

Environmental Sustainability Policy 2018.



Chiltern Rangers CIC is a social enterprise, delivering innovative solutions for practical habitat management in the Chilterns and surrounding area, providing a range of habitat management advice and developing exciting ways to engage communities through enriching experiences. There is a strong commitment on creating safe, fun, inclusive opportunities for all sections of our community especially young people.

We pride ourselves in doing what is best for our customers, employees and communities whilst taking into consideration social, economic and environmental & sustainability issues wherever possible.

We will do everything that is reasonably practicable to ensure good governance and achieve our environmental objectives.

Chiltern Rangers are committed to the many principles of Green Infrastructure as part of our work including with the Bucks Natural Environment Partnership (NEP). Our work links to the wider landscape as part of the increasingly joined up, strategic future for the natural environment in line with the Lawton Report and subsequent State of the Nation White Papers.

Our three key pillars are intrinsically interlinked across many levels to give the highest commitment to this policy. We set out in this policy a number of the ways we will deliver these aims.

1 Protection of Biodiversity

- The protection and enhancement of biodiversity at all sites where we contribute to the management thereof.

Delivered in terms of habitats and species biodiversity through suitable management rationale and practical management techniques in line with national policy & guidance. We follow current guidance from and work in partnership with organisations such as Forestry Commission, Natural England, British Trust for Ornithology, Butterfly Conservation, Chilterns Conservation Board and other professional specialists to ensure Chilterns habitats are well managed.

2 Mitigating Climate Change

- Contribute to addressing climate change by minimising the carbon emissions produced during our operations.

We have a well-maintained modern vehicle fleet including a community minibus to minimise emissions and maximise participation. We encourage sustainable transport to work, and have well maintained efficient machinery.

- Management of sites to maximise climate change adaptation, resilience and habitat connectivity.

This works in conjunction with Protection of Biodiversity. For example: Glade, ride and path networks in woodlands to increase connectivity through positive, active management to ensure long term health. Other management techniques include thinning for form and species diversity, coppicing, pollarding, chipping thinnings for use on footpaths thus helping retain as much deadwood on site as possible (see fungi & deadwood policy).

- Improving processes, equipment and materials under our control that have significant negative impacts on the environment.
Minimise use of pesticides & herbicides, minimise waste, maximise recycling, consider environmental impacts when purchasing materials i.e. no tropical hardwoods, water efficient cisterns in toilet, Cisternmiser on urinals to minimise water consumption, energy efficient items and so on.

3 Prevention of Pollution & Conserving Natural Resources inc energy.

- Minimising waste and the reducing usage of natural resources & energy by replacing, reducing, re-using and recycling where practicable.
Recycle plastic, paper, tins & cardboard generated by operations.
Re used dishwasher in office.
Doubling up deliveries to reduce haulage
Planning work to minimise travel, monitor mileage ,
- Using recycled products especially plastic wherever possible.
Recycled plastic branded pens, coasters, pencils, mugs & WDC site ladder boards.
- By sourcing energy efficient items wherever possible.
Upgraded lighting in depot in year 1, Energy Efficiency is a key consideration when white goods when replaced e.g. washing machine A*
- Sourcing Fair Trade, Buy Social or similarly accredited products wherever possible. E.g. tea rainforest alliance certified, Belu bottled water (in recycled plastic bottles).
- Actively seeking , where possible, to work with local companies, organisations and individuals to create a thriving local economy and reduce carbon emissions from haulage. Local branches of companies eg Wickes, local independent suppliers eg country supplies, Hills Café and others.
- Actively working with other social enterprises to increase further our impact both environmentally and socially.eg Belu Water, Toolshed, active membership of SEUK, Social Firms England.
- Keeping pesticide/herbicide use to a minimum.
Spray only when necessary in optimal conditions for maximum efficiency, minimal drift. We also cut old growth down and spray new growth which improves effectiveness and therefore reduces volume of chemical required.
- The prevention of pollution (air, water & noise) by best practise.
Machinery is well maintained and regularly replaced as required. Spills policy to prevent contamination, chemical store double bunded, fuel & herbicide etc transported in a bunded container.
- Providing the training and resources identified as necessary to ensure objectives are met. Through our HR policy - performance review processes we ensure all staff have the requisite training and will always aim for higher.
- Regularly reviewing & improving the effectiveness, management and performance of our systems, policies and processes. Board meetings & reviews, team meetings, ad hoc discussions.

In order to ensure the success of this policy, Chiltern Rangers will:

- Monitor and review our systems, policies and processes through board meetings & reviews, team meetings, ad hoc discussions and the performance management system.

- Ensure all relevant information and training (where applicable) is available to all persons working for or on behalf of Chiltern Rangers including key volunteers. through HR process, Office and Operations Manuals & Volunteer policy.
- Actively encourage all staff and volunteers working for or on behalf of Chiltern Rangers to contribute to the success of the E&S systems, policies and processes.

Date: Reviewed 14th Feb 2018

Managing Director: John Shaw