

**PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL**  
**CAMBER DOCK PUBLIC ACCESS POLICY**

**1. SCOPE**

- 1.1 This policy provides information to all interested parties regarding public access to the Camber Dock Operational Area and outlines what steps Portsmouth City Council ("the Council") and its agents will take to ensure the safety of members of the public visiting the Camber Dock Operational Area whilst allowing the normal operations of the dock to continue. Given the nature of the site, operational uses must be given priority at all times. For the avoidance of doubt, this is not a risk assessment.
- 1.2 The Camber Dock is a busy and interesting area. The area remains a working dock and attracts visitors who wish to experience a working port. The Council does not wish to prevent people from visiting and experiencing the area, but there is a need to balance the health and safety risks that arise from operations by placing certain restrictions on access from time to time. The primary purpose is to ensure that everyone visiting is safe and that port/dock operations can still take place as required and often at short notice.
- 1.3 Whenever it is safe to do so and their presence will not interfere with the operations of the dock, the public will be allowed limited access to the Camber Dock Operational Area. However, during periods of port operations as listed in section 3 this may not be possible and the public are required to respect and abide by any diversions or instructions issued by Council officers or those of its agent in the area.

**2. CAMBER DOCK PUBLIC ACCESS**

- 2.1 Camber Dock is owned by the Council and the Council also acts as Port Authority for this area.
- 2.2 For the avoidance of doubt, this policy is not to be considered a dedication of a public right of way over any part the Camber Dock Operational Area shown edged red on the plan attached (Appendix A 'CDOA').
- 2.3 However, the Council permits access to the Camber Dock Operational Area where this will not interfere with the operational use of the Camber or the dock area on the terms set out in this policy document. Specifically, the Council does not confer any permission that interferes with the rights of its tenants and this policy does not extend to areas subject to leases from the Council. Access to such areas would be at the discretion of the appropriate tenant,

meaning that tenants are within their rights to refuse access to parts of the Camber Dock Operational Area forming part of their lease. The Council does not have the power to require tenants to give the public access to areas leased to tenants.

- 2.4 Access to the Camber Dock Operational Area will be permitted on the basis that it is solely under the Council's permission. This permission is granted subject to the expectation and understanding that members of the public will adhere to the requirements set out in Section 3 (Public Safety) below.
- 2.5 Under the terms of this policy and due to the nature of the Camber Dock Operational Area as an active, working port, permission to access the Camber may be withdrawn at any time, immediately and without notice. Such withdrawal may be general or specific to particular members of the public, and is not dependent upon any failure to adhere to the requirements of Section 3 below.
- 2.6 Copies of this document will be freely available to the public and will be published online with papers copies available upon request.
- 2.7 The Camber Dock Operational Area will be closed to the public on the 25<sup>th</sup> December every year.
- 2.8 Members of the public are not permitted to bring motorised vehicles or horses onto the Camber Dock Operational Area (except upon Trimmers Court and East Street which are adopted highway) for any reason without express permission from the Council, the Harbour Master or persons deriving authority from them.
- 2.9 **This policy does not extend to persons under the age of 18 unless they are accompanied by a responsible adult who bears maximum responsibility for their safety and welfare.**

### **3. PUBLIC SAFETY**

- 3.1 The public are reminded that the Camber Dock is an operational dock with all the risks that this entails. There is also an inherent risk of falling from the quayside and therefore **due care and attention must be taken at all times and all children, vulnerable adults and animals must be appropriately supervised at all times when in the Camber Dock Operational Area.**
- 3.2 Whilst the Council will do its best to ensure the safety of persons visiting the Camber Dock Operational Area, anybody entering the Camber Dock Operational Area shall do so at their own risk and shall be responsible for any children, vulnerable adults and animals that are entering with them. **The**

**Council accepts no liability for any damage or injuries incurred when visiting the Camber Dock Operational Area (except for death or personal injury caused by the Council's negligence).**

- 3.3 Certain dock operations will require temporary fencing to be placed to protect the public from hazardous works/operations by port users. Members of the public must respect these temporary exclusions and keep clear of these areas for their own safety and the safety of those operating any machinery, apparatus or equipment.
- 3.4 Certain generic dock operations will not be able to be fenced off either due to their nature or because they need to be carried out at short notice. Members of the public should be aware that, as an operational dock, certain hazardous operations (e.g. hydroblasting boats, welding, handling of substances hazardous to health etc.) will take place from time to time. In addition, at any time of the day or night, operations involving the loading and unloading of ships or the lifting and cradling of craft and associated work may take place without notice.

Dock operations entailing hazards and risks as outlined will include the following, but are not limited to:

- Open unfenced dock edges
  - Mobile and fixed crane operations
  - Reversing vehicles
  - Steel fabrication and grinding
  - Aerosol and spray painting
  - Fork Lift Truck operations
  - Lifting operations
  - Arc welding and steel cutting
  - High pressure water blasting
  - Movement of Heavy Goods Vehicles
- 3.5 It is the responsibility of those carrying out operational activities to avoid putting members of the public and others at risk. However, everyone has a responsibility for their own safety. **All users must abide by any instructions, diversions or restrictions issued by the Council or its officers, agents and contractors from time to time.** Dock operators may not be aware of the presence of visitors and extra care must be taken when walking anywhere that such operations are taking place. The public must keep clear of mobile plant machinery and must not allow children under their supervision to play or walk near any mobile plant and lifting equipment situated on the Dock.

## **4. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

- 4.1 We take complaints very seriously. While we try to provide a good service, we know that sometimes things go wrong. We have developed a complaints procedure in response to this. We aim to sort out complaints quickly and fairly and we will try to sort out any mistake or misunderstanding straight away. Sometimes it may take longer, but we will tell you how long it will take.
- 4.2 The port's agents act on behalf of the Port Authority (and therefore Portsmouth City Council) and so any questions/comments could be put to them directly in the first instance, as they are most likely to be in a position to respond promptly.
- 4.3 If you do not find that your concerns have been suitably addressed please raise a complaint directly to Portsmouth City Council through the corporate complaints process as outlined on our webpage: <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/the-council/transparency/comment-compliment-or-complaint.aspx>.

## **5. FURTHER ENQUIRIES**

- 5.1 If you have any questions regarding access to the Camber Dock Operational Area on any particular day, the Council appoints an agent to act on behalf of the Port Authority and Council and so any comments/questions can be put to them in the first instance, as they are most likely to be aware of day-to-day activities and operations at the dock.
- 5.2 For more general enquiries or enquiries as to this policy please contact the City Help Desk.

Appendix A: 'CDOA'

DRAFT SUBJECT TO CONSULTATION