



**As the chair and chief executive of the Canal & River Trust we are committed to the highest standards of Health and Safety at work for all our employees, volunteers, contractors, partners, customers, visitors and neighbours. Specifically, our goal is to minimise accidents and injuries, and their impacts, aiming to reduce and eliminate them.**

Our approach to Health and Safety is based upon a Safety Management System which complies with all relevant legislation and standards, and which helps us to effectively manage and mitigate the risks that are inherent in meeting our charitable objective to manage and operate waterways for public benefit. The System clearly lays out what we must each do in our roles to deliver a safe canal and river network.

We will make sure we equip our employees and volunteers with the right tools, knowledge and skills to work safely and deliver safe waterways. If guidance or training is needed we will provide it. You will always have our full support in improving health and safety; making our network as safe as possible every day is a responsibility that we all share, and our success depends on each one of us doing our jobs in a safe way. This means that if you see something that is unsafe, then please take action to rectify it; firstly making it safe for others, and then ensuring that we fix the underlying cause by informing the person responsible.

All managers have specific safety objectives and are supported by our professional Safety Advisers. They are expected to set a positive example and, through their behaviours, demonstrate to colleagues and contractors our care for their safety, occupational health and well-being.

**Tony Hales**  
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Face-to-face engagement is essential and we expect an active involvement from all our managers in safety conversations, so that all colleagues work together to improve health and safety continuously. We value the input that trained Safety Representatives can contribute in the development and application of our Safety Management System and risk assessments, and we encourage their involvement at every opportunity.

Every year, as part of our Safety Management System, we will put in place a Safety Plan which identifies practical steps that we will take to improve safety. As we implement changes to improve service, a robust change management process will be in place to minimise risks as far as we reasonably can.

Safety information, and analysis to understand safety performance trends, will be made available and regularly reviewed to inform our health and safety plans. Each year the Board of Trustees will undertake a full review of our approach to Health and Safety.

Through the application of this Policy, and compliance with Health and Safety legislation, we will work tirelessly to deliver injury-free waterways for everyone who works on, uses or visits them.

This policy, supported by standards and processes, must be applied to all activities carried out by Canal & River Trust, including projects undertaken on our behalf.

**Richard Parry**  
Chief Executive