



SUSTAINABILITY, ECOLOGY & WILDLIFE POLICY

1. General Statement

COOMBES is committed to promoting sustainability. Concern for the environment and promoting a broader sustainability agenda are integral to COOMBES' professional activities and the management of the organisation. We aim to follow and promote good sustainability practice, to reduce the environmental impact of all our activities and to help our clients to do the same.

2. Aims and Objectives

We operate our professional activities and the management of our organisation in a way that enables all people to realise their potential and to improve their quality of life while protecting and enhancing the environment. This aspiration is operationalised for our purpose by our sustainability objectives, targets and indicators. We are therefore committed to continually improve the integration of sustainability into our working environment and business processes. Our aim is to play a proactive role in contributing to achieving sustainability where we have influence. We are committed to accountability and transparency in our sustainability performance.

3. Principles

Our Sustainability Policy is based upon the following principles:

- To comply with all applicable legislation, regulation and codes of practice to include:
 - The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
 - The Conservation (natural habitats regulations 1994) (amended 2010)
 - Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) 2000
- We shall be vigilant as to the presence of European protected species, bats and nesting birds.
- To integrate sustainability considerations into all our business decisions.
- To ensure that all staff are fully aware of our Policy and are committed to implementing and improving it.
- To minimise the impact on sustainability of all site, transportation and office activities.
- To review, report, and to continually strive to improve our sustainability performance.
- To prevent pollution, reducing waste and where ever practical, measures are implemented to protect and preserve natural habitats, flora and fauna.

4. Practical steps

In order to put these principles into practice we will:

- Work to good industry practices.
- Encourage lift sharing to and from our yard where practical.
- Encourage employees to monitor fuel consumption for vehicles and plant.
- Engines and motors must be turned off when the vehicle or plant is stationary or not in direct use for any length of time.
- Minimise journeys to and from work, can the job be completed with more staff in a vehicle to reduce journeys to and from site, is it more efficient to stay away locally to that job, avoid rush hour.
- Disposal of green waste will take into account job and site requirements with the preferred option to leave material on site for future re-use or habitat creation. Should material have to leave site we will endeavour to find a local green waste centre for chippings and general green waste and log/timber merchants for the more useable wood.



- When material has to leave site we will try to reduce the volume of waste by chipping.
- Dispose of waste oils/fuels in an appropriate manner, small quantities will be collected in the facility supplied by our yard owner and larger volumes will be collected by registered waste oil carriers/disposal merchants.
- Dispose of general waste by using waste specialists that are committed to recycling where practically possible.
- Emissions to air will be minimised by good operating practice. All company owned/operated vehicles and plant will comply with current legislation.
- Biodegradable oils will be used where possible for lubricating chainsaws and small plant.
- Ensure that spillages are reduced to an absolute minimum.
- Ensure that ecological surveys are carried out either by a third party or by us before and during operations as required.
- Monitor operations closely that have the potential to impact on flora, fauna, habitat and landscape.
- Ensure as much as possible that timber products are from well-managed, sustainable sources and are Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified.
- Minimise our use of office paper and other office consumables, for example by not printing emails or multiple draft copies of documents, and identifying opportunities to reduce waste.
- Resource staff locally and keep staff turnover as low as possible.
- Use materials, supplies and tools that have been locally sourced where practical
- To ensure that the working culture encourages constructive conservation
- Ensure sustainability is part of the supplier selection process.

This policy will be regularly reviewed (minimum annually).

Signed on behalf of Coombes Forestry Ltd

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shane Coombes', written over a white background.

Managing Director – Shane Coombes

June 2020