

Garden of Eden Fishing

Dear Sirs,

I have seen your Pre-submission draft of the Lazonby Neighbourhood Plan. As a regular angler and annual season ticket holder for many years on the stretch of the River Eden belonging to Garden of Eden in Cumbria Ltd, I am somewhat disappointed and very concerned by the proposals made in the same for the following reasons-

- I provide angling tuition with guiding on the River Eden, it is my full time occupation. I have chosen Lazonby Estate for the sole reason that there is peace and tranquillity, which is so important when teaching with clients. I pay a premium for that privilege, it is a big part of the attraction with clients that they are not disturbed or intimidated by others. If I had to teach and guide on other parts of the river Eden, of which there are many, where the public are at large to roam, I would soon be out of business. I pay, the public contribute nothing to that end for the right to walk the river path.
- I bring many clients from far and wide, thus in turn bringing custom to the area with clients staying and eating locally. Over fifty percent come from out of the county, book local accommodation and spend money in the area, very often bringing their families.
- I have seen and experienced many times on the riverbank, dogs off leads running amok, anglers bitten, dogs getting tangled and damaging anglers tackle, taking/stealing food, people throwing sticks/stones into the water. Dogs disturbing sheep and lambs, jumping in the river, dog muck left on the ground, bags of dog muck hung on trees and scratches on cars. All of which would be highly disruptive to the anglers and also the habitat and wildlife. Who would be responsible for damage or injury from dogs?
- I have had items stolen and damaged from walkers passing by, I have been intimidated by anti outdoor pursuit members who can be very aggressive, I have had people disturbing the fishing and clients to name but a few problems that can occur. Who would be responsible for belonging's stolen and damage to vehicles?
- There is always the Health and Safety issue with fly casting, as having to look around for passers-by and who would be liable should someone be blinded?
- Four Wheel vehicles being driven on the river roads by fishermen, game keepers and river keepers going about their business, causing health and safety concerns for any walkers/dogs etc would be another liability. Who would be responsible should the worst case scenario happen that someone is severely injured by a vehicle, would it be the Estate, the driver, the injured person or the people that allowed the planning?
- The fear of vandalization of anglers vehicles when left unattended is of great concern. Also of great concern is the damage done to fishing

huts, items stolen and the mis-use/abuse of those facilities, who would be responsible for that?

- The litter often left/dropped by walkers is just unbelievable sometimes, it can cause great suffering to wildlife, tins and plastic containers are death traps to birds and mammals. Gates are frequently left open despite signs on the gate for sheep and cattle to escape and crop fields walked across causing damage grief to farmers. Fires are often lit, disposable BBQ's left, there is a fire hazard in dry periods. Some types of litter left in fields can cause serious damage to farm equipment when cutting grass or crops.

I hope that the proposed Historic Path designation in the Plan leading to and along-side the River Eden on the Lazonby Estate can be moved for all the above reasons.

Yours sincerely,

Glyn Freeman.