



Environmental Policy

Organisation name : Terravita WTP

Responsibility for controlling and processing assigned to Anneka Schofield (Manager).

Email address:

This Terravita WTP Environmental Policy is available to all employees, volunteers and contractors, and to the public via our website. It sets out our commitments to minimise negative environmental impacts and integrate best practice across our operations.

Our policy

At Terravita WTP we understand the pressures that nature and our planet are facing. It is our mission to deliver wilderness therapeutic sessions using nature as a medium to inspire and work with our clients in a way that works in harmony with the natural world.

Terravita WTP will:

- Ensure all workers/volunteers continuously work to improve their practice and reduce their impact on the environment.
- Meet or exceed legal requirements and standards (as set out below).
- Advocate for nature

What are we doing?

1. Reduce carbon emissions:
 - Using an electric hybrid vehicle for travel where possible.
 - Consider if journal is necessary.
2. Use water responsibly
3. Recycle where possible.
4. Communicate and advocate for the environment in sessions.
5. Comply with legislation.
6. Prevent pollution :
 - Use natural resources.
 - Do not dispose of waste in environment. Take all waste off site.
 - Use toilets instead of natural environment where possible. In wilderness situation with no toilet access, keep away from water sources, group activity and dig hole for faeces.
 - Only use natural resources for lighting fires.
7. Act sensitively to nature:
 - Only take what we need and leave no trace.



- Never disturb nesting birds, bats, badger sets. Each site is surveyed for wildlife impact. If you become aware that an activity disturbs wildlife – move location.

The law

There are many laws that regulate the natural world. We have listed the main ones relating to our work in nature as therapeutic practitioners. Our ambition is to support nature and educate our clients in how they can act more empathetically for the environment and the planet. We strive to reduce our impact on the planet.

Acts that support the natural world and access to it.

The Environment Act, which became law in 2021, acts as the UK's new framework of environmental protection.

Further details can be found on the government webpage:

[Environment Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

The priority areas are:

- (a) air quality;
- (b) water;
- (c) biodiversity;
- (d) resource efficiency and waste reduction.

Control of Pollution Act 1974 : air, noise, water and atmospheric pollution and waste.

Environmental Protection Act : Established in 1974, the [Environment Protection Act](#) is the environmental law in the UK that controls waste management and emissions into the environment.

Weeds Act 1959 : Passed to enforce the prevention of injurious weed species on private lands in the UK, targets species such as Broad Leaved Dock, Common Ragwort, Creeping Whistle and Spear Thistle.

Badgers Act 1973: It is illegal to attempt to kill, injure or interfere with the setts of badgers without a valid license.

Protection of Badgers Act 1992 : Added further protection to badgers.



National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 : Freedom and right to roam uncultivated areas of the UK such as mountains, moors, heaths and downs. People can walk, sightsee, bird watch, climb, run or walk dogs. Dogs should be kept on a short lead of no more than 2 metres between 1 March and 31 July each year (except in the coastal margin) and at all times near livestock. In the coastal margin, dogs must be under effective control at all times. Access can be withdrawn in lambing fields. Look out for notices.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 : prohibit killing or taking wild animals including eggs, interfere with nesting, restrict the introduction of certain animals and plants.

[Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://legislation.gov.uk)

The Environment Agency is responsible for enforcing laws that protect the environment.

[About us - Environment Agency - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Natural England is the government's adviser for the natural environment in England. They can enforce law.

Natural England www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england

The countryside code

The countryside code is a way of using the countryside in a considerate way to reduce negative impact on it. We follow these principals on our own site and when we are delivering sessions elsewhere.

[The Countryside Code: advice for countryside visitors - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Respect everyone

- be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside
- leave gates and property as you find them
- do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking
- be nice, say hello, share the space
- follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available



Leave No trace Principals

- Take your litter home - leave no trace of your visit
- Do not light fires without landowner permission – ensure the fire is adequate for the group needs, not too large, in a safe spot without overhanging bushes/branches, the ground has been cleared. Only burn as much wood as needed. The fire should be a pile of ash by the time you leave. Always put the fire out with water. Do not have a fire in a drought or very dry conditions. Consider using a fire pit instead to keep any mess contained on client ground e.g. schools. There should be no sign of ash or burnt logs at the end.
- Care for nature - do not cause damage or disturbance
- Do not take birds eggs, feathers, old nests, stones from the site.

We all have a responsibility to protect our countryside and open spaces for current and future generations.

Care for nature - do not cause damage or disturbance. Leave rocks, stone, plants and trees as you find them and take care not to disturb wildlife including birds that nest on the ground.

Do not disturb ruins or historic sites - our heritage in the natural and built environment is important.

Using natural resources

The right to collect fruit, foliage, flowers and fungi The Theft Act 1968, for England and Wales, states that: *“A person who picks mushrooms growing wild on any land, or who picks flowers, fruit or foliage from a plant growing wild on any land, does not (although not in possession of the land) steal what he picks, unless he does it for reward or for sale or other commercial purpose.”*

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA) states that it is an offence to uproot any plant from any land without permission from the landowner or any authorised person. Uproot is defined as to dig up or otherwise remove the plant from the land on which it is growing and the term plant seems to include algae, lichen and fungi.

Although you are allowed to pick wild plants and fungi on any land, it's essential that you get the landowner's permission to enter onto private land in the first place.



Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and others Plants featured in the declaration of a SSSI are protected and it might be illegal to collect them without permission from the relevant bodies: Natural England.

Useful resources

- [\[Withdrawn\] Wild plants: dangerous, invasive and protected species - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)