

Protect River Leven Crayfish

Please stay out of the River Leven and sub-streams to prevent the spread of crayfish plague

How you can help

What are Crayfish

Crayfish are small lobster like creatures that live under stones and tree roots in rivers and streams. Britain has one native species which is now very rare.

Crayfish plague in the River Leven

Dead native crayfish have recently been found in the River Leven. A pollution was ruled out and the crayfish were tested for crayfish plague. This has now been confirmed by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS). Crayfish plague is only harmful to native crayfish. It is carried by invasive American Signal Crayfish which may be present in other streams in the area. The disease may have been transferred into the native crayfish river via water and mud on damp boots, bike tyres or fishing tackle.

What you can do to help

Do not trap or take crayfish.

Avoid walking or mountain biking through the River Leven and sub-streams. If you or your dog goes in the river, do not go in another on the same day.

Crayfish plague spores can also be spread on damp equipment such as fishing tackle, canoes and machinery.

After your visit thoroughly clean your boots and any other equipment that has been near the river or river banks. Use hot water and leave to dry for at least 48 hours.

If you see any dead crayfish do not handle or remove them, please report it to our 24 hour incident hotline: 0800 80 70 60.