

Green Mantle (Ecosophy) Ltd

Best Practice

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In order to fulfil the aims and objectives of our Environmental Policy, we are undertaking the following 'best practice' measures:

Fossil Fuel Alternatives

- Diesel replaced by water when mixed with glyphosate (our chemical of choice)
- All machines running on Plantoil's 2-stroke oil (a blend of synthetic base oils providing a low-smoke burn)
- Utilising biodegradable chain oil made from rapeseed and not from palm oil
- Organic and non-mechanical management options available e.g. axe-felling, scything, bracken-rolling and grazing

Waste Management

- Building 'habitat piles' rather than burning, where ecologically appropriate
- Burning on peatlands and ancient monuments on raised platforms, and subsequent removal of ash
- Burning on grasslands on bare areas or those of low floristic interest
- Minimisation of waste by recycling of all metal and plastic consumables

Transport Planning

- Maximising use of shared transport
- Encouraging employees to keep vehicles well tuned, tyres properly inflated, and to restrict speed to a maximum of 50mph
- Strong consideration given to location of work and employees' home addresses to minimise travel distances

Sustainable Thinking

- Maximising use of by-products from our conservation work, e.g. wood for domestic heating
- Only using British Origin plants, and from local sources where available, in any planting / sowing schemes, with the exception of non-native, non-invasive species which are known to be beneficial food sources
- Using only Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) certified fencing timber products

Environmental Awareness

- Only using herbicides as part of a programme of restoration and not as a technique employed for long-term management
- Specialised methods of herbicide application employed to minimise quantity used, and risk of contamination through spillage

- Undertaking a basic Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) before accepting any work and aiming to promote environmentally sensitive options where we feel there is a conflict of interests e.g. communicating the virtue of leaving standing dead trees when theoretically quoting for their removal
- Responding to global warming by stopping scrub clearance mid-March
- Subscribing to and promoting the values of the Deep Ecology movement

Employee Development

- Providing employment and career development opportunities through our associated consultancy company.
- Ensuring each employee is familiar with the Green Mantle 'Practice, Policy and Procedure' booklet, which includes sections on Health & Safety and mitigation measures against potential environmental damage
- Selecting employees who possess both training in theoretical nature conservation / ecology and practical estate management skills
- Employing the services of a specialist company to oversee all of our HR and H&S requirements
- Operation of a 'Fair Pay Scheme'
- Operation of a Site Project Manager Scheme
- Training in Gandhian non-violent-communication and Deep Ecological Philosophy/Ecopsychology
- Investing in staff training in Inspirational Leadership, Manual Handling, Ecological Surveying, Arboriculture etc.
- Providing training, practical experience and networking opportunities