



Est. 1969

CASE STUDY

DEVON WILDLIFE TRUST

“ We saw ISO 14001 as the perfect way to demonstrate our commitment to controlling and improving our own performance, whilst also enabling us to expand our ability to educate others. ”

Stuart Hodgkiss, Property Team Leader



Photo: Jasmine Atkinson

Devon Wildlife Trust (DWT) is a registered charity working to make Devon a living landscape in which wildlife on land and in the sea is varied, plentiful and widespread. They work towards this by securing the future of key wildlife sites, promoting the sustainable use of Devon's natural resources and increasing support for wildlife in the County.

Despite having spent 50 years campaigning, influencing, maintaining and improving Devon's environment, DWT had no formal way of monitoring the environmental impacts of their own work. To resolve this, they successfully achieved external certification to the ISO 14001 environmental management standard with the British Assessment Bureau in September 2014.

The challenge

Stuart Hodgkiss, Property Team Leader at DWT, explains why the ISO 14001 environmental management system was the best fit in demonstrating to clients and stakeholders that they walked the talk;

“As a wildlife and conservation organisation, we are in a very fortunate position to be able to inform and influence a wide audience in the benefits of a thriving and healthy environment. We saw ISO 14001 as the perfect way to demonstrate our commitment to controlling and improving our own performance, whilst also enabling us to expand our ability to educate others.”

ISO 14001 is a tried and tested approach for demonstrating commitment to reducing environmental impact. Studies have shown that the standard helps with new sales, cost reductions and employee engagement. Achieving and maintaining certification involves rigorous audits to ensure ongoing compliance, which is why it is rightly recognised as international best practice for environmental management.

The solution

With overall responsibility for running, maintenance, and health and safety in all DWT premises, Stuart was in a great position to oversee the design and implementation of their Environmental Management System (EMS). Here Stuart recalls why BAB was chosen to guide the Trust through the process,

“When I first researched ISO 14001, I contacted a number of companies and found that BAB stood out for two clear reasons. Firstly, they made good on every promise. If someone set a time or date to call me, they always did so on time. The second, and most important, reason has to be the staff they employ. With BAB I always felt that the staff were genuinely interested in us and cared about our success. I never once felt pressured to use them, but I was glad I did!”



As with all BAB's clients, the process began with an initial Stage 1 visit in order to ascertain how the organisation's existing processes aligned with the requirements of the ISO 14001 standard. The idea was for the Trust's team to understand exactly what needed to be in place in order to successfully achieve certification. Stuart commented:

“Generally, the implementation was smooth. Our Assessor took us through our audit and was fantastic. Their calm and measured approach gave us confidence in our EMS and this played a major part in the success of our audit.”

Thanks to the nature of our organisation, we always had a good buy in from our staff, but it still proved challenging to implement an EMS into all areas of such a diverse organisation – from offices and visitor centres, to nature reserves and workshops.”

Despite the complexities involved, the Trust was ready for the all important Stage 2 audit just five months later, demonstrating their inherent commitment to establishing a coherent EMS. This commitment paid off, as they successfully passed first time of asking. Stuart recalls how this was made possible with the determination of his team and the assistance of BAB;



“The audit process was smooth mainly due to the great preparation we had received from BAB – our Account Manager and Assessor had both given us all the advice we needed. This gave us the confidence that our management system and documentation would be appropriate to the standard and, as a result, the process was as stress free as is possible!”

The results

BAB is committed to ensuring clients progress and achieve outstanding results through the application of effective standards and management best practice. The benefits of this include a reduction in resource usage, reduction in waste and costs, and increased profitability. Clients tell BAB that gaining certification can also help to gain funding, qualify for tenders and set them apart from competitors by demonstrating their green credentials.



Stuart tells us of the benefits unique to his organisation that 14001 certification has brought;

“The benefits are numerous. Many of our external partners look to work with organisations who can demonstrate proficiency in environmental management so holding this certification will be of huge benefit in the coming years.

We are also able to use it as a tool to improve the working environment and running costs of the Trust. Whilst staff engagement has always been good, staff can now see their environmental performance and know the targets we set – there is a real motivation to always strive harder for improvement.

Most importantly though, the positives mentioned above will ultimately benefit Devon’s environment – both on a local level by managing our own performance and on a county wide scale by allowing us to grow as an organisation and thereby carry out even more habitat and landscape management works.”

About The British Assessment Bureau

Since 1969, we have been helping organisations stand out with our assessment and training services. Today, as an award winning Certification Body, we have certified thousands to the ISO 9001, 14001, 27001 and OHSAS 18001 standards, achieving an average 99% recommendation rating over the last 4 years.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON HOW CERTIFICATION
COULD BENEFIT YOU CALL US ON **0800 404 7007**

••❖ www.british-assessment.co.uk

