

## **South East Wales Rivers Trust**

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT**

#### **Background**

The South East Wales Rivers Trust is a registered charity established to protect and improve habitats and species within our freshwater environment and to raise awareness and educate the wider public about the value of such habitats and species.

These objectives are achieved through the delivery of physical improvement works, advocacy and educational projects. We aim to deliver this work without adversely affecting anyone's health and safety or causing harm to the natural environment.

#### **Aim of Policy**

The aim of this policy is to communicate the commitment of the Board of the South East Wales Rivers Trust (SEWRT) to providing a safe working environment for its staff, volunteers and anybody with whom we engage. The Trust recognises that it has a statutory duty to do this.

Relevant legislation includes (but is not limited to):

- Health & Safety at Work Act 1974
- Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002
- Reporting of Injuries Disease & Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995
- Electricity at Work Regulations 1989

This policy applies to all Trustees, employees, volunteers, members of the public and anyone associated with or acting on behalf of the Trust.

#### **SEWRT's Commitments**

SEWRT is committed to

- i. The prevention of accidents and activity related ill-health utilising its risk assessments process to provide adequate control of health and safety risks arising from activities managed or promoted by the Trust.
- ii. The employment of suitably qualified staff who will be provided with an appropriate induction upon joining the Trust.
- iii. The provision of relevant training, instruction and appropriate supervision by a competent person to ensure employees, volunteers, and members of the public are able to carry out activities safely.
- iv. The provision and maintenance of appropriate equipment that contributes to the protection of employees, volunteers and members of the public.
- v. The promotion and clear communication of health and safety matters throughout the Trust by engagement with employees, volunteers and members using various media

including the SEWRT website, email, printed documentation and, where appropriate, videos.

- vi. Providing equal standards of protection to employees, volunteers and members of the public.
- vii. Maintaining safe and healthy working conditions by controlling physical agents hazardous to health; making available appropriate safety equipment, and ensuring that all plant, vessels, tools and equipment owned by the Trust are in good working order.
- viii. Collecting, consulting on, and analysing information pertaining to accidents, dangerous incidents and activity related ill-health, in order to review working practices and take action, where practicable, to prevent any recurrence; reporting to the relevant statutory authorities as required.

Whilst engaged in any activity managed or promoted by the Trust, employees, volunteers, members and visitors must, in their own interest and that of their colleagues, take reasonable care of their own health and safety and adhere to the Trust's health and safety procedures, guidance and operational manuals. Any matter which those participating in any activity consider may be hazardous to either health or safety must be brought to the notice of the CEO, Chairperson or member of the Board of Directors.

The Board has specific responsibility for the effective implementation of this policy. We expect all members of the organisation to abide by the policy and help to maintain a safe working environment.

#### **Related Procedures**

To comply with this policy trustees, employees and volunteers should refer to the following procedures (where applicable):

- Risk assessment procedure
- Accident and near-miss procedure
- Lone Working Procedures

**Approved by Board of Directors: 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

**To be reviewed annually.**