

Hand Signals for Use on the Pamela May 2

For safe operation it is essential that any hand signals used are understood by all crew and used consistently. These are the only hand signals that should be used. No other hand signals should be used as they may be open to different interpretation. All hand signals should be used alongside verbal communication including by radio.



WAIT

Crew operating a lock or a swingbridge use this signal to ask the helm to wait. There may be a boat coming the other way or some other reason why the boat cannot proceed. The helm should either hang back and wait or pull into the side and hold the boat on the centre line (for example on a lock landing) until the way ahead is clear.

Radios can be used to give a further explanation or, if necessary, the bankside crew member should go to the boat to explain the situation to the helm

Lock Operation

Locking up – helm should use the thumbs up signal to indicate to lock operators that s/he is ready for the paddles to be opened. Lock operators should open paddles halfway and wait until the cill is covered and the water has settled before fully raising the paddles. At Hanbury use this signal to indicate ready for side pond paddles to be opened and then again before gate paddles are opened.

Locking down – on the thumbs up signal being given by the helm lock operators should fully open the paddles.

Note – Lock operators must maintain eye contact with the helm at all times.



Close All Paddles

This signal should be used during lock operation, particularly in an emergency such as getting caught on the cill. Lock operators should immediately lower all paddles fully if this signal is given by the helm or any member of crew. The skipper should establish the reason for this signal being given and then direct appropriate action.

Ready to Proceed

The thumbs up signal can also be used by the helm when ready to proceed. For example the helm could indicate to a crew member operating the front rope to push away from the side.





STOP

Use this signal to inform the helm of an urgent or emergency situation ahead. The helm must immediately stop the boat. The skipper should then assess the situation and decide on appropriate action.

Throwing a Rope

The bankside crew should adopt this position when ready to catch a rope thrown from the boat.

The person throwing the rope should then ensure that no passer by is within range and throw the rope over the outstretched arm.

