



## ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

We are a **charitable trust** with the responsibility of managing the Tide Mill. The aim of the organisation is to promote the restoration and permanent preservation for the public benefit of the Tide Mill at Woodbridge as a building of architectural and historical interest and as an installation of historical and technical importance which should be retained for the education of the present and future generations. The Trust and the Mill is managed and staffed largely by volunteers, for the benefit of visitors.

The Tide Mill represents **850 years of water milling** on this site, with the present working mill dating from 1793 and which still harnesses the reliable and predictable green energy from the tides to drive a mill which produces flour as well as in the past animal feed.

The **wheat we currently use is locally grown**, and milled in Woodbridge, Suffolk. It is a hard red spring wheat with a protein content of typically 17%. NABIM classify class 1 milling wheat for bread making as typically 13% protein content, so our flour concentrates higher levels of natural nutrition into the loaf than the average.

We avoid aggressive production methods, and run our grinding stones slowly and coolly for **maximum nutritional benefit**. The whole grain is used, retaining all its natural nutrients, and we are exempt from regulations which require modern mills to artificially add back nutrients to their plain white or brown flour.

By using **local suppliers** for the goods and services we procure we aim to limit the transport related environmental impacts of our activities, as well as to support the local economy.

Our volunteers are encouraged to come to work by **sustainable transport** (foot, bike or public transport) wherever possible.

We supply local bakeries and restaurants and our **flour deliveries** (made by volunteers) are planned to coincide with existing journeys or are made by foot to reduce their environmental impact.

Through the implementation of this policy and action plan we aim to reduce our environmental impact and continue to practice sustainable production techniques, in keeping with the responsibilities of the Trust.

Our recent carbon footprint for 2021 has been calculated to be **1.33 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>(e)** (this is the amount of carbon that would have been generated from the use of standard grid electricity), a reduction of -36% since our baseline year of 2013/14.

We have pledged to become **Net Zero Carbon by 2030**, in line with Woodbridge Town Council's commitment. As all our electricity (our only energy source) is sourced from 100% renewable electricity we have already met this target.

To reduce our environmental impacts, we have already undertaken these specific actions;

- Developed effective methods of monitoring and managing our energy use and that of the milling process (we have installed a digital meter to measure the watts of electricity used by the electric grinding equipment)
- Replaced our halogen lights (2017) and floodlights (2019) with LEDs and removed a number of lights which were deemed to be unnecessary
- Maximised the use of water milling as is consistent with our operating practices and use of volunteers. Sluice gates have been re-aligned, the effect of which is a greater flow of water directly to the water wheel, increasing efficiency and extending the length of time which the water wheel can be used for milling

# WOODBIDGE TIDE MILL MUSEUM

- Established our electricity use from milling at different speeds (through the use of the digital meter) allowing us to establish the optimum speed for a balance between production and limiting our electricity use and helping us to communicate this to volunteer millers and visitors
- Eliminated the use of plastic packaging for our flour sales and minimised it within the gift shop.
- Used re-cyclable packaging materials for items purchased from our online shop
- Reduced emissions from transport by delivering flour on foot, and consolidating deliveries with existing volunteer journeys.
- Signed up to 100% renewable electricity tariff.

By implementing the following actions, we hope to further reduce our environmental impacts and communicate to others the importance of managing our carbon emissions:

- To communicate more widely on environmental issues through our website and social media
- To maintain our Gold level Carbon Charter accreditation and to continue to communicate this through our marketing and visitor materials, as well as through hosting sustainability events.
- To investigate opportunities to maximise the use of water milling by undertaking dredging.

To understand and quantify our progress against the above targets, we will continue to closely monitor our energy consumption by taking regular meter readings and analysing the energy, water, waste and purchasing data to ensure the effective management of resources and any impact mitigation measