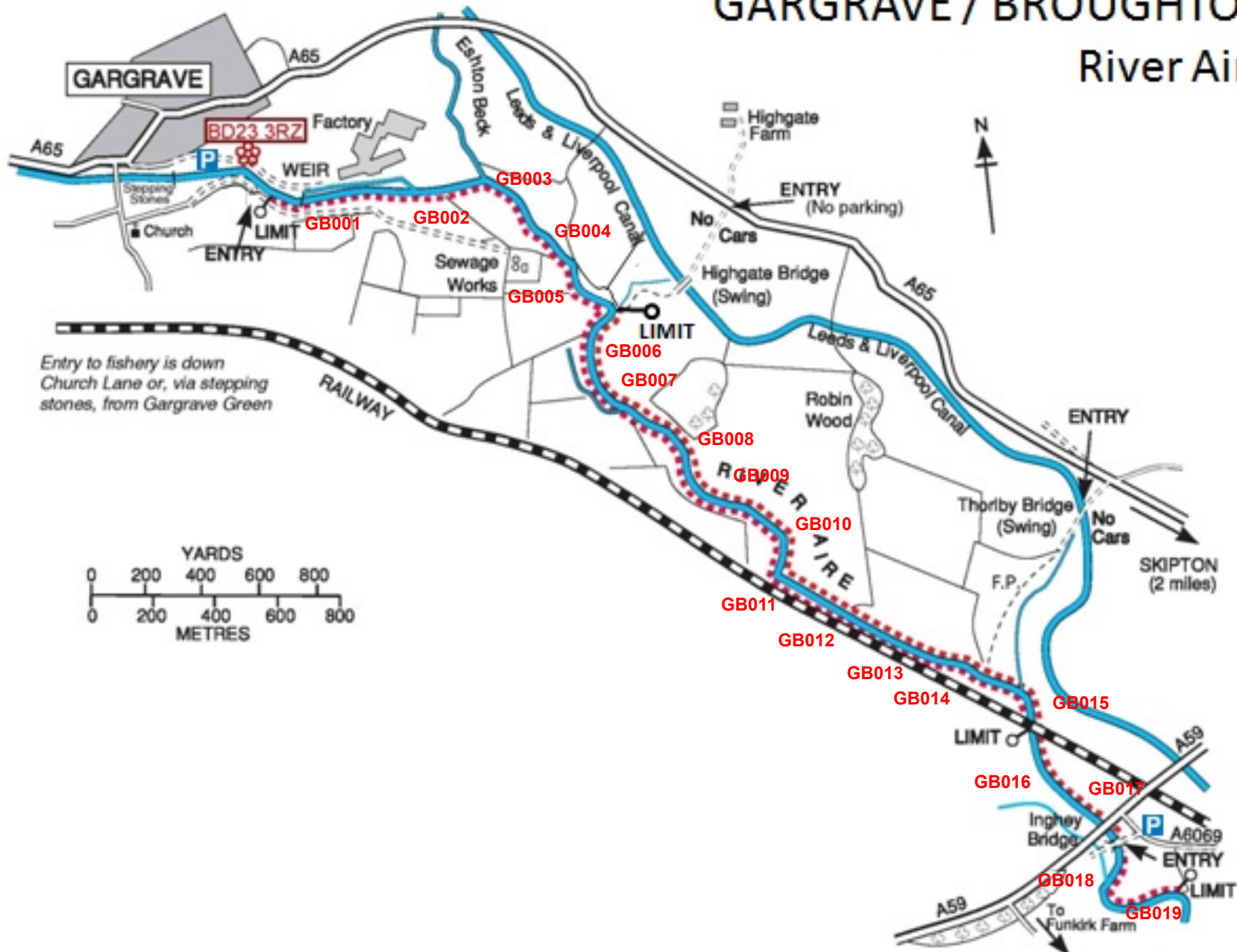
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TIPS

- PLEASE ONLY USE STILES OR GATES TO CROSS FENCELINES – we have invested heavily and wish to retain the fence and good will of the farmers.
- The river fishes at its best when the [gauge at Gargrave](#) is between .24m and .3m and clearing. Above those levels the river flows very fast. Below them and the fishing can become hard and best done in the evening.
- This is predominantly a brown trout and grayling fishery, however there are some large chub resident. The fish populations are good and there are some very large trout and grayling to be caught. We have started monitoring trout parr numbers.
- While nymph tactics are successful, the river can be fished with a dry fly for most of the year.
- The river is predominantly bordered by high banks. To be successful, it is important that you keep back from the bank tops or even fish within the confines of the river itself so as not to spook fish.
- Be vigilant and spend time on the water, even just observing, and you will soon learn where the best lies are. These will be different for trout and grayling and will vary through the season and under different flow levels.
- Above all, fish stealthily. Move slowly, take your time and observe. The fish will let you know where they are.

