

The Watercress Way

Health and Safety Policy – September 2018



1. The Trustees support and recognise the need for due regard to health and safety in all activities on The Watercress Way.
2. A risk assessment will be carried out by a suitably qualified person in advance of all organised activities whether lead by a Trustee or not.
3. DBS approval will be sought in advance for individual Trustees and others where activities with children or vulnerable adults require it.
4. All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult;
5. The leaders of guided walks/ horse rides/cycle rides need to have undertaken a risk assessment in advance of the event and point out to participants issues such as the state of the route, rabbit holes etc and where any road crossings might seem dangerous.
6. Work associated with route maintenance, development, or management shall be approved in advance by the Trustees:
 - Only the use of hand held tools will be approved in route maintenance and management tasks undertaken by work groups. Where appropriate, training will be given by a suitably qualified/experienced person;
 - All tools must be in good condition;
 - Work requiring the use of power tools will be carried out only by trained individuals or by approved contractors. (The term contractors shall include approved voluntary bodies such as the SDNPA volunteers, the Trust for Conservation Volunteers, The Worthys Conservation Volunteers);
 - All volunteers are required to sign an attendance sheet that they are aware of any risks and declare any relevant health conditions;
 - Appropriate clothing must be worn for route maintenance and management activities;
 - Work groups must be accompanied by someone trained in first aid;
 - Work carried out by contractors will be undertaken only by prior arrangement with Hampshire County Council on land in its ownership;
 - Particular regard to safe working practices will be exercised when working on Public Rights of Way
7. Specialist advice will be sought in relation to any proposed work on built structures on the lines such as bridges and culverts and with Hampshire County Council as appropriate.
8. The Trustees will use their best endeavours to combat unauthorised and inappropriate use of the routes which might constitute a danger to other users.
9. This Policy will be reviewed annually and no later than October 2019, taking advice from other organizations as the project develops.

The Watercress Way (charity no. 1167675)

Agreed at meeting of Trustees 6 September 2018