

GOATWALKLANDTRUST

Registered Charity No 1162973

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

1. The Goat Walk Land Trust (the "Trust") is a registered charity (Reg No 1162973) of Matthews Hall Fore Street, Topsham, EXETER EX3 0HF whose object is the maintenance of the rural environment and heritage of the historic town of Topsham through the preservation and enhancement, without any permanent buildings, of the Goat Walk Land for the quiet enjoyment and pleasure of the residents of Topsham and visiting members of the public at large.

2. The Goat Walk Land trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children & vulnerable adults and expects all trustees, committee members, members & volunteers to share this commitment. Background checks and an enhanced DBS check will be required where necessary.

The above statement shall be included in promotional material and contractual arrangements as necessary.

3. The purpose and scope of this policy statement

3.1 The purpose of this policy statement is:

- to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults who interact with the Trust its Trustees, members or volunteers from harm. This includes the children of adults who use the Goat Walk Land.
- to provide Trustees, members and volunteers, as well as children, young people, vulnerable adults, their families and carers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

3.2 The scope of the policy

- This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of the Trust, including Trustees, volunteers and members.
- The Trust provides free access to its land but does not itself generally organise events or provide services to adults or children either on the land or elsewhere. Any activities on the land organised by others will be subject to the safeguarding policies and procedures of those organising such events and activities.
- A copy of this policy will be made available on the Trust's website, to any contractors working on the land who may come into contact with members of the public and to any person/trustee organising an event on the trust's behalf whether on the land or not.

4. Supporting documents and procedures

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents:

- dealing with data protection
- complaints

- health and safety

5.1 We believe that:

- children, young people and vulnerable adults should never experience abuse of any kind
- in any activity organised by or in which the Trust partakes we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults, to keep them safe and to behave in a way that protects them.

5.2 We recognise that:

- the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults must be taken into account in all the work we do and in and the decisions we take
- all children, young people and vulnerable adults have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse.

5.3 We will seek to keep children, young people and vulnerable adults safe by:

- valuing, listening to and respecting them
- providing effective management through supervision, guidance and support, so that all Trustees, members (as necessary) and volunteers know about and follow our policies and procedures
- recording and storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance
- sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children, vulnerable adults and their families and carers
- making sure that children, young people, vulnerable adults and their families and carers know where to go for help if they have a concern (See para 6.2 below)
- sharing concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against trustees, members and volunteers appropriately
- ensuring that we deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- undertaking appropriate risk assessments for an activities involving children, young people and vulnerable adults which fully take their needs into account

6. Safeguarding Principles

6.1 Personal Responsibility

Every person under this policy holds a responsibility for:

- Remaining alert and aware of possible safeguarding risks
- Guarding the vulnerable against harmful events or environments
- Taking positive steps to maintain the safety and wellbeing of persons engaged with the Trust, its members, or volunteers

6.2 Responding to Safeguarding concern

- Where any vulnerable person is at immediate risk of serious harm any adult should call 999. Thereafter, that person should report the matter to the Chairman of the Trustees or if not available any other Trustee.

- Where there is no immediate risk of serious harm the adult who has heard or witnessed this concern should consult with any available Trustee as soon as practical and no later than the same day.
- Where any child, young person or vulnerable adult makes a disclosure relating to harm or abuse to an adult it is important to
 - Listen calmly and carefully showing that their views are taken seriously
 - Provide an appropriate and honest level of reassurance
 - Avoid making false promises of confidentiality
 - Avoid asking questions but try to have a dialogue with the person/child concerned, if questions need to be asked avoid questions which might suggest an answer (leading questions) such as “Did they do x”, “Was it [name]” but ask open ended questions such as “How did it happen”, etc
 - Make a confidential written record of the discussion during the discussion or as soon as possible afterwards.
 - Refer all relevant information to a Trustee as soon as practicable.