GARGRAVE / BROUGHTON River Aire



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GB001	<p>The beat officially begins marginally above the large weir but effectively it starts below the weir itself. There are fish to be caught in the turbulent waters below the weir, some of which are large. You can wade along the RH bank (wall) but exercise caution. Downstream of the weir the waters are generally fairly shallow but small trout can be caught in the pocket water. There is a bank of willows on the LH bank above the first small weir. Caution should be exercised here as (1) there are overhead power lines and (2) there are usually a few large trout and grayling resident around the willows. You will need to approach this from downstream and in the river.</p>
GB002	<p>The pool immediately below the first small weir (actually a pipe from the factory to the Water Treatment Works) holds some large fish and is best given a wide berth and then fished upstream from the RH bank and within the river. Below the 'pipe' weir and opposite the first stile is a shallower pool below a broken weir. This pool also holds some large fish and it is best to go over the stile and enter the river below to fish up into the pool. Below this pool and Eshton Beck (BG003) on the LH side, we are undertaking major in-stream improvement. The water is generally shallow but can fish well if there is a good flow. Fish can be located around the logs that have been placed in the river.</p>
GB003	<p>At the confluence of Eshton Beck with the river there is a very deep hole. This pool generally holds grayling and some small trout. It is generally fished from the RH bank (be careful as it is silty) but it can also be approached from the middle of the river downstream of the pool (after you have fished the lower stretch). Below the Eshton Beck and down to the willow on the LH bank the water is thigh deep and fast flowing with a rocky bottom down into a deep hole at the willow tree. This stretch can fish well at times.</p>
GB004	<p>At first sight this stretch looks flat and featureless. However, there is a deeper gutter running downstream along the LH bank and can hold good size fish. There are also grayling in this stretch. There can be a good mayfly hatch here. You need to stand well back and use stealth to fish this stretch as the fish are wary due to the low water and lack of bank cover.</p>
GB005	<p>Commencing immediately below the slower water and down to the 'cross-over' point this stretch is very diverse, but it also has a very dynamic bed so it can change between fishing visits and depending on water levels. At the top is a very fast short stretch. This needs to be fished from the bottom upstream for best effect. Do not expect a large head of fish. Below that, the stretch which runs along the two sewerage pipes is best fished from within the river edge confines as we do not control that section of the RH bank. This short section can hold a good head of fish. Immediately below the first sewage outlet (bottom of the pipe) the river is quite deep along the RH bank and its features can change. There are some good size fish in this piece of water. From there down to the crossover point the river runs fast but it does hold a some good fish. At the bottom and immediately upstream from the crossover point there is a very good stretch with a stone bank on the LH bank. Be careful as this bank is unstable.</p>

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GB006	Downstream from the crossover point (Stile on LH bank) to the pool below the end of the fencing. The stretch along the RH bank under the trees features a deeper gutter to about halfway along the fence line below the stile. The LH bank is generally shallow. There has been some in-stream improvement work at that point to try and develop a deeper run down into the pool at the bottom. This stretch can sometimes hold nice fish and is better fished from within the stream by entering at the end of the fence line. The pool immediately below the fence can produce a nice fish when there is a mayfly hatch but it is difficult to approach from the LH bank. Below the pool down to the next weir is a nice run that does hold both trout and grayling.
GB007	This section begins at the weir below GB006 and continues down to the twin gates at GB008. This section has some very nice features with fast water and pockets. The short run below that weir can be fished by entering the river above the second (larger) weir only 35m downstream. In normal flows this section is wadeable and can hold some nice fish, especially right up into the fast water at the weir. It needs stealth to fish it well. Immediately below the second (larger) weir is a fast deep stretch opposite the small beck on the RH bank. It requires fairly heavy nymphs to get to the bottom and can hold some large fish. The flow below the deep water and around the bend (opposite the old water gauge) and down along the RH bank is reasonably deep and holds fish. This stretch can be good on an evening during the mayfly season. Below the run and down to the twin gates the water is shallow with a gutter along the RH bank. This stretch needs to be fished with care and can produce well in the evening.
GB008	This section begins at the twin gates (known as the middle section) and continues down to the deep pool at GB009. It has recently been fenced. The pool immediately below the twin gates is a good fishing spot and should be approached with care. This pool is best accessed over the stile and across the channel from the RH bank. Fish it carefully up from the shallow crossover and there is a deep run along the LH bank. Below this, the river runs between a high LH bank and a RH Bank with good tree cover. It looks featureless but there are some big fish in this stretch. It is pretty much unfishable in high water but when the river is low you can wade along the LH bank upstream.
GB009	Below the above section (GB008) and the top of this section is an extremely deep pool. At times you will encounter fish rising below the willows on the RH bank. They are generally feeding on small terrestrials falling into the river. There are often large grayling in the pool. A long accurate cast might produce something interesting. Below this pool is a shallow section down to the next riffle. This is a good section to 'sit-on' in the evening as the bigger fish drop down out of the pool to feed.
GB010	This section is the last before the river hits the railway line. From the bottom of GB009 there is a long slow flowing glide / pool running some 100 yards downstream from the fast water. The LH bank has a deeper run along the entire length before the river shallows and turns hard right. The overall depth of this long pool is about knee/thigh deep and fish feed across the entire river bottom. It is best fished upstream entering at the shallow bottom section and fishing from the RH bank. This section needs to be fished slowly and with careful wading. There are both grayling and trout present in the section. Below this and turning right is a very short fast section down to the railway line. This section can hold some very nice size fish and should be approached from the RH bank fishing upstream and casting towards the LH bank. This is around the upstream limit for chub.

