

4.3 ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

1. General Statement

Homegrown Timber Group is totally committed to being a responsible and valued member of the community. We are energetically committed to minimising the environmental impact of our arboriculture and associated operations and services. Our approach combines a commitment to quality of service and technological progress with real and demonstrable concern for the environment.

It is the policy of Homegrown Timber Group to provide our customers with arboriculture, fencing and associated services that are entirely suited for their intended purposes and that are provided in strict conformance with the requirements of contractual requirements.

We are determined to ensure that we have an efficient Environmental Management System by providing suitable, sufficient resources and expertise to make this a practical reality. The Company operates an Environmental Management System to the BS EN ISO 14001 Standard.

This policy commits our company to continual environmental improvement, to prevent pollution, identify significant environmental works and take actions that will lead to environmental sustainability.

2. Aims and Objectives

In pursuing the best practicable environmental options we will achieve our policy objectives by continually striving to:

- Conform to and where possible exceed environmental legislation.
- Plan our activities, services and products to minimise any adverse impact upon the environment.
- Train our employees to be environmentally aware, environmentally responsible and continually work towards environmental sustainability.
- Control our emissions to air, land and water.
- Minimise our use of non-renewable resources.
- Encourage the reduction of waste where possible.
- Increase the amount of recycling in the office.
- Consider the life cycle perspective of the environmental aspects of our activities and services that we can control.
- Ensure good environmental practices by regular review of the environmental policy.
- Investigate all environmental incidents pursuant to our business and implement any reasonable recommendations for change following such investigations.

We shall ensure that any new projects undertaken by Homegrown Timber Group are managed professionally in a way which incorporates assessment of environmental impact and takes appropriate action to keep any adverse impact to a minimum.

3. Communication

Implementation of the Company Environmental Policy will be the overall responsibility of the Director/s. The Company's Environmental Policy is communicated to all employees and is available to all interested parties upon request. A copy is on display in our offices and available on our website.

This policy will be regularly reviewed (minimum annually).

Signed on behalf of Homegrown Timber Group



Jack Lawrance
Director
June 2026

Review Date: June 2027

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Organisation – Duties, Roles and Responsibilities

All staff at whatever level shall be required to take reasonable care of any environment that may be affected by anything that they do, or fail to do, in the course of their work.

Person/s Responsible	Level of Responsibility	Specific Actions
Jack Lawrance Daniel Lawrance Justin Spinks	Overall Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring resources are available to meet the organisations responsibilities
Steve Longhurst HSQE Manager	Directing Company policy, compliance and assurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keeping up to date with legislation and requirements Ensuring staff are correctly trained and certificated in all relevant areas Ensuring inspections and records are up to date Acting as a conduit between all interested parties so allowing the organisation to meet its legal responsibilities
Nominated Managers/ Team Leaders/ Site Supervisors	Day to day compliance with environmental regulation and guidance. Continual vigilance and assessment of the impact of their proposed activities upon the environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that risk assessments are in order Work is completed to the required standard Reporting any defective systems/equipment that could prejudice the safe system of work
Operatives	Day to day compliance with the instructions of the company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To work safely following national / organisation guidelines To report any conditions that could prejudice the safe system of work

The Director/s shall be responsible for ensuring that the Environmental Policy is implemented in practice.

Nominated Managers supported by the HSQE function shall have day-to-day responsibility for applying environmental interface arrangements, procedures, ensuring that these are applied effectively and that there is adequate training, instruction and supervision.

Staff shall have continuous responsibility for applying environmental interface arrangements and procedures.

It should be noted that disciplinary action shall be taken against staff who persistently and deliberately flout the requirements placed upon them by statutory provisions and by company environmental rules.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Arrangements and Procedures

The following arrangements shall be put in place to:

1. Enable the company to meet our obligations and ambitions in respect of environmental and ecological management.
2. Ensure compliance with all applicable environmental legislation and guidance.

