



# Somerset Wildlife Trust Environmental Policy

**The Trust is the only organisation focused solely on protecting and improving habitats to benefit wildlife and people in the county. With the support of over 20,000 members and 250 regular volunteers, the Trust manages over 1,700 hectares of land across the county.**

The Trust works to inspire people and communities to value and protect nature. We campaign at local and national levels, giving a voice to nature, and are developing nature recovery networks that can rebuild Somerset's natural environment, reverse biodiversity loss and build resilient landscapes to cope with the impacts of climate breakdown.

The Trust acknowledges the impact that our own operations have on the environment, and the urgency of the climate emergency we all face. Somerset Wildlife Trust is working towards becoming a net zero carbon organisation by 2030.

To reach these challenging targets we are committed to developing a thorough, realistic and considered environmental strategy. This will involve detailed research, seeking advice on the best practice and proactively involving all staff, trustees, members, volunteers and partners. We recognise that given our limited resources we cannot do all things at once. And that reaching these targets may not always be easy, will involve hard decisions and new innovative ways of working. But at a time when the natural environment needs us most, it is vital that we do all that we can and proactively encourage others to do the same.

Each site owned or managed by the Trust will use the best available management techniques and will explore the best ways to allocate the resources required to fulfil the 15 targets stated below:

### 1. Eliminate carbon

We will reduce our carbon emissions to net-zero by 2030.



### 2. Manage property

We will seek to maintain our buildings to the highest environmental standards. Any new builds or other building works will specify passive standards.



### 3. Land holdings

We will undertake all land management with consideration for the needs of sustainability and to promote carbon capture. Our core work will ensure that the natural ecosystems that support us are kept in the best of health .



### 4. Use water responsibly

We recognise that water is an increasingly scarce resource that uses significant amounts of energy in its treatment. We will minimise use of water in all our activities.



### 5. Conserve energy

We will minimise energy use and generate our own renewable energy where possible for the heating, lighting and running of our buildings.



### 6. Minimise the impact of transport

Staff travel and transportation of equipment is essential in carrying out our work. We will reduce the use of fossil fuels in undertaking these activities.



### 7. Control waste

We will reuse material, recycle, eliminate unnecessary packaging and aim to eliminate all waste going to landfill. Our purchasing policy will identify waste before it arrives on site.



### 8. Communicate

We will communicate this policy and the issues that drive it to all those who have an interest in our work including staff, volunteers, visitors, trustees, suppliers, contractors, other organisations and the general public.



## 9. Monitor and evaluate

We will review all our activities, products and services each year to evaluate their impact. We will encourage contractors and suppliers to take a responsible attitude towards the environment.



## 10. Comply with legislation

We will comply with all legislation and other standards relevant to the work of the Trust. We will continually monitor and update our practices to comply with changes in legislation.



## 11. Events and fundraising

We will ensure that we minimise the overall carbon footprint of our own fundraising and marketing activities and also encourage those that fundraise for us to do the same.



## 12. Corporate Partners

We will encourage our corporate partners to follow our ambition towards a net-zero carbon organisation by 2030.



## 13. Finance

We will ensure our financial reserves are invested ethically.



## 14. Pollution

We will prevent pollution and monitor the impacts our operations have on the natural environment.



## Working to support our staff and volunteers

We will educate, train and motivate staff and volunteers to work in an environmentally sustainable way, and encourage them to share their views and play a full part in developing new ideas and initiatives that support this Environmental Policy. Our staff and volunteers work on the frontline of conservation and are witness to the declines in nature, we will support staff and volunteers who are affected by this or experiencing forms of eco-anxiety.

To help meet our environmental targets, the Trust will establish an ISO14001 Environmental Management System (which addresses climate mitigation) and an ISO14090 Adaptation to Climate Change system across our whole operation. In our 11-year journey to Net-Zero Carbon we will develop objectives and targets to enable continual improvement in environmental performance and in minimising our environmental impact. We look to mitigate any residual carbon emissions using our own landholdings.

The Trust will review this environmental policy and will conduct regular audits of our environmental performance.

The Directors have overall responsibility for all environmental matters. The Directors and Trustees give their full support to the implementation of this policy.

Last reviewed August 2019

**Signed: Georgia Stokes, Chief Executive**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Stokes', written in a cursive style.

**Signed: Graeme Mitchell, Chair of Trustees**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graeme Mitchell', written in a cursive style.