

Restricted Activities on Trust Land: Policy Statement

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At the Canal & River Trust we are the custodians of a canal network spanning over 2,000 miles, which is home to a rich variety of wildlife. A significant proportion of our network is characterised by corridors of water bodies with an accompanying narrow towpath. The network has free open public access, and we welcome a wide range of users with differing access requirements. We recognise that communities will wish to use our network for a variety of leisure and other purposes.
- 1.2 Given the broad range of activities taking place across our network it is important that people share the space considerately. This Policy Statement aligns with our *Towpaths for Everyone Policy* and sets out the extent to which we permit or limit the following activities on our network:
 - Drone flying
 - Magnet fishing
 - Scattering of ashes
 - Open water swimming
 - Horse riding

2. Drone flying

- 2.1 As airspace is regulated by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) we cannot prevent drones from using the airspace above our network.
- 2.2 However, given the nature of our network as a narrow, often intensively used linear corridor and the risks of accident and nuisance and/or interference with other users, we do not permit members of the public to use our network for the purposes of controlling, launching or landing drones which are being flown for leisure or recreational purposes.



- 2.3 Anyone wanting to control, launch or land commercial drones on the Trust's network (except developers or other third parties already engaged in the Trust's third party works process which will consider drone use as part of any application under the Code of Practice) must first obtain written permission to do so from filming.photography@canalrivertrust.org.uk . They must also operate their drone in accordance with the law and must abide by any other specified conditions.
- 2.4 Any person planning a photography or film shoot on Trust land must also adhere to our Filming Safety Guidelines (available from our website [here](#)), which contain requirements regarding the use of a drone camera (UAV) on shoots.
- 2.5 If you are concerned that a drone is being flown illegally please contact the police on 101. In an emergency, call 999.

3 Magnet fishing

- 3.1 'Magnet fishing' is the use of magnets in outdoor waters to look for submerged items. We do not permit magnet fishing on our waterways due to the potential hazards it poses to:
 - navigation;
 - the environment and other towpath users, if items found are abandoned nearby;
 - any items of a historic nature extracted from the waterway;
 - those engaging in magnet fishing, if dangerous items are extracted or if an accident occurs.

4 Scattering of ashes

- 4.1 We know that our waterways are treasured by communities and that many special memories are made on them. We therefore understand why people may wish to scatter the ashes of someone they love somewhere on our network.
- 4.2 You can scatter ashes over a body of water in the UK (including the Trust's waterways) without obtaining permission. You should make sure the effect on the environment and wildlife is minimal, and that you do not affect other watercourse users. Additional items (such as wreaths or memorabilia) must not be placed into the water or left on the bank, as they may be harmful to the environment and to wildlife, and may hinder navigation or the activities of other users.
- 4.3 On some parts of our network we have entered into agreements with local boating businesses to permit them to offer ash scattering services, subject to certain conditions.

4.4 If you wish to scatter ashes somewhere on the Trust network (other than over water) you must obtain written permission from in.memory@canalrivertrust.org.uk . Where permission is granted, the following conditions must be met:

- There must be no disturbance of the ground;
- Scattering must be carried out discreetly;
- No additional items (such as wreaths or memorabilia) may be left or planted;
- No memorials, however temporary, may be erected or planted.

4.5 The Trust also offers [other ways to honour the memory of a loved one](#) on its network, such as by dedicating a memorial bench or lock gate to them.

5 Open water swimming

5.1 We do not permit swimming in waterways owned or managed by the Trust, unless it is with and under the supervision of a swimming club licensed by the Trust. This is due to the dangers posed by hidden hazards, moving boats and operational infrastructure (such as weirs, sluices and locks).

6. Horse riding and horseboating

6.1 Horse riding, or leading horses (and other animals other than domestic pets) is not permitted on Canal & River Trust towpaths unless they are also designated as public bridleways or other local agreements have been put in place.

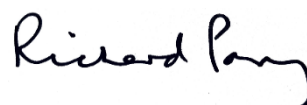
6.2 Horseboating (using a horse to pull a boat along the canal) is only permitted on our network where permission has been obtained in advance. Such permission must be sought by contacting us using the details [here](#).



David Orr CBE

Chair to the Board of Trustees

January 2025



Richard Parry

Chief Executive