

Embassy: Water Safety Policy

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Policy Owner:	Board
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1 | Introduction

- 1.1. Embassy RP ("Embassy") recognises Its responsibility to ensure that all staff and residents are sufficiently equipped with the knowledge to be safe near water.
- 1.2. We are committed to equipping staff with the necessary training for water safety; including knowledge on the signage needed to warn residents and bystanders.
- 1.3. We are committed to our responsibility to not be contributors to littering pollution.
- 1.4. The purpose of this policy is to set out our approach to water safety, appropriate signage, safety equipment, training and working practice with residents to avoid incidents of people falling into bodies of water. Also to stop pollution.

2 | Scope

- 2.1 This policy specifically applies to the Embassy Village which is located adjacent to the Bridgewater canal and the River Medlock. Address – 1-42 Little Swan Lane, Manchester, M15 4NF.
- 2.2 This is to ensure that all staff who will be on site at the village are aware of the necessary procedures if presented with a water hazard incident. This also informs our staff of their responsibilities whilst working near water, to adequately inform the residents upon arrival.

3 | Policy Commitment

We are committed to:

Ensuring every person at the Embassy Village site is safe and protected. When it relates to water safety, we ensure this by adhering to our plans which must be agreed by our board and the city council's water safety department.

It is our policy to:

General

- 3.1 Induct all new residents with a clear water safety briefing and walk round upon arrival at Embassy Village.
- 3.2 Train all support staff in Working Safely Near Water - CPD Certified course.
- 3.3 In line with our operating policies, no alcohol is allowed to be consumed or possessed on site. The same being true of drugs.

Bridgewater Canal

- 3.4 We will:
 - a) Provide and maintain water rescue equipment and safety signage along the canal edge.
 - b) Ensure all staff and residents know what and what not to do if somebody (from Embassy Village or other member of the public) enters the canal.
- 3.5 Low level lighting will be provided to help identify the canal edge during dark hours – for the benefit of pedestrians and maneuvering vehicles. All lighting will be low level out of respect to neighbouring residents.
- 3.6 We will do our part to ensure that litter and other pollution does not enter the canal and where it does it can be safely retrieved from the canal.
- 3.7 Have clearly communicated strict rules and consequences for anyone found to have intentionally entered the canal or pushed another person into the canal.

River Medlock

- 3.8 Make access to the River Medlock as difficult as possible so that if anyone ever did enter it, it could only be possible by intentionally scaling a difficult fence and that nobody could ever pass that fence accidentally.

4 | Procedure

- 4.1 Alcohol possession and consumption are strictly prohibited on the premises and to do so breaches the rental agreement between Embassy and residents. The likelihood of accidents is significantly lessened if alcohol and drugs are excluded.
- 4.2 Tall (2.1m) railings with hard to climb vertical bars protect the entire length of the River Medlock edge on the north edge of the site and a tall palisade railing and the railway arch itself also protects the western edge of the site. These are to be well maintained.
- 4.3 Having a rope and life ring set up on the canal edge and training in their use.
- 4.4 Lighting for safety after dark for pedestrians and vehicles walking and manoeuvring. This is mounted on each arch pillar adjacent to the canal edge meaning consistent light. This lighting to be maintained well.
- 4.5 To prevent falling from a height into the canal, we have included safety railings on the ramp which leads to access/egress for the site. These to be maintained well.
- 4.6 Hard to climb front gates and fencing for security at the entrance to the village could lead to people attempting to circumnavigate by climbing round them. To dissuade this risky behaviour, a blanking panel offering no hand or footholds to be installed flush to the canal edge. Signage with warning also to be installed about deep water danger.
- 4.7 CCTV and lighting present throughout the village for monitoring and safety. Accessible both for staff on site and certain appointed staff remotely.
- 4.8 We will be planting trees and other plants in three areas near the canal edge. This will encourage people to naturally walk on the paved areas which are set back from the canal edge, significantly reducing the chance of anyone accidentally falling into the canal.

Note on Bridgewater Canal edge protection - There are no barriers adjacent of the canal where there are residential dwellings. This is to remain in-keeping with the rest of the surrounding Bridgewater Canal edge. This aids us to have the ability for water activities such as kayaking and paddle boarding and fishing which have been approved by the Bridgewater Canal company.

Note on River Medlock edge protection: There are 2.1m high vertical bar railings along the length of the boundary adjacent to the River Medlock, except in one archway where the sports pitches are located where the boundary treatment comprises GuardSAFE Sports 868 Rebound Panel.