

## **BMAT Health & Safety Policy**

### **GENERAL STATEMENT**

BMAT is a charity dedicated to the local community and to nature recovery. It manages land accessible to the public to benefit their physical and mental health but also for the benefit of wildlife and improving local biodiversity. There may be wild and domestic animals on site as part of BMAT's nature friendly management plan. Accessing BMAT land can present some challenges for safety as areas are managed for nature recovery and are not maintained as parkland. Wild animals can also create hazards such as rabbit holes and fallen branches. There is also the potential on our sites for vector borne diseases and other hazards from nature.

Contractors will at times operate heavy machinery on site and in some cases this will necessitate temporary closure of the site.

**Friends of BMAT** is a group of volunteers who assist in land management and other activities to further the aims of BMAT. BMAT makes every effort to assess risks associated with these activities and mitigate them but recognises that some risk cannot be totally avoided. Volunteers are requested to wear suitable clothing for the activity and follow instructions when using tools.

- BMAT recognises and accepts its responsibilities as a potential employer and landowner for providing a safe and healthy working environment for all its employees, contractors, voluntary helpers and others who may be affected by its activities.
- BMAT will meet its responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work Etc Act 1974, and will provide, as far as is reasonably practicable, the resources necessary to fulfil this commitment.
- BMAT will seek, as and when appropriate, expert technical advice on Health and Safety to fulfil BMAT's responsibilities for ensuring safe working conditions.

The BMAT board consists of volunteer trustees. Each area of land has a responsible trustee to oversee management and risks. At present there is only one employee, the BMAT Secretary.

### **AIMS OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY**

#### ***To provide as far as is reasonably practicable,***

- A safe place of work and a safe working environment.
- A safe natural environment for those who visit and regularly volunteer on BMAT land.
- Arrangements for considering, reporting and reviewing matters of Health and Safety at work, including regular risk assessments of working activities.
- Systems of work that are safe and without risks to health.
- Obtaining specialist technical advice and assistance on matters of Health and Safety when necessary.
- Sufficient information, instruction and training for employees, trustees, contractors and voluntary helpers to carry out their work safely.
- Care and attention to the health, safety and welfare of employees, trustees, contractors, voluntary helpers and members of the public who may be affected by BMAT's activities

## ARRANGEMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CARRYING OUT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

### **The responsibilities of BMAT employees and trustees are:**

- To keep informed of relevant health and safety legislation.
- Advise BMAT on the resources and arrangements necessary to fulfil responsibilities under the Health and Safety Policy.
- Make effective arrangements to implement the Health and Safety Policy.
- Ensure that matters of health and safety are regularly discussed at BMAT board meetings
- Ensure that regular risk assessments are carried out of working practices and facilities, with subsequent consideration and review of any necessary corrective/protective measures.
- Make effective arrangements to ensure those contractors or voluntary helpers working for BMAT comply with all reasonable health and safety requirements
- Ensure that work activities by BMAT do not unreasonably jeopardise the health and safety of members of the public.
- Maintain a central record of notified accidents.
- Ensure appropriate Health and Safety training is in place for all staff
- When an accident or hazardous incident occurs, take immediate action to prevent a recurrence or further accident and to complete the necessary accident reporting procedure.
- Act as the contact and liaison point for the Health and Safety Executive.

### **All BMAT employees, trustees, contractors and voluntary helpers will:**

- Cooperate fully with the aims and requirements of the Health and Safety Policy. Comply with Codes of Practice or work instructions for health and safety.
- Take reasonable care for their own health and safety, to use appropriate personal protective equipment and, where appropriate, ensure that appropriate first aid materials are available.
- Take reasonable care for the health and safety of other people who may be affected by their activities.
- Not intentionally interfere with or remove safety guards, safety devices or other equipment provided for health and safety
- Not misuse any plant, equipment tools or materials.
- Report any accidents or hazardous incidents to the BMAT Board