

# Carbon Emissions Reduction Plan

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## Commitment to Achieving Net Zero

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## Commitment to Achieving Net Zero

Castle Owen Construction & Property Consultants are committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2030.

### About Castle Owen

Castle Owen are a multi-disciplinary construction consultancy operating from a single office location in Sheffield employing approximately 25 staff. We operate within the built environment as architects, building surveyors, project managers and therefore we acknowledge that we can influence the sustainability of construction projects as part of our professional involvement. This plan however relates to the operational carbon footprint of Castle Owen in terms of measurement and strategy for reduction with a view to achieving net zero by 2030.

All of our staff receive training with regard to sustainability awareness and in addition we support staff who wish to explore sustainable design as part of their professional development.

This document represents our first step in recording accurately our carbon footprint, the measures we have put in place to reduce CO2 emissions and also our strategy for making further reductions. The plan will be regularly reviewed by the directors', to make sure that our commitment of net zero by 2030 is achieved. We will report on progress annually and update the plan.

We acknowledge that implementing all of the proposed carbon reduction measures will take time and therefore it is our intention, in the interim period, to offset Castle Owen's carbon footprint. We propose to achieve this by participation in an approved tree planting scheme. This is detailed further in our carbon reduction strategy.

### About the Castle Owen Carbon Reduction Plan

The plan summarises Castle Owen's base line carbon footprint and our commitment to reducing our greenhouse-gas emissions to net zero. Considering the governments required target date of 2050, we believe that we are able to improve upon this deadline due to the size of the practice and our responsive approach. Therefore, we are committed to an earlier date of 2030 which is ahead of the 2050 target date mandated by the Climate Change Act.

The scope of the Castle Owen plan is defined by the greenhouse gases protocol corporate standard. We have established our operational boundaries which have then determined the scope 1, scope 2 and scope 3 categories that we have influence over. We have calculated emissions considering 100% of the Greenhouse gas emissions which we have operational control over.

## Commitment to Achieving Net Zero

### Reporting

We have related our assessments to our financial year running from April to May. Our base line year is therefore 2019/2020 (April 2019 to May 2020).

We have acknowledged that our most significant environmental impact over which we have control is in relation to travel. We have therefore included calculations of travelling to work and travelling from work to site locations.

We have recorded scope 1 emissions as zero because we do not operate fleet vehicles or utilise direct power generation within the office.

Financial Year 2022-2023 represents a period of growth where staff numbers have increased. Corresponding with this is a change in the company's office lease arrangement whereby electricity and gas consumption are now charged through a service charge. The company, therefore, no-longer has control over these emissions although we expect the CO<sub>2</sub>e to remain consistent and we have indicated this under scope 2 for 2022/2023.

### Base Line Year 2019 – 2020

	Emissions	Total (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e)
Scope 1	0	0
Scope 2	Electricity & Gas	13.94
Scope 3	Staff travel to work, business travel, sundry purchases e.g. Paper, PCs etc.	19.107
Total emissions		<b>33.047</b>

### Year 2020 - 2021

	Emissions	Total (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e)
Scope 1	0	0
Scope 2	Electricity & Gas	10.738
Scope 3	Staff travel to work, business travel, sundry purchases e.g. Paper, PCs etc.	9.177
Total emissions		<b>19.915</b>

### Year 2021-2022

	Emissions	Total (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e)
Scope 1	0	0
Scope 2	Electricity & Gas	13.15
Scope 3	Staff travel to work, business travel, sundry purchases e.g. Paper, PCs etc.	17.54
Total emissions		<b>30.69</b>