6.3 Reporting

- Where any person has a concern regarding the conduct of any person connected with the Trust which may pose a safeguarding risk such as
 - Harming a child or any vulnerable person physically or emotionally
 - Exposing them to behaviour which may cause harm
 - Engaging in criminal activity concerning a child or vulnerable person
- this should be raised with a Trustee so that the appropriate steps may be taken

6.4 Actions following Safeguarding Referral

- Following referral to a Trustee, the Trustee should report the matter to the Chairman of the Trust who will after obtaining appropriate advice either
 - Undertake initial enquiries
 - Refer the matter to the Local Authorities Children’s Services department for assessment and/or the police for investigation
 - Instigate any appropriate investigation processes and suspension of any person from involvement with the Trust
 - Refer the matter to the Disclosure and Barring Service and/or any other relevant authority
- Any person within the Trust who has allegations made against them shall be properly informed in a formal meeting of the particulars of the allegations and the next steps which will be taken. The meeting shall be held as soon as possible subject to any approval of the police or local authority and will be with such Trustee or such suitably qualified person as the Trust may appoint.
- Any person from within the Trust who has allegations made against them shall be treated fairly and in accordance with the rules of natural justice.
- All enquiries, investigations and decisions taken shall be fairly and properly undertaken with the safety of the vulnerable person at the heart of the process.
- Any person who makes an allegation against a person acting for or on behalf of the Trust shall be listened to, taken seriously and shall be treated fairly

throughout the whole process of enquiries, investigations and decision making.

7. Safeguarding at events

The Trust does not as a matter of course provide services to adults or children. Safeguarding issues will therefore only arise when we organise an event at which children or vulnerable adults are present on its land or elsewhere or could attend such an event. Such events are rare and the Trust seeks to mitigate any risk that safeguarding may be overlooked or not fully considered.

- In such cases the Trustee or member of the Management Committee organising the event shall have primary responsibility for the safety and appropriateness of the event. They may however delegate some of the responsibilities.
- All Trustees, members, volunteers and others involved in the event shall play an active role in ensuring the safety of children young persons and vulnerable adults.
- For certain events further specific guidance may be issued and provided to those organising or involved in the event.
- Risk assessments for events which will or could include children, young persons or vulnerable adults will take account of additional specific risks which may reasonably be anticipated.
- Those organising events will be aware of the Trusts First Aid procedures.

8. Managing Risks

8.1 Although the Trust does not routinely organise events for children there may be circumstances when children are not under the control of their parent or other responsible adult at an event organised by the Trust. In such cases the organiser of the event will in cases of challenging or inappropriate behaviour from a child

- If the behaviour involves the immediate serious physical harm to the child intervene to mitigate the harm/any injury
- Seek to establish whether the child has a parent or responsible adult present
- If a parent or responsible adult is present advise the parent or responsible adult of the situation and pass responsibility for managing the child to that person.
- Treat each child fairly and equally
- Approach and seek to resolve the situation in a calm non-judgemental manner
- Only ever use physical restraint or intervention in order to protect the immediate physical safety of a person
- Where physical intervention is justified the amount of force used should be the absolute minimum taking due account of the risk posed.
- Make a written record of the incident and passing this to the Chairman of Trustees

8.2 The risks to children, and other vulnerable persons may come from the behaviour of other children or vulnerable persons. This may take the form of bullying and those managing events should be alert to this possibility.

- In cases of bullying where the child or vulnerable person perpetrating the bullying does not have a parent or responsible adult present or the bullying continues the organiser of the event will, if possible and safe to do so, intervene to separate the parties.
- In cases of physical bullying the priority will be to secure the safety of the victim

9. Photography at events

As events are not routinely organised for children and the Trust's land is open to all, parents and those responsible for children should be aware that photographs are likely to be taken which may include images of children. The Trust acknowledges that photography of children carries risks that the images may be shared or altered and this may have an impact on the child now or in the future. The Trust will therefore

- Ensure that neither it nor its Trustees will hold share alter or publish any photograph which wholly or in part includes an image of a child which may reasonably be identified without the written consent of the parent or responsible adult
- Store photos in accordance with our data protection policy.

10. Open access.

10.1 The Trust provides open access to the Goat Walk Land by Topsham residents and visitors from elsewhere. Parents and those responsible for children, young persons and vulnerable adults should be aware that access to the land is not managed, supervised, controlled or restricted by the Trust (other than for the undertaking of works) including during events organised by the Trust. Open access by visitors may therefore include the taking of photographs.

10.2 The Trust cannot ensure that other people visiting the land are subject to this policy.

11. Contact details

Email: info@goatwalklandtrust.org

Address; Matthews Hall, Fore Street, Topsham, EXETER EX3 0HF

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice every two years.

This policy was last reviewed on: 16 November 2023