

I have finally received a response from the National Trust to the notice asserting a public right of navigation on the River Dove.

My comments on the text are in red.

**Mr Biddulph, following wide consultation please find here the National Trust's statement which is a response to your requests for canoe access to the River Dove in Dovedale. [Deliberately misinterpreting the assertion of a public right of navigation as a request to navigate is a tactic used by Fish Legal. ] This statement will also be circulated to all interested parties as well. Thank you for your interest in this matter.**

### ***Canoeing in Dovedale***

The National Trust exists to care for special places, like the River Dove, for ever, for everyone. [except for canoeists who are not in the category, everyone. Canoeist are abused by National Trust staff at Caldecotte Park on the Warwickshire Avon which is statutory navigation to Stratford and beyond.] In doing so, we must balance the need to protect the natural environment with enabling people to access and enjoy that environment, whether they wish to walk, ride, fish or canoe.

Canoeists are welcome to pursue a range of paddling opportunities on our inland waters that are compatible with conservation and other water-based recreational interests. [The River Dove is an inland water which is compatible with conservation and other water-based recreational interests. So, does this mean we are welcome or does the National Trust have a defective knowledge of the English language?] However, the River Dove is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which means that we are required to manage it in a certain way. [True but irrelevant. Natural England has no powers, whatsoever, in relation to a public right of navigation, [see here](#)]

We are not persuaded that there is a public right of navigation on the River Dove [If the public right of navigation affirmed by the 1472 Act for Wears and Fishgarths has not been extinguished by legislation or the exercise of statutory powers then it exists as a matter of fact. The persuasion of the National Trust is irrelevant.] and we have not given permission for canoeing on our land in Dovedale and Wolfscote Dale. [Permission is not needed where a right exists. Has it escaped the National Trust's notice that canoeing does not take place on land?] We will work with stakeholders and interested parties to understand what impact canoeing is likely to have on the River Dove, its surroundings and upon other river users. [There is evidence that the Angling Trust has been consulted. I have suggested, on several occasions, an informal meeting to talk about the issues with no response so far.]

We would therefore encourage anyone wishing to canoe on the Dove to work with us to avoid the risk of damaging a beautiful and much-loved local landscape. [We are not coming through with bulldozers and jack-hammers. A little plastic canoe that does not even leave a footprint to mark its passage will cause less damage to the landscape than the boot erosion caused by walkers. A psychologist would have a field day with the hidden assumptions in this paragraph. I have offered to work with you, Jim Barber. Consider me encouraged.]

National Trust

✉ Jim Barber

Head Ranger

