



National Collections of Birch & Alder trees

Patron: Lord Howick

Stone Lane Gardens: Environmental Policy 2019

As an environmental conservation charity, the trustees of Stone Lane Gardens strive to adopt the highest possible environmental standards in all our areas of operation, within the constraints of our financial resources.

We will involve staff and volunteers in implementing this policy. We will do this by making our policy publicly available on our website, in our volunteer rest area and by making it clear in our new staff/volunteer induction process.

It is the responsibility of the secretary of the trustees to monitor the implementation of this policy and in consultation with the trustees, employees and volunteers identify an annual list of new actions to adopt from the 'Actions to Aim for'. This will be published in the Trustees Annual Report.

Our worldwide environmental aims are:

Promoting the conservation of *Betula* and *Alnus* and associated species worldwide through the cultivation of and research into these genera and by displaying the trees to the public and providing information about their uses and conservation status and working with schools and other community groups

Actions to Increase our Knowledge of the Environment

Actions Achieved:

- Publication of 'The Genus Betula' by Kew
- Co-operation with arboriculturalists from Iceland
- Co-operation with botanists from Moscow Botanic Garden
- Co-operation with Westonbirt Arboretum
- Field Study trip to Georgia and recommendations for conservation of *Betula Megrellica*



- Provision of Educational material on website
- Successfully encouraging school visits and group visits

Actions to Aim for:

- Continue to carry out appropriate research
- Continue to contribute to relevant research projects

Dartmoor First

We have been awarded **Dartmoor First** status by Dartmoor National Park Authority and this provides a local focus for our environmental policy.

Actions for Local Landscape Quality, Biodiversity, Cultural Heritage

Actions Achieved:

- Work with other conservation organisations to encourage the native fauna and flora associated with the National Collections
- Ensure that our buildings are sensitive to their surroundings
- Participate in local/community events
- Donate trees or education material to local projects, schools and community groups

Actions to Aim for:

- Set aside an area for the benefit of native flora and fauna
- Provide information on and encourage appreciation of the woodland and wetland habitats of Dartmoor
- Create more species rich grassland

Actions to Conserve Resources

Actions Achieved:

- Reduce-reuse-recycle
- Compost appropriate waste
- Limit packaging that we purchase
- Reduce the amount of emails that we print
- Use chemically benign cleaning products
- Minimise use of pesticides by monitoring and updating plant disease management

- Use our wood products for energy generation
- Save water through the use of water butts
- Provide Compost toilets
- Procure sustainable office stationary
- Ensure all plates, cutlery and cups reusable or biodegradable and composted
- Use recycled paper for toilet rolls

Actions to Aim for:

- Compost all appropriate waste
- Use peat free compost ideally homemade
- Use environmentally friendly inks
- Measure and reduce water and energy use
- Use all low energy light bulbs
- Improve insulation
- Provide recycling bins for visitors
- **Install renewable energy generation**

Actions to reduce CO2 emissions from transport and support local producers and communities

Actions Achieved

- Favour local products
- Check the environmental credentials of suppliers
- Purchase in bulk
- Favour local business suppliers
- **Car sharing to training events**

Actions to Aim for:

- Encourage car share and cycling
- Develop and promote circular walks from local hotels and attractions

Actions to Enhance Awareness of the Environment

Actions Achieved:

- National Collections of Birch and Alder open to the public
- Awareness promoted via 'Friends Scheme' and website
- Education Pack available on website
- On-site information and labelling provided
- Awareness promoted through local media
- Interpretation panels and visitor reception area provided
- Novel interpretation provided within the Arboretum
- Provision of a 'silent space'
- Increase species diversity in areas beneath trees (which have previously been managed with herbicide to allow establishment of trees) by using strimmer instead of herbicide

Actions to Aim for:

- Produce further interpretation panels in an indoor display space

To improve our environmental performance in 2019/2020 we will:

- Further commit to energy and waste reduction.
- Improve composting arrangements in the arboretum and nursery
- Promote conservation of *Betula megrelica* in partnership with Botanic Gardens Conservation International
- Take Action to minimise spread of Honey Fungus (*Armillaria mellea*) and start propagating material for planting on fresh ground
- Produce further interpretation panels in an indoor display space
- Continue to research and apply for planning permission for the installation of photovoltaic panels

Pru Barnes: Secretary of Trustees

Date: November 2019

Date of next review: September 2020

