

Toolbox Talk

The Public



The Public:

The public are not always hazardous. When not on a canal camp we are all classed as members of the public.

So when do they become a hazard?

The public can become a hazard when we do not effectively manage our site, its boundaries or our interaction with them.

Therefore the public can affect a WRG camp in these principal ways:

During the working day:

WRG camps often cause areas usually open to the public to be closed or significantly disrupted. Many members of the public will accept this disruption and modify their route by following a diversion.

Members of the public may be dog walking and a dog off the lead could become a problem on site.

Some members of the public can create problems by insisting on their Right of Way. Camp members must be aware of this and keep an eye out at all times.

Members of the public should be asked to leave the site, whilst explaining to them the work WRG are doing, and head along the diversion.

If they are still insistent, ask WRG volunteers along the path to stop their work and escort them through.

If certain members of the public persist on being a nuisance the Leader can choose to phone the police.

If a member of the public becomes abusive it is best to walk away.

After the working day.

The site should always be made secure at the end of each working day. No tools should be left out. Advice from the local canal group may be sought on the extent to which the site is at risk from the public at night and suitable security put in place. The site must be checked every morning for potential damage.

What do we do?

Remember to always put signs up to show that you are working on a construction site.

Do not leave tools or materials on public Rights of Way.

Set up noisy/dusty activities away from places the public have access to.

Try and create a diversion for members of the public to use instead (Remember to get permission if you are going onto someone else's land).

Always be polite and talk to them about WRG, the significance of your work on this site and the work WRG do all over the country.

You must always:

- ✓ **Be polite.**
- ✓ **Put signs up and create a diversion where possible.**
- ✓ **Tell them about the work.**
- ✓ **Leave the site safe.**
- ✓ **Remember they are not normally hazardous but can create hazardous situations.**