

Wildlife and Ecological Policy

This policy supplements our Environmental Policy by focusing on wildlife and habitat protection.

Kings Landscapes works strictly within the guidelines set out in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1966 and Part III of the Food and Environmental Protection Act 1985 to promote good practice in the conservation of our natural environment.

Our objective is to protect and encourage wildlife within the scope of our work and to achieve this Kings Landscapes will:

- Work with clients, local authorities, statutory bodies, nature conservation organisations and groups, to minimise possible risk or harm to wildlife or its habitats.
- Ensure employees and sub-contractors are aware of and work within the legislative framework protecting wildlife and habitats whilst carrying out their work.
- Put in place procedures aimed at preventing operatives and Sub-contractors from intentionally disturbing, injuring or killing wildlife during their work activities.
- Provide guidance on best practice which enables employees and sub-contractors to recognise and assess potential risks to wildlife and habitats during the course of their work activities.
- Kings will actively encourage the design of habitats and planting that benefit the success and sustainability of Bees and Butterflies.
- Train our employees and raise awareness of relevant wildlife issues and to deal with incidents according to best practice guidelines.
- Provide guidance to clients on wildlife issues that may affect proposed works and assist clients in the rejuvenation or creation of wildlife habitats.
- Investigate any incidents detrimental to wildlife or habitats and take appropriate actions, including disciplinary procedures, where our policies and procedures are contravened.

Wildlife Protection

- Nesting Birds and their eggs are protected by law. Many other species e.g. Bats, Badgers and Great Crested Newt are also protected.
- We will undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) before we undertake any tree or hedge work, particularly during the nesting season between early March and late August. If nesting birds are discovered, we will reschedule the work for after the nesting season. In the event of protected species being discovered once work is commenced, we will stop work and inform the relevant authorities.
- We will avoid disturbing newts or damaging their habitats (ponds and the land around ponds) by protecting these areas from all our activities.

Bats

We will carry out an EIA prior to any work being undertaken. In the event of any protected species or roosts being discovered we will inform the relevant authorities and keep the customer advised of any consequences. Kings Landscapes have been trained in recognising potential bat roosts.

It is an offence under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to intentionally or recklessly:

- Kill, injure or take a bat
- Sell, hire, barter or exchange a bat, dead or alive
- Be in possession or control of a bat or anything derived from them
- Damage or destroy a tree, or obstruct access to a tree, which a bat uses for shelter or protection. (applicable to trees which are dead and dying as well as healthy trees).
- Disturb a bat while it is occupying a tree which it uses for shelter or protection

Badgers

It is an offence under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to intentionally or recklessly:

- Wilfully killing, injures or takes, or attempts to kill, injure or take, a badger.
- Cruelly ill-treating a badger, digging for badgers, using badger tongs, using a firearm other than the type specified under the exceptions within the Act.
- Interfering with a badger sett by damaging, destroying, obstructing, causing dog a dog to enter a sett, disturbing an occupied sett - either by intent or by negligence.
- Selling or offering for sale a live badger, having possession or control of a live badger.
- Marking a badger or attaching any ring, tag, or other marking device to a badger.

Water voles

It is an offence under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to intentionally or recklessly:

- damage, destroy, obstruct access to, any structure or place which water voles use for shelter or protection.
- disturb them while occupying a structure or place which it uses for that purpose.

Environmental Impact

- We aim to minimise the impact of our work activity on both the local and global environment by:
- Using biodegradable chainsaw oil and low ash 2-stroke oil.
- Operating in compliance with our Environmental Agency Waste disposal licence.
- Using traditional methods as appropriate e.g. hand saws.
- Promoting the re-use of waste materials, processing waste wood into green waste compost or as wood chip.
- Encouraging customers to use bird and/or bat boxes.
- Using pesticides following best industry practice and in accordance with the relevant legislation

We continually assess our Environmental, Wildlife and Ecological Policies to respond to changes and new ideas and seek continuous improvement in the maintenance of high environmental standards.

Our policies are communicated to all our employees, sub-contractors and clients.

Signed.....

Date: 2nd August 2017

David Houghton - Managing Director

This Policy Statement is subject to annual review and comprises part of the Management Review Agenda. It will only be republished when material changes occur.