



## Safeguarding Policy

### Policy Statement

The Basingstoke Canal Society is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for everyone involved in our activities—volunteers, members of the public, and visitors. While we do not engage directly with unaccompanied minors, we acknowledge our responsibility to safeguard vulnerable individuals and to promote health and safety in all areas of our work.

### Scope

This policy applies to all individuals participating in or attending society-organised activities, including volunteers, trustees, and members of the public.

### 1. Principles

The Basingstoke Canal Society is committed to:

- Creating a safe, welcoming environment for all.
- Protecting the wellbeing of any children or vulnerable adults who may come into contact with our society.
- Ensuring children are only present if accompanied by a responsible adult.
- Promoting awareness of safeguarding responsibilities among volunteers.

### 2. Policy on Children and Vulnerable Adults

- Children under 18 may only participate in society activities if accompanied and supervised at all times by a parent or legal guardian.
- We do not offer activities specifically for children or provide child supervision.
- Volunteers must not assume responsibility for any child who is not their own.
- Vulnerable adults are welcome to participate where it is safe and appropriate to do so. While we are not able to provide specialist support, we will take reasonable steps—within the limits of our resources—to make participation safe and inclusive. This may include clear communication, ensuring safe access to work areas, and allowing participants to attend with a carer or support person if needed.

### 3. Responsibilities

All volunteers must:

- Treat others with respect and dignity.
- Avoid unsupervised one-to-one contact with children or vulnerable adults.
- Report any safeguarding concerns to the Safeguarding Officer or a trustee.

The Team Leader will act as the first point of contact for any safeguarding concerns. The Society will maintain confidential records of safeguarding issues and report concerns appropriately.

#### **4. Reporting Concerns**

Any safeguarding concerns must be reported to the Team Leader and / or a member of the executive committee, details of whom can be found on the website.

If a person is at immediate risk of harm, contact emergency services.

Any concerns raised will be reviewed by the executive committee within one month of the report.

#### **Policy Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if there are significant changes to legislation, incidents, or society practices.

Policy Date: 3 July 2025

Next Review Date: July 2026

Approved by: [Name or Committee]