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GB011	<p>At the top of this section and at the bottom of GB010 the river is forced to run parallel to the railway for about half a mile. There are a series of old impounding weirs that we are reworking to create more habitat diversity. GB011 section is between the end of GB010 and the first weir. There is a deep pool and fast run immediately at the top of the section and against the RH bank. Immediately above the weir is a deeper impoundment. This section can hold a good number of grayling which can often be seen feeding under the trees. The entire section is wadeable and best fished by wading, either up or downstream. Some very large grayling have come from this pool over the past season. Both weighted and dry flies will work, and the smaller the better.</p>
GB012	<p>This section starts at the weir at bottom of GB011 and continues down through two further weirs. It can be deep and difficult to wade but there is some good fishing to be had in the faster water and under the trees. Look for how the flow path weaves across the channel. It is wadeable in low water conditions. With care, you can wade along the edge thus ensuring you are not silhouetted on the bank.</p>
GB013	<p>This section runs from the last weir down to the gated fence (PLEASE DO NOT CLIMB – USE THE GATE) and contains some in-stream improvements. At the top, the water is very deep and only just wadeable in low water conditions. This deeper water does hold some very big trout, grayling and sometimes chub. Best way to fish this is with a small nymph under a dry fly and search along the RH bank. About midway, the river shallows out and large fish can be seen feeding along the trees on the RH bank. This stretch is best fished from the RH bank but you need to wade very carefully in order not to spook feeding fish. There can also be a small school of grayling in this area. On the LH bank you will notice a white and orange pole. This designates where the gas main crosses under the river and downstream of this we have installed some rock deflectors below which there are some nice deep runs. This section is best fished upstream by entering the river just above the fence. Be careful as there are often fish in the pool immediately below the fence and entry point.</p>
GB014	<p>This section runs down through the willows to where the river again turns to the right to go under the railway. The stretch between the willows can be waded in low river conditions and holds some nice fish which clearly welcome the bank cover. Below the willows we have placed in-stream deflectors to create some runs and gutters. Fishing this area will improve over time as it has been very shallow. Along the RH bank and above the riffles there is a very deep gutter. Be careful if wading hard up against the RH bank.</p>
GB015	<p>This short section is between GB014 and the railway bridge and has a deep gutter running along the middle of the river culminating in a deep pool under the railway bridge. This is best fished by crossing the river at the top and then fishing upstream from the bridge. Take care when wading as this stretch can be deep. There are both trout and grayling in this section.</p>

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GB016	This is a slow flowing section running from the railway bridge down to the end of the fence line. We have placed some in-stream diversions in this section towards the bottom so take care when wading. The water flow in this stretch is deceptive and is faster than you may think; it holds both trout and grayling and at times these can be large specimens. The entire stretch is wadeable but remember we only hold access to the LH bank. Immediately below the railway bridge is a deeper hole and holds some nice size grayling in season.
GB017	This stretch runs from the end of the fence down to the old bridge (Inghey Bridge). This section has extensive patches of <i>Ranunculus</i> (water crowfoot) and it is very similar in nature to a chalk stream. We have spent a large amount of time trying to alter the flows in this stretch and it now has two or three deep runs along the LH bank and in the middle of the river. It is best fished by wading upstream but remember we only hold access to the LH bank. There have been some large specimens of trout caught in the stretch and it also holds some small grayling. Immediately above the old bridge the water is very shallow.
GB018	Below the old bridge and down to the point where Broughton Beck enters the river there are some complex stretches offering a diversity of challenges. At the top of this stretch is a fast run hard up against the LH bank down to the deep pool. This can hold some specimen size trout and needs to be approached with care. From the bottom of the fast stretch to the confluence with Broughton Beck there is both fast and deep water which can hold some nice fish. Often you will see some large chub.
GB019	This is the bottom of the beat and the section runs from Broughton Beck to the fence on the LH bank. At that point there is a deep pool which can be waded in low water conditions. You can wade along the LH bank (BCAA) right up to the confluence with Broughton Beck in low water conditions. This section can hold some large fish, especially when the mayfly are hatching. In season, there is also a good head of grayling although not large.