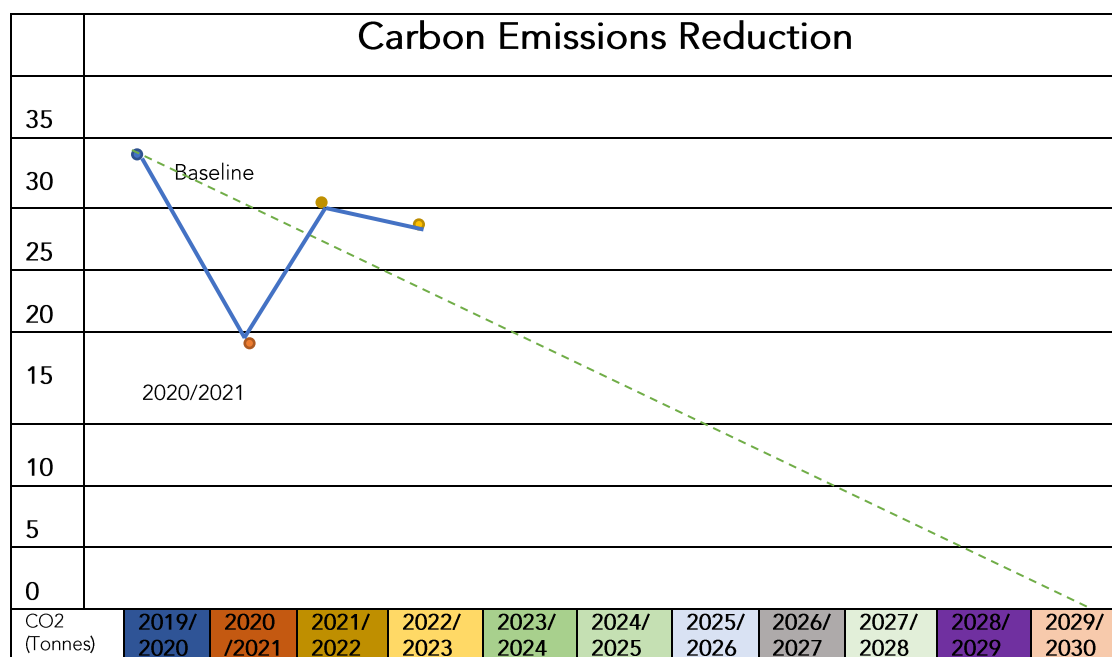
## Commitment to Achieving Net Zero

### Year 2022-2023

	Emissions	Total (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e)
Scope 1	0	0
Scope 2	Electricity & Gas	13.15*
Scope 3	Staff travel to work, business travel, sundry purchases e.g. Paper, PCs etc.	16.33
Total emissions		<b>29.48</b>

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### Emissions Reduction Target



Castle Owen Financial Years

Our significant reduction between the base line year and 2020/2021 is a direct result of the travel and occupancy restrictions associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic. However, due to a more flexible working pattern our goal is to build upon this significant reduction, as far as this is practical whilst maintaining business growth.

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### Carbon Reduction Strategies

- We recognise that the most significant change which we can make in environmental management terms is the reduction in travel. In order to facilitate a reduced need to travel to work we have adopted hybrid working for those members of staff who are able to work remotely. The relevant members of staff will attend the office 3/4 days per week.
- We have encouraged use of public transport amongst our staff travelling into the centre of Sheffield. This has been achieved by the company acquiring tram cards which are made available for individuals to use to travel into the city for face-to-face meetings or further afield should this be necessary.
- We have encouraged the use of online platforms for meetings such as Teams and Zoom. All staff have access to these facilities.
- Our office printers utilise re-cyclable cartridges which are collected by the supplier.
- All paper used in the office is recycled.
- All electrical equipment which reaches the end of its viable life is re-cycled.
- Within our office, low energy lighting has been installed operated by movement sensors.
- We encourage cycling to work by providing a shower within our office premises.
- Sustainability forms part of our on-boarding process for new starters.
- Any company vehicles will be electric from 2023.
- We are participating in Carbon Off-setting through "Make It Wild". This year we have funded tree planting to offset 30 Tonnes of Co2 which exceeds our 2023 carbon emissions total.



## Commitment to Achieving Net Zero

In future we hope to implement further measure such as:

- Further promotion of sustainability awareness and qualification amongst staff through training.
- We will purchase the most energy efficient equipment, which is available to us, considering also the overall carbon footprint of that equipment.
- We will build upon our Carbon Off Setting Commitment.



## Commitment to Achieving Net Zero

### Declaration and Sign-off

The Castle Owen Carbon Reduction Plan has been completed in accordance with current guidance and supporting standards for carbon reduction plans.

Emissions have been reported and recorded in accordance with the appropriate standards. The carbon reduction plan has been reviewed and signed off by the board of directors who confirm the company's **commitment to achieving Net Zero by 2030**.



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Richard Owen  
Managing Director  
20 November 2023



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Melissa Smith  
Director  
20 November 2023

Review Date

19 November 2024