



Health & Safety Policy

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

Our approach to Health and Safety is based upon a Health and 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.

Our aim is to have a proactive safety culture. 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, we seek to foster a learning and improving safety environment. 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 working together and doing our jobs in a safe way.

Before you start work stop and think. If you believe that a task is unsafe, Stop. If you see something that is unsafe, take action to rectify it.

We will strive to effectively manage those workplace issues that if not properly managed can be associated with poor health and wellbeing including stress at work. We believe that no person should experience abuse of any kind. The Trust is committed to providing safe environments and working practices that promote and protect the health, safety and wellbeing of all people at all times.

Face-to-face engagement is essential and we expect an active involvement from all our managers in wellbeing and 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 Health and Safety Management System and we encourage their involvement at every opportunity.

Every year, as part of our Management System, we will review and update our plan which identifies practical steps that we will take to improve safety and wellbeing.

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.

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 relentlessly 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.



Allan Leighton
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Richard Parry
Chief Executive