Chiltern Rangers Environmental Sustainability Policy

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 conservation based 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 while achieving our environmental objectives. Our sustainable policy is influenced by the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org

The aim is to promote prosperity while protecting the environment. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, equality and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and working to preserve our ocean and forests. This global target feeds down to us doing 'our bit' on our patch.

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 minibus and an 8 seater electric vehicle to minimise emissions and maximise participation. We encourage sustainable transport to work and run a cycle to work scheme. Our new headquarters are being designed with this in

mind e.g. cycle racks and electric vehicle charging point Our machinery is well maintained in line with manufacturer recommendations to maintain efficiency.

- 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 (see below).

3. Prevention of Pollution & Conserving Natural Resources inc energy.

- Minimising waste By promoting recycling throughout the organisation and ensuring that recycling bins are readily available, easy to use and emptied regularly.
- Doubling up deliveries to reduce haulage
- Actively planning work to minimise travel, monitor mileage.
- Using recycled products especially plastic wherever possible.
- By sourcing energy efficient items wherever possible. Particularly goods that either use higher energy or are used frequently.
- Think carefully about all the products we use, particularly cleaning products. Using biodegradable, sustainable and locally sourced where possible and practical.
- Sourcing Fair Trade, Buy Social or similarly accredited products wherever possible.
- Actively seeking, where possible, to work with geographically local companies, organisations and individuals to create a thriving local economy and reduce carbon emissions from haulage.
- Actively working with other social enterprises to increase further our impact both environmentally and socially. Engaging organisations through our membership of SEUK and Social Firms England.
- Keeping pesticide/herbicide use to a minimum. Spraying only when other mechanical methods are not practical. Only using when there are obvious long term benefits with environmental cost always coming before financial costs.
- The prevention of pollution (air, water & noise) by best practise based around COSHH regulations (2002) and PUWER (1998) to ensure all chemicals are stored and transported safely and our work equipment is maintained to reduce/prevent environmental pollution.
- All staff will be trained as necessary to ensure that they are aware of how we use, store and transport chemicals and how to maintain and use equipment and vehicles in ways that ensure minimal environmental pollution.
- Regularly review the Office and depot areas to see if there are ways to improve energy efficiency (gas, electric, water) by either reducing usage or waste.

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.