Environmental Policy

The Director/s shall define the company environmental policy and ensure that, within the defined scope of our environmental management system, it:

- Is appropriate to the nature, scale and environmental impacts of our activities, products and services.
- Includes a commitment to continual improvement and prevention of pollution.
- Includes a commitment to comply with applicable legal requirements and with other requirements to which we subscribe that relate to our environmental aspects.
- Provides the framework for setting and reviewing environmental objectives and targets.
- Is documented, implemented and maintained.
- Is communicated to all persons working for or on behalf of the company.

Environmental Competence

The company shall retain competent advice in respect of environmental management.

Managers and supervisors shall receive environmental awareness training which shall include the application of company policies, procedures and rules and any specific situations that they may be expected to deal within the course of their work, such as bat awareness.

Our staff shall hold nationally recognised NPTC certificates of competence for the operations which they are expected to perform. The assessment criteria for these qualifications include a requirement for underpinning knowledge of the environmental impacts that they are likely to have in the course of their regular work.

Compliance Identification and Registration

So that the company is prepared to deal with the demands of current and future legislative requirements a compliance register shall be maintained.

Reference to The Arboricultural Association, industry journals and our peer network shall ensure that the company is aware of all new and updated requirements.

The compliance register shall be updated as appropriate and maintained on the company management system.

Environmental Aspect and Impacts Assessment

To ensure that harmful impacts are foreseen and controlled including the lifecycle (including disposal) of plant and equipment the company shall establish, implement and maintain a procedure to:

- Identify the environmental aspects of our activities, products and services within the scope of the management system that we can control and those that we can influence taking into account planned or new developments, or new or modified activities, products and services
- Determine those aspects that have or can have significant impact(s) upon the environment

We shall document this information and keep it up to date and maintained on the company management system.

The register shall hold details of:

- Environmental aspects
- Input impacts – both direct and indirect
- Output impacts – both direct and indirect
- Impact category
- Controls
- Performance measurement

Environmental Risk Assessment

Prior to commencing work on site, a specific environmental risk assessment may be completed if appropriate.

Methods shall be planned that shall reduce the environmental risk to a level which is as low as reasonably practicable.

Emissions

We shall ensure that potentially harmful emissions into the environment are appropriately controlled and reduced by a process of impact identification, measurement and continual improvement.

Staff shall use hand tools such as hand saws where practicable thus reducing the use of petrol driven equipment. This is of course much safer as well as a reduction in the use of fuel and the production of gaseous emissions, noise and dust.

Vehicles and plant shall be replaced with fuel efficient, low emitting diesel vehicles or with LPG or Electric / Hybrid vehicles when they are considered for renewal. Emission levels shall be a key consideration when selecting replacements.

We shall ensure that vehicles, plant and equipment are well maintained as recommended by the manufacturer, to be as emissions efficient as possible.

Routes shall be planned using factors such as the avoidance of congested areas, time of day and the length and type of journey. Satellite navigation units shall be used to assist this planning.

Local suppliers shall be used where possible in order to avoid unnecessary road transport miles.

Pollution

All staff shall be trained in practices designed to prevent pollution including the reading of COSHH assessments.

Company COSHH assessments shall contain information on the actions in the event of spillage.

The company shall use biodegradable lubricants where such are available.

All operational vehicles shall carry a spill kit and a dry powder fire extinguisher.

A spill kit shall be placed in close proximity to any potentially hazardous substance stored at the yard.

Waste Management

All waste material arising from 'consumables' to be sorted and removed to appropriate recycling facilities.

Products shall be selected which are not overly packaged in order to reduce waste output.

All arising woody waste material to be left on site or removed from site as agreed with the client and returned to our yard for recycling. The waste is either composted and returned to the land as mulch on amenity planting or is removed to the biomass power generation industry by a specialist contractor.

Consumption of Natural Resources

Although not a manufacturer and not needing to use a significant amount of natural resources to undertake our service, it is an aim of this company to reduce our consumption of natural resources where possible.

We shall ensure that all equipment is switched off at the wall in the evening before we leave the office.

All light bulbs have been replaced with the energy saving type or LED where available and practical thus saving electricity and vastly extending the life of batteries.

