

RISK ASSESSMENT SUMMARY - SAFETY FACTORS IN PLACE

The following are a list of safety factors, which the Trust has in place for groups using the community barge, Ethel.

The vessel was purpose built in 1993 and specifically designed to carry less able-bodied passengers.

1. A British Waterways/Environment Agency, 'Boat Safety Certificate of Compliance', was completed in April 2016 and is current until April 2020.
This relates to:
 - the safe installation of propane gas appliances, gas bottles and storage area
 - a survey of all electrical systems and installations, storage tanks and pipe work for diesel fuel for engine propulsion and heating appliances
 - a review of firefighting equipment on board and adequate ventilation to passenger compartments.A full boat survey was carried out in April 2016 and no apparent defects were found.
2. The vessel is dry docked every two years for an inspection and painting below the water line. Any necessary work is carried out at this time.
3. A Gas Landlord Certificate is in place covering the installation and use of LPG. Alarms are installed to detect propane gas leaking into the vessel's bilges and also carbon monoxide in the atmosphere.
4. Automatic bilge pumps are located throughout the vessel to remove any surplus water that gathers in the bilges.
5. Smoke alarms are installed in the main cabin and crew cabins. Fire extinguishers are located throughout the boat. Automatic fire extinguishers are located in the engine room. Annual checks of these extinguishers are carried out.
6. Guard rails are fitted at the periphery of the front and rear passenger decks. Passengers are not allowed on the roof.
7. Life buoys are distributed on all outside deck and roof areas. Other rescue equipment includes throw lines, lightweight access ramp and emergency lighting.
8. A backup steering system is installed in the event of failure of the primary hydraulic system.
9. All members of crew are trained to a minimum standard required by the Trust. The vessel's Skipper is trained to the nationally recognised, National Community Boats Association, 'Certificate in Community Boats Management' (CCBM).
10. Prospective crew members are required to provide evidence of good character and undertake a DBS enhanced check.
11. A minimum of two qualified crew members including the skipper are assigned to every trip.
12. Crew members are trained in basic First Aid and a First Aid kit and defibrillator is provided.
13. A range of life jackets are available in sizes suitable for use by persons of all ages. Persons under 16 years of age are required to wear them.

14. Before the start of any trip a safety talk is given, outlining the following:

- conduct of persons on board
- what to do in the event of a fire and the position of firefighting equipment · action should a person fall overboard
- operation of toilet and shower facilities (if appropriate)
- hygiene requirement for the prevention of Weil's disease
- correct method of wearing life preservers (if required) · areas of access · smoking policy.

15. Hydraulic lifts are only to be operated by members of crew.

16. Communication is available by mobile telephone and VHF radio

17. A list of rendezvous points, for waterways we use regularly, is available to meet emergency services should the need arise.

18. In consultation with Group Leaders, the crew may invite members of the group to assist at locks and bridges. Any such participation will be under the strict control of the crew member and in accordance with directives issued by our insurers. Such activities may be curtailed at any time by the Skipper or crew member. A carer or group leader must also be involved. Opportunity is also afforded for passengers to steer the boat under the supervision of the Skipper or crew member.

19. The crew are responsible for the safety of the boat and its passengers. Carers/leaders are responsible for the behaviour and welfare of the group. However should the Skipper consider that the behaviour of any individual, or the group as a whole, is not conducive with the safety of any other person or persons on board, or the boat itself, the trip will be halted until the situation is resolved. It will always be at the discretion of the Skipper to curtail the trip if the situation cannot be resolved and the whole party will be asked to leave the boat.

20. Safe handling and storage procedures under COSHH are in place.

21. Cleaning agents and chemicals are stored in a locked cupboard.

Reviewed September 2019