

Policy Statement – Environmental Protection

TigerGeo is an environmental organisation and is therefore committed to the sustainable use of the environment and minimisation of unnecessary stress, change and damage. Strenuous efforts are therefore made to ensure work is undertaken in such a manner as to minimise environmental issues and that operations comply with the Environmental Protection Act 1990, amended 2004, associated guidance and other statutory provisions that may be in place. Codes of practice (e.g. for biosecurity measures, minimisation of crop disturbance, etc.) are also followed.

The company seeks to minimise its impact on the environment, where reasonably practicable, by reducing waste, pollution and emissions, by promoting recycling and by applying environmental and ethical considerations when sourcing supplies and equipment. Responsibility for achieving this lies with the Operations Manager and the Directors who conduct an annual performance audit and maintain an incident reporting system.

All employees, sub-contractors and visitors are expected to assist with carrying out this policy.

General procedures

The biggest single contributors to the environmental footprint of TigerGeo are energy consumption and vehicle use. The former includes electricity and vehicle fuel and the latter is primarily the by-product of travel, e.g. exhaust emissions. Both are minimised, e.g. by switching off unused computers and lights in the office and the avoidance of unnecessary journeys. Other general measures include switching off the engines of vehicles and site plant not in use and careful, i.e. efficient, driving practices.

Avoidance of waste is also a core policy objective, e.g. avoiding unnecessary printing of documents and enforcing digital-only distribution of reports and similar materials. External demands for printed material are routinely queried and alternative means of achieving the objective are sought.

Waste materials and products are disposed of appropriately, using only licensed waste handlers. Return of electronic goods to suppliers is encouraged. Cleaning products in routine use are, where practicable, biodegradable.

Particular issues

By virtue of its small size the company's environmental footprint is moderate, but some specific issues intrinsic to the work do exist and these are minimised and mitigated by appropriate procedures. Examples include:

- survey marking out;
- refuelling plant;
- engine emissions;
- noise;
- ground disturbance.

In response, the following measures are in place:

- use of paint during marking out is avoided by project design and by the use of temporary markers or on hard surfaces, chalk;
- refuelling is only undertaken using appropriate containers, funnels etc. and on level ground. Wherever possible it is done in locations that allow any fuel spill to be caught and prevented from being lost into the environment;

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- engine emissions are minimised by avoidance of unnecessary use, professional maintenance of plant and efficient use of it;
- there is inevitably sometimes noise associated with site works, e.g. from engines, voices and particular devices like seismic sources. The effect of these is minimised whenever possible and positive avoidance of nuisance is planned into operational procedures, e.g. the use of radio communications rather than shouting, avoidance of anti-social hours and ensuring plant and vehicles are situated away from housing, likely nest / roost sites etc.;
- some minor ground disturbance is always possible but is mitigated against by careful driving of ATVs, avoidance of soft ground while walking or driving, avoidance of fragile surfaces and minimisation of poaching by adopting routes of access and egress that wherever possible use existing paths and firm ground. In some cases, e.g. in certain wet conditions, the use of an ATV may be preferred to minimise ground pressure and journeys while maximising load capacity.

Work on contaminated sites

Where work proceeds on contaminated sites operational procedures are put in place to minimise further contamination that might occur through accidental spreading of materials. This includes boot washes, use of disposable overalls, disinfectant of footwear and equipment and similar measures. Any on-site control measures that apply are adhered to. The primary issues faced during site works are livestock biosecurity, invasive species and in some locations, chemical contaminants.

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