

British Waterways and Sustainable Development

A Statement of Commitment

BW's aims and objectives, include a commitment to:

'Maintain and develop Britain's inland waterways in a sustainable manner so that they fulfil their full economic, social and environmental potential.'¹

We will continue to develop an integrated approach to managing the inland waterways and will ensure social, economic and environmental sustainability through the following policies.

Our Policies:

■ **Effective protection of the environment**

We will conserve and enhance the built and natural environment of the inland waterways, their character, history and traditions and work in partnership to minimise impacts on the wider environment. We will promote the use of the waterways for sustainable transport.

■ **Prudent use of natural resources**

We will minimise waste and ensure the efficient use of energy, water resources and materials, based on whole life costs, and seek to source materials locally whenever appropriate. We will promote best practice amongst our staff, suppliers, customers and partners.

■ **Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone**

We will improve and promote the waterways as safe, accessible and enjoyable environments for all sectors of the population, and foster strong ownership and engagement by local communities.

■ **Sustainable economic growth and employment**

We will promote inland waterways as catalysts for urban and rural regeneration, seeking to bring economic benefits to local communities.

The financial sustainability of the business is a pre-requisite to the achievement of these policies, so that the necessary funds are available to enable BW to invest in the asset.

The four policies for sustainable development should be viewed as equally important in order that the business progresses on all fronts. On a project basis however one may outweigh the other based on an assessment of the significance of the individual attributes and opportunities to be gained.

¹ **Framework Document for BW (1999) and Corporate Plan 2001-2**