



Class V Passenger Vessel
‘The Rutland Belle’

Rutland Belle has capacity for a maximum of 110 passengers and 2 crew.

The vessel complies with Merchant Shipping Regulations and carries radio communications, fire detection & protection equipment and lifesaving equipment for 116 persons in the form of liferings, liferafts and buoyant apparatus.

The person in charge holds a valid Department of Transport Boatmaster’s Licence.

‘Rutland Belle’ personnel wear merchant navy uniform and can be identified as crew.

Consideration for the safety of the vessel, crew and passengers is paramount at all times and the boat will operate only when conditions are safe.

The Captain is in sole charge at all times and his decision is final.

Once on board and prior to departure, the statutory Safety Announcement is given.

Certification of the Vessel

Annual inspections are carried out by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency from the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions who grant the Passenger Certificate and carry out Audits of Compliance with the **Safety Management Code for Domestic Passenger Ships.**

Appropriate sections of this document are lodged with Leicestershire Constabulary



Insurance

A Certificate of Public Liability Insurance is held.

Access

At Whitwell Harbour, North Shore, there is a vehicular access and passenger drop-off area. The approach to *Rutland Belle* has ramps and a bridging plate between jetty and boat so there is no gap to breach. Three household type steps with rail lead down inside or there is use of a boarding lift for wheelchair dependent passengers.

Passenger Areas

The passenger areas aboard '*The Rutland Belle*' consist of two lower, enclosed, all-weather saloons with seating for up to 70 persons and an outer-upper deck with seating for 40 persons. Passengers are advised to keep their heads and limbs within the vessel at all times and must remain seated when on the upper deck and the boat is in motion.

School Visits

The Captain comes ashore to welcome school groups personally and to give an introductory address on boarding procedures and personal behaviour & conduct. It is expected that pupils will be accompanied by an adequate ratio of supervisory staff or adults and that the children will **not** run, push, shout, or stand when on the upper deck.

If the group is divided between upper and lower decks, so that all the children have an opportunity to experience being on the upper deck, there is a pre-arranged 'controlled changeover procedure'. At the halfway point of the cruise, the Captain will make an announcement and the vessel will reduce speed. Crew and School Staff will be positioned at strategic points and a safe and controlled changeover will be undertaken.

All passengers must be re-seated before cruising continues.

