

Mandatory Standard: HERITAGE

Management Brief

Our aim is for the heritage of the waterways to be treasured as a valued national asset. The careful protection and management of that heritage is an essential part of the ongoing work to achieve our vision.

The Trust's primary heritage assets consist of its historic canals and river navigations, and their built heritage, archaeology and man-made landscapes. Its cultural heritage consists of the historic boats, portable artefacts and archives that the Trust manages in partnership with others. Beyond these, the wider historic environment includes assets that are not managed by the Trust but are nevertheless important to the appeal and use of our waterways.

The Trust's waterways are used for navigation and recreation. We seek to integrate the needs of those who visit and use the network with a sustainable approach to effective management of the waterway heritage.

In line with our vision the Trust seeks to become the acknowledged expert in achieving sustainable integration of the competing needs and uses of the waterways. Compliance with legislation and regulation is a minimum requirement. We will aim to exceed this requirement by continually improving our performance and delivering appropriate best practice.

Where balances and judgments have to be made between competing resources and activities, we will take a long term and strategic view that assumes a presumption in favour of preserving the waterway heritage.

Authorised by:



Operations Director

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Custodian:

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Amendment Record

Issue No.	Issue Date	Changes
1		Previously Policy 10 Issue 2
2	September 2012	Updated to canal & River Trust. Additions to 1.1, 1.4 and 1.5 following consultation with the Canal & River Trust's Heritage Advisory Committee.

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PRINCIPLES

1 General

- The Trust will seek to manage the physical impact of human activities in order to protect the waterway heritage.
- The Trust will ensure that every addition and alteration to its historic structures is carefully judged. It is important that the needs of safety, cost, historical integrity, use, aesthetics and a lot more are sensitively balanced.
- The Trust will seek, through national and local planning policies, to encourage adjacent land uses and development which will not conflict with the historic environment of the waterways.
- The Trust will seek to become increasingly self-regulating through the use of heritage management agreements.
- The Trust will give all its heritage assets, whether designated (i.e. legally protected) or non-designated, the same level of beneficial treatment.
- The Trust will, wherever possible, perform regular maintenance to its significant heritage assets in order to prolong their lifespan and reduce future repair costs.

2 Understanding significance

Before works to a historic building, structure or historic site take place, a heritage assessment should be undertaken to determine its significance. This assessment will establish heritage value and will help to guide the planning and execution of works.

Regard should be had for the historic functionality of waterways; e.g., gauge of track, turnover bridge configuration, positioning of bollards, strapping posts and rope hooks. The heritage value of these functional traditions is significant and should be secured.

3 Historic buildings and structures

All major projects and general works should demonstrate a respect for waterway heritage, and an approach based on minimum physical intervention involving minimum loss of existing fabric will be undertaken.

Interventions will be reversible wherever possible.

The Trust recognizes the primacy of safety in all its work. Where alterations to heritage assets need to be made on safety grounds the Trust will ensure that these are performed sympathetically so as not to reduce heritage significance or compromise safety.

Regard will be had for the contributions of different periods of work in an historic structure. The heritage value of such contributions must be judged within the context to which their host structure belongs.

The patina of age and use forms part of the value of a historic building or structure and its removal will only be considered when it is essential to the protection of historic fabric. Falsification of patina will be avoided.

Most repairs and alterations will be carried out in materials that match the historic fabric. Interventions involving replacement of missing parts should be discreetly date-marked to differentiate new from old.

Historic materials, fixtures and fittings are valuable and wherever possible will remain in situ. Where such items cannot be left in situ they will be carefully salvaged and stored for re-use in an appropriate context.



4 Historic man-made landscapes

Major projects and general works will be planned and designed so as to enhance or minimise their impact on the historic man-made landscape.

Consideration of historic landscape character and local distinctiveness will (without engendering pastiche) influence the design and planning of waterside development.

5 New development

New development can be acceptable in an historic setting provided it maintains an appropriate visual context of form, scale and materials, and does not devalue the significance of heritage assets.

Where new development in the historic setting is being delivered by the Trust or its partners, the historic setting should derive a direct financial and aesthetic benefit as a dividend of the new development.

New uses that are sustainable and compatible with the heritage significance of the waterways will be encouraged. The Trust will encourage the same approach for third party development schemes.

6 Archaeological recording

Where development or major works that affect heritage assets are taking place, physical features should be archaeologically recorded.

Archaeological records will be placed in local historic environment records (HERs) and made publicly available. Consideration should be given to publication of a summary of the findings in an appropriate journal.

7 Interpretation

Heritage interpretation will aim to communicate the local distinctiveness and cultural associations of individual historic sites and waterways. The Trust will exploit its museums and archives and work in partnership with relevant local and national organisations to achieve this aim.

Interpretative signage will be carefully planned, designed, and integrated into historic sites with minimum intrusion.

8 Volunteers

Volunteers, particularly those with specialist knowledge, will be encouraged to participate in a range of heritage activities including research and recording, repair and restoration projects, and heritage open day events.

9 Competent people

All the Trust's people, contractors, and volunteers working on historic buildings, structures and archaeological sites will have sufficient heritage competence and expertise.