UK Centre for
Ecology & Hydrology

1   Purpose

The purpose of this health and safety policy is to provide guidance regarding the management of health and safety within UKCEH in order to:

- protect UKCEH people (which includes staff, postgraduate researchers and fellows) whilst engaged in UKCEH business; along with other stakeholders, contractors and visitors to UKCEH sites;
- support the achievement of strategic objectives;
- outline specific responsibilities and arrangements for health and safety
- promote a positive health and safety culture within UKCEH

2   Scope

This policy applies to both UKCEH and its trading subsidiary UKCEH Enterprise, and to all staff, postgraduate researchers, fellows and stakeholders working in or for UKCEH and its subsidiaries. External providers working in or for UKCEH are subject to the relevant aspects of this policy and contractor management procedures will be applied as appropriate.

3   Policy Statement

The UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH) is committed to providing a safe and healthy working environment for its staff, postgraduate researchers, visitors, fellows, contractors, and any other person who is affected by our activities, in the UK or overseas.

We will implement measures to prevent injury or ill-health whilst also striving for continual improvement of safety management and performance. We aim to embed and promote a positive health and safety culture across the organisation through staff consultation and participation, visible leadership and assured compliance with the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and other relevant legislation.

At UKCEH, health and safety management is integral to and aligned with the line management of staff and those working at our sites. We seek to maintain a safe and healthy working environment through the implementation of clear processes and robust risk management to a consistent level across all our activities.

The successful implementation of this policy requires the cooperation and commitment of all UKCEH people, along with our partners, contractors, visitors and other stakeholders.

To achieve this, UKCEH has established a robust and adequately resourced health and safety management system certified to ISO 45001 that:

i.   Complies with all relevant regulatory requirements and legislation
ii.   Clearly assigns and defines roles and responsibilities for health and safety
iii. Promotes communication, consultation and participation of UKCEH people and union appointed safety representatives on matters affecting their health and safety
iv.   Provides a framework for setting, monitoring and reviewing health and safety objectives
v.   Identifies hazards associated with activities undertaken and ensures that risks are minimised as far as reasonably practicable in advance of exposure
vi.   Ensures competency of all UKCEH people to carry out their roles through the provision of information, training, instruction and supervision
vii. Nominates suitable competent persons to provide specialist advice and support to UKCEH people

viii.   Ensures the provision and maintenance of a safe working environment, buildings, equipment, systems, plant and materials for UKCEH people and other stakeholders at UKCEH sites

ix.   Seek to ensure a safe working environment for UKCEH people, undertaking UKCEH business, at other locations across the UK and overseas

x.   Provides suitable occupational health support and, where necessary, health surveillance

xi.   Maintains high standards of health and safety through routine performance monitoring activities such as audit and inspection

xii.   Identifies lessons learned and best practice for continual improvement in performance

xiii.   Makes provision for emergency arrangements

The UKCEH health and safety management system is subject to regular review by our Executive Committee and UKCEH Board. It will be managed and developed in order to maintain ISO 45001 certification and to identify opportunities to continually improve our health & safety performance. Health and safety is a permanent agenda item at management and management/UKCEH people meetings at all levels.

Section 4 of this policy document details roles and responsibilities at UKCEH for health and safety management.

Section 5 details the operational arrangements including lists of the health and safety procedures and other key documents.

Dr Stuart Wainwright, Chief Executive, UKCEH   2 April 2024