

Sustainability Champions



The Cotswold Range sustainability statement



Rainwater harvesting



Encouraging nature

The Cotswold Range

Steve Gleed, Owner

Founded in 2016, The Cotswold Range has transformed an idle piece of land into a thriving, nature-focused attraction. Owner, Steve Gleed explains why operating in harmony with nature is an integral part of his business.

Tell us about starting your business

"The venue was built on a former agricultural field with no utility connections. Solar and water harvesting became obvious off-grid solutions with significantly low costs attached. Whilst we have a mains connection now for drinking water there is little need for electricity beyond our current set up."

How do you manage waste on site?

"A business waste review was carried out to see where we could improve across the day-to-day running of the business and there is very little that can't be recycled. Today 95% of business waste is recycled."

"For an air rifle lesson everything from lead pellets and aluminium tins to paper targets are recycled, and for archery, paper targets, aluminium arrows and board pens. There are limitations and some things that we can't do without, such as shooting balloons. They are such a fun element to a session and whilst they can't be recycled, they are made with natural

latex which is biodegradable, so they are stored after use and naturally decompose."

"Our water fountain installation gives customers a choice of refilling their own bottle or using our cups. Our cups are made from recycled plastic and are recycled again after use."

You have made a commitment to nurturing wildlife and nature, tell us what you're doing

"Across the two acres of land that we own, the actual footprint of the buildings is very small. With so much area to manage, creating and managing wildlife habitats has become a key focus."

"Having pristine cut lawns was attractive for customers but not so much for attracting wildlife. There are now three designated 'no mow' locations on site which are simply unmanaged, allowing for nettles, thistles and long grass to go wild, perfect for butterflies and pollinators."

"A new 300,000 litre natural pond was dug in early 2024 with the sole focus being on British native species and included all plants, reeds, fish and wildflower surround. Dragonflies were laying eggs on the lilies within the first two days. The gravel that was extracted from the pond was used on site for pathways instead of woodchip, which had to be bought in regularly through the year and topped up."

"As our venue becomes more established, more wildlife is becoming attracted to it. Last year was a record for seeing honeybees, for example, and we see everything from hedgerow birds, kingfisher, heron, butterflies, dragonflies, muntjac, otters, kestrel, voles and field mice."

"Our 2025 nominated charity is Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. 1% of our turnover goes directly to supporting their wildlife projects."

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Recycled business waste



Steve Gleed



No-mow zone allowing nature to thrive



Solar panels



300,000 litre natural pond

The Cotswold Range

continued

Do you actively try to influence visitors?

"We do. On the main paths throughout the site there are animal identification and education signage for customers to read on their walk to their sessions. We also display our Green Policy and Responsible Visitor Charter on site and on our website.

"In May 2024, we launched a discount for all customers that cycle to our venue to promote low carbon travel. The Cotswold Lakes has a big cycle network which is underused, and we are finalising plans with a local bike hire company to show the best routes to explore the area around us."

What are you hoping to do next?

"We are looking into a collaboration with The Wildlife Trust to explore further on-site habitat

creation and signage, re-developing our lined ponds into natural ponds and adding to our existing fruit trees to make a 30-tree orchard."

Do you have any advice to businesses who are starting on their journey?

"Any step is a step in the right direction. There has never been more information and resources available online than there is currently. There will be some areas you can't change and some areas that you can."

What are your quick win suggestions?

"The easiest start would be to focus on business and staff waste. Can more be recycled, could anything be replaced with a more sustainable product? Our board pens were recently switched to refill ones, which are made from

recycled plastic. A simple step as it was always one element which wasn't recycled.

"Educational signage can go a long way to changing staff opinion which can then also be carried on to their home life."

Is there anything you'd wish you'd known when you started out?

"It has always been a personal mission to make the business more sustainable and enjoy the wildlife benefits we see on site. Money does play a part in decision making for all businesses, but I didn't realise the extent of the support that was available in terms of both advice and grants, which we could have been used to further improve."

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