



Health and Safety Policy

1. The Society has a continuing commitment to manage the health and safety of our members and all other persons affected by our activities including the planning, organisation and management of volunteer working, fund raising and events including events arranged for our members and for public benefit. We shall ensure that adequate time and resources are provided to promote a positive health and safety culture and encourage an attitude of responsibility and co-operation at all levels of the Society. We shall keep abreast with relevant legislation and comply with appropriate statutory provisions.
2. The Basingstoke Canal Society exists to promote and campaign for the sustainable future of the Basingstoke Canal as a navigation and as an important public amenity. Through its subsidiary companies, John Pinkerton Canal Cruises (JPCC) and Surrey and Hampshire Canal Cruises Ltd, which operate passenger trip boats, and by other means, it also raises money which is used to fund maintenance and improvement works undertaken by the Society's volunteers and other voluntary organisations.
3. This Health and Safety Policy covers all voluntary activities undertaken by or on behalf of the Society.
4. The Society aims to achieve its charitable objectives without adversely affecting the health or safety of any person or causing harm to the environment. In particular, the Society is committed to protecting the safety and welfare, so far as is reasonably practicable, of its volunteers, members, visitors and the wider public when engaged in or affected by activities managed or promoted by the Society.
5. In pursuing its activities, the Society shall seek to achieve the following specific health and safety aims:
 - To prevent accidents and activity-related ill-health and to provide adequate control of health and safety risks arising from activities managed or promoted by the Society.
 - To provide or arrange the provision of appropriate training and relevant instruction or supervision by suitably qualified and competent persons to ensure volunteers, members of the Society and visitors are capable of carrying out activities safely. In particular, personnel using hazardous plant and machinery and/or undertaking potentially hazardous operations (for example, use of chain saws and chipper, tree felling, crewing on fare-paying passenger boats etc) shall have suitable and accredited training, and their certification shall be kept up to date.
 - To promote and clearly communicate health and safety measures throughout the Society by engaging with volunteers and members using appropriate media.
 - To maintain safe and healthy working conditions by making available and promoting the use of appropriate safety equipment and facilities and by ensuring that all plant, vehicles, tools and equipment used by the Society are in good and safe condition.
 - To maintain safe and healthy working practices when handling hazardous or potentially hazardous materials including those covered by Care of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) provisions.
 - To collect and analyse information on accidents, incidents and work-related ill-health in order to review working practices and take action where practicable to prevent any recurrence of such accidents and incidents.
6. The Society shall require and ensure that, whilst engaged in any activity managed or promoted by the Society, volunteers, members and visitors shall take care of their own health and safety and that of others.
7. Each leader, organiser or other member of the Society appointed to take responsibility for a particular activity or action shall put in place systems appropriate to the nature of the personnel and the complexity of the activities being carried out. This shall include briefing the team before the activity commences.

8. All volunteers are expected to look after their own safety and that of others in accordance with their induction, training and risk assessments pertinent to their activities.

- They should report hazards, near misses or accidents straight away.
- They must satisfy themselves that they are physically and medically fit for the tasks they undertake. If in doubt they should seek advice from a healthcare professional before participating. If any medical condition may impact or restrict a volunteer's ability to perform activities, they must advise the team leader on the day.

9. The committee will review all near miss and accident reports at each monthly committee meeting.

10. This policy shall be reviewed by the Executive Committee annually.

Policy review: Date June 2025

Policy Review Date: June 2026

Approved and adopted by the Executive Committee of the Society on 26th jun 25