

Environmental & Operational Resilience Policy

Policy Owner: Bob Edwards

Approved by: Trustees

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References:

1. Purpose

This policy outlines how Stubbers Adventure Centre manages the impact of the natural environment on our operations. Our goal is twofold: to ensure the safety of our guests and staff during extreme weather, and to minimise our ecological footprint through proactive resource management.

2. Extreme Weather & Activity Impact

We operate an "Assess, Adapt, or Abort" protocol based on weather conditions. The **Duty Manager** has the final authority on activity status.

- **High Winds & Storms:**
 - **Threshold:** High ropes, climbing, and zip wires are suspended if steady winds or gusts exceed [**e.g., 30-35mph**].
 - **Woodland Safety:** During high winds, bushcraft and woodland trails are closed due to the risk of "widow-makers" (falling branches).
- **Electrical Storms (Lightning):**
 - The "**30/30 Rule**" applies: If thunder is heard within 30 seconds of a lightning flash, all lake and height activities are evacuated. Activities stay closed until 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard.
- **Extreme Heat & UV:**
 - **Modifications:** During "Heat-Health" alerts, instructors must move briefings to shaded areas and reduce the physical intensity of games.
 - **Hydration:** "Water breaks" become a mandatory part of the session structure.
- **Cold & Ice:**
 - Water activities are suspended if the lake is iced over.
 - Instructors must monitor for signs of hypothermia, even in summer, if guests have spent significant time in the lake.

3. Water & Lake Management

As a water-based centre, our lake is our most precious resource.

- **Drought Protocols:** During periods of low rainfall, we prioritise lake levels. We may restrict certain launch points to prevent bank erosion and silt disturbance.

- **Water Conservation:** In the event of a hosepipe ban, non-essential washing of fleet vehicles and "fun" water-based games (e.g., water fights) are suspended.
- **Residential Use:** We utilise low-flow showerheads in our residential blocks and encourage "4-minute showers" for visiting groups via site signage.

4. Land & Biodiversity Management

- **Erosion Control:** High-traffic areas (like the base of climbing walls or archery ranges) are monitored. We may rotate activity zones to allow the ground to recover.
- **Waste Management:** We operate a "Leave No Trace" policy. Staff must conduct a "Sweep for Sweets" (litter pick) after every session to ensure micro-plastics do not enter the soil or lake.
- **Chemical Use:** Only biodegradable cleaning products are used in residential blocks to ensure run-off does not contaminate the local water table.

5. Energy & Carbon Footprint

- **Idle Reduction:** Support vehicles and site tractors must be turned off when not in use—no idling in activity zones.
- **Building Management:** Staff are responsible for ensuring all lights and heating/cooling in residential lodges are turned off once a group checks out.

6. Staff Training & Responsibility

All instructors receive "Weather Awareness" training during their induction. This includes learning to read local sky signs and understanding the specific wind-load limits of our structures.

Operational Impact Summary Table

Weather Condition	Primary Action	Resource Impact
High Wind	Close Heights / Woodland	Secure loose equipment to prevent loss.
Drought	Monitor Lake Levels	Suspend non-essential cleaning/washing.
Extreme Heat	Shorten Sessions / Shade	Increase water station maintenance.
Lightning	Immediate Evacuation	Clear all metal structures and water.