



## Document Control Sheet

<b>Document Title</b>	Environmental Policy
<b>Author(s)</b>	BAS Environment Office

### Document Amendment History

Version No.	Date	Amendment Details	Approved By
Draft V1	15/05/2025	Minor wording changes. Addition of Polar Distribution Hub.	Head of Environment Office
Draft V2	30/05/2025	All agreed by EWG.	EWG
Final V1	10/06/2025	All agreed by BMT.	BMT



## BAS Environmental Policy

The BAS vision is to be a world-leading centre for polar science and operations, addressing issues of global importance and helping society adapt to a changing world. To achieve this we will deliver a world class programme of scientific research and sustain the influence and leadership of the UK in Antarctic affairs. It is a priority for BAS to achieve this vision whilst minimising the effects on the environment. BAS aims to achieve the highest possible standards for its own environmental performance and to be a leader in environmental management and stewardship in it's field.

To achieve this, BAS will:

- Comply with, and where practicable, exceed Antarctic Treaty System requirements for BAS operations in Antarctica and relevant UK environmental legislation, everywhere that BAS operates. Where UK environmental legislation/best practice cannot be applied, due to the nature of BAS operations in Antarctica, our own environmental standards will be implemented and followed.
- Implement the ISO 14001 certified Environmental Management System, for the Cambridge site and Polar Distribution Hub at Bar Hill, BAS ship (*RRS Sir David Attenborough*), BAS research stations and field sites and activities in Antarctica and South Georgia, and construction projects including the Antarctic Infrastructure Modernisation Programme (AIMP), ensuring that the environmental performance of all BAS activities is continually improved upon.
- Mitigate and minimise negative environmental impacts and risks through appropriate and effective control measures, BAS will:
  - Provide environmental awareness and management training, guidance and support to staff, contractors, and visitors;
  - Co-ordinate Environmental Impact Assessments for all projects undertaken in Antarctica and South Georgia;
  - Implement a comprehensive waste management policy;
  - Ensure robust oil spill contingency procedures are in place for all oil related activities;
  - Establish carbon management plans for all BAS operations; and
  - Commit to achieving Net Zero Carbon by 2040 in line with the UKRI Environmental Sustainability Strategy, NERC Responsible Business Statement and BAS Net Zero Carbon Strategy;
  - Implement biosecurity measures to prevent the introduction and spread of non-native species in Antarctica and South Georgia, whilst balancing the enhancement of biodiversity at BAS Cambridge; and
  - Ensure the continued management of protected areas in Antarctica by maintaining appropriate management plans.
- Ensure collaborative and contracted partners meet our environmental standards, where practicable, particularly when they are leading on work.
- Provide advice and support on environmental issues to the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), UKRI, NERC, other governmental departments, policy makers, and relevant NGOs to share expertise and maintain an active UK presence in Antarctic affairs.

This policy is to be reviewed annually and be made publicly available.

BAS is a component body of the Natural Environmental Research Council (NERC) and NERC is part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). The BAS Environmental Policy is consistent with the NERC Environmental Policy, NERC Responsible Business Statement and UKRI Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

Signed: 

Date: 10/06/2025