ESSENTIAL INFORMATION:

1. The Lower Bann is a navigational right of way - boats are accommodated river traffic.

2. The river is steeped in history dating back to Mesolithic times. From the trail’s head at Toome, the Grey Wagtail with its distinctive ‘ringlet’ of a tail is common to be seen. The Grey Heron is also a frequent sight. The Red Admiral and Silver-studded Blue butterflies can often be seen around the trail. Other rare species to see are the Dutch White, Dart and Peacock butterflies.

3. Please note the zones indicated on the map – expect to deal with strong winds. The Grey Wagtail with its distinctive ‘ringlet’ of a tail is common to be seen. The Grey Heron is also a frequent sight. The Red Admiral and Silver-studded Blue butterflies can often be seen around the trail. Other rare species to see are the Dutch White, Dart and Peacock butterflies.

4. Despite its size, the Lower Bann is insufficient for most rescues.

5. Exercise caution here, as this stretch of river is also restricted to deep water channels.

6. Look out for:

   - The remains of Camus High Cross, the only Irish High Cross in County Londonderry, can be viewed at Camus Old Graveyard, approximately 1.6km downstream from the trail’s head.
   - The Grey Wagtail with its distinctive ‘ringlet’ of a tail is common to be seen. The Grey Heron is also a frequent sight. The Red Admiral and Silver-studded Blue butterflies can often be seen around the trail. Other rare species to see are the Dutch White, Dart and Peacock butterflies.
   - Old Graveyard, approximately 1.6km downstream from the trail’s head. The remains of Camus High Cross, the only Irish High Cross in County Londonderry, can be viewed at Camus Old Graveyard, approximately 1.6km downstream from the trail’s head.
   - Salmon - leaping during their migration upstream to spawn. They were constructed to accommodate river traffic and special attention to deep pools, rich in young fish.

7. Consider entering a recognised training course, which explains skills, safety and environmental issues.

8. Avoid landing on the west bank of Lough Beg especially in strong winds.

9. To avoid the vertical weir at Carnroe enter the canal on the east bank.

10. Watch out for anglers fishing from the banks of the river.

11. The 58km Lower Bann Canoe Trail is a unique way to experience this beautiful river and is suitable for canoeing enthusiasts of all abilities.

The river is stepped in history dating back to Neolithic times. From the trail’s head at Toome, the river flows into Lough Beg, a beautiful area that is rich in wildlife. From Lough Beg it narrows at Newferry and acts for most of its length as the boundary between counties Londonderry and Antrim. On entering its last stretch towards the Atlantic Ocean it passes through the town of Coleraine. The trail finishes at Ballysillan beside a beautiful nature reserve owned by the National Trust and approximately 1.5 km from the N55 (A7).

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Enjoy the trail! Happy paddling!

Please note: There are 3 weir and 2 sluice gates on the river which can be extremely dangerous. However, at all times it is possible to safely paddle into the navigation channels to avoid the weirs and sluice gates. All of these are clearly indicated on the map.

Also, be aware that sea-going vessels use the estuaries of the river between the Atlantic Ocean and Coleraine docks.

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