Managers shall drive fuel efficient, low emitting diesel vehicles and shall plan routes carefully in order to find the most appropriate route and to avoid congested areas.

Noise

In order to minimise noise output during operations, we ensure that vehicles, plant and equipment are well maintained as recommended by the manufacturer.

Working hours shall be agreed with the client prior to the operation and stakeholders and residents in the locality shall be notified of the potential for noise nuisance where deemed necessary.

Petrol driven equipment shall not be used unless the exhaust system and silencer are in good working order.

Constructive Conservation

We shall ensure that the working culture encourages constructive conservation.

Notwithstanding the requirement for hazard identification and risk minimisation, we shall aim to create or improve local habits in the course of our undertakings.

Appropriate advice shall be sought from qualified ecologists or other specialists if specific environmental interface issues are identified before, during or after operations.

Management of Ecology

Appropriate advice shall be sought from qualified ecologists or other specialists if specific environmental interface issues are identified before, during or after operations.

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health

Hazardous substances include any substance that could cause harm or irritation to staff or others, or harm to the environment. They include fuels, oils, chemicals, pesticides, preservatives or similar.

Substances considered for use shall be assessed and less harmful substances shall be used wherever practicable. Assessments and details of their safety precautions shall be made available to staff at the offices and where the substances are used.

Staff shall be kept informed of the hazards that they are exposed to and to the relevant safety precautions.

As well as the above, pesticides, including herbicides, insecticides and preservatives, have specific requirements. They shall be securely stored, in their original containers, and their usage recorded. Pesticides shall only be mixed and used by trained and certificated personnel.

Oil and Fuel Storage

The Oil Storage Regulations require that oils are stored in such a way as to avoid damage to the environment in the case of a spill etc. The company shall abide by the requirements of the regulations in respect of storage arrangements.

Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres

The DSEAR protects against risks from fire, explosion or similar events arising from dangerous substances used or present in the workplace. We shall abide by the requirements of DSEAR and carry out appropriate risk assessments in relation to any qualifying substances and provide measures to eliminate or reduce the risks as far as is reasonably practicable.

We shall provide the necessary equipment and procedures to deal with accidents and emergencies and provide information and training to staff. Where an explosive atmosphere may occur these areas will be zoned and suitable warnings put in place.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

The company shall establish, implement and maintain a procedure to identify potential emergency situations and potential accidents that could have an impact upon the environment and shall state how we shall respond to these incidents.

Prior to commencing work on site, a specific environmental risk assessment shall be completed. Methods shall be planned that shall reduce the environmental risk to a level which is as low as reasonably practicable.

An emergency plan/details shall be included in the WPP/TBS/method statement/work instructions for the site/task.

We shall respond to actual emergency situations and accidents and prevent or mitigate associated adverse environmental impacts.

The HSQE Manager shall periodically review and, where necessary, revise the emergency preparedness and response procedure, in particular, after the occurrence of accidents or emergency situations.

The company shall also periodically test such procedures where practicable.

Assessment of Environmental Performance:

The company shall continuously assess our environmental performance against the measures planned on the Environmental Aspects and Impacts Register.

Performance shall be reported and discussed during management review.

Monitoring and Review

The Director shall review the company environmental management system, at planned intervals, to ensure its continuing suitability, adequacy and effectiveness.

Reviews will include assessing opportunities for improvement and the need for changes to the environmental management system, including the environmental policy and environmental objectives and targets.

Records of the management reviews shall be retained.

Management review meetings shall include:

- The results of internal audits, checks and evaluations of compliance with legal requirements and with other requirements to which the company subscribes
- Communications from external interested parties, including complaints
- The environmental performance of the company
- The extent to which objectives and targets have been met
- The status of corrective and preventive actions
- Follow-up actions from previous management reviews
- Changing circumstances, including developments in legal and other requirements related to our environmental aspects
- Recommendations for improvement

The outputs from the management review meetings shall include any decisions and actions related to possible changes to environmental policy, objectives, targets and other elements of the environmental management system, consistent with the commitment to continual improvement.