

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY STATEMENT

Rev: 06/2015

The Blackwater Valley Countryside Trust is a charity that has been formed to promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of the Blackwater Valley.

To achieve this aim it promotes the management of the countryside, biodiversity and wildlife habitats and the characteristic landscapes of the Blackwater Valley by supporting conservation and education projects and programmes. We recognise that the process of delivering these positive conservation benefits has the potential to have adverse impacts on the environment. This policy is designed to ensure that the Trust maximises its beneficial impacts whilst minimising any harmful effects on the local and worldwide environment.

The Trust will:

- i) Meet and where possible exceed statutory obligations in all areas of its work by using best practicable current environmental practice.
- ii) Consult and work with local communities, groups and individuals and seek the advice of specialists to ensure environmental initiatives maximise their potential benefits.
- iii) Include education and interpretation of sustainability within its projects to lead by example, inspire and encourage others.
- iv) Reduce resource consumption by reusing and recycling products where possible and by procuring products comprising wholly or partly of recycled or recyclable materials when suitable.
- v) Minimise pollution created by its activities or the activities of projects and groups it supports. To leave sites cleaner at the end of projects than the beginning.
- vi) Reduce the harmful effects of transport by using public transport when suitable, minimising vehicle mileage, procuring local goods and services and promoting use of sites to local residents.
- vii) Reduce waste by treating by-products of its activities as a potential resource for alternative uses.
- viii) Manage the habitats of the Valley to maintain and enhance levels of biodiversity and landscape quality.

This policy was endorsed by the Board of Trustees on 16th June 2015 and the Board will annually review its content and performance.