THE HURST WATER MEADOW TRUST



VULNERABLE PERSONS PROTECTION POLICY

The Trustees define vulnerable persons as those who because of their age, mental or physical impairment, sex, ethnicity or religion may be at risk of exploitation or harm against which they cannot be expected to defend themselves. The Trustees commit to protect vulnerable persons and to develop awareness of issues which may cause them harm, including physical, emotional and sexual harm. Vulnerable persons are most likely to come in contact with the Trust in the following areas:

- visiting the meadows
- using the website
- taking part in a volunteer working party
- attending a school visit hosted by the Trust
- fishing on the meadow.

We will endeavour to safeguard vulnerable persons by:

- adopting a code of behaviour for Trustees and volunteers, reviewed regularly
- sharing information about vulnerable person protection and good practice with trustees and volunteers
- sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and where appropriate with those directly responsible for vulnerable persons
- carefully selecting trustees and volunteers.

Statement of Intent

The Trust will:

- keep the protection of vulnerable persons in mind when considering health and safety policies and practice
- ensure that the content of its website is suitable for vulnerable persons
- not allow children or other identified vulnerable persons to take part in volunteer working parties, unless accompanied by a parent or carer
- not allow educational group visits which may include vulnerable persons unless their teacher or a responsible representative of the organiser is present
- satisfy itself that clubs with fishing rights on Hurst waters are responsible bodies.

Code of behaviour

One-to-one contact

Trustees and volunteers should:

- not spend time alone with children or other persons who are identified as possibly vulnerable
- in the unlikely event of having to meet with a vulnerable person, make every effort to keep this meeting as open as possible

Physical contact

Trustees and volunteers should avoid physical contact with vulnerable persons except in an emergency situation. Wherever possible, witnesses should be present where physical contact is necessary.

General behaviour

Trustees and volunteers should:

- be aware that someone might misinterpret their actions or words no matter how well intentioned
- never draw any conclusions about others without checking the facts
- be alert to possible sensitivities or misunderstandings by vulnerable persons and their vulnerability to mental or emotional pressure and mis-direction
- never exaggerate or trivialise child abuse issues or make suggestive remarks or gestures about or to a child or young person, even in fun
- promptly share any issues or concerns with the persons responsible for a vulnerable person, and with the Trust's designated person responsible for vulnerable person policy.

Sharing information

- All concerns and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously by trustees, staff, and volunteers and responded to appropriately – this may require a referral to vulnerable persons protection services and the police.
- Written information relating to specific vulnerable persons will not be kept by the Trust.
- New pictures for use on the website will only be published with the written consent of a school, parent or person responsible for a vulnerable person.
- This policy will be publicly available and drawn to the attention of educational visit organising bodies, new trustees and volunteers.
- Direct contact with vulnerable persons by trustees and volunteers is unusual. If it is required they will be given a copy of this policy and appropriate vetting procedures and checks will be made.
- Most concerns should be reported to the accompanying parent, carer, responsible adult, or teacher. However, in the unlikely event of a serious problem occurring, the Trustee or volunteer should immediately contact the police, as well as the Trust's designated person responsible for vulnerable person policy.
- The Trust's Secretary will be the designated person responsible for these matters.

Complaints

Complaints and concerns should be made in writing to the Secretary.

Contact details

HWMT Honorary Secretary: David Wilkinson
hurstwatermt@gmail.com

Social Services Oxfordshire County Council Social and health Care Team

PO Box 780, Oxford, OX1 9GX
Tel: 0345 050 7666

Abingdon Police Station

Colwell Drive, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 1AU
Tel:101

NSPCC help line 0808 800 5000

This Policy was formally adopted by the Trustees on 08 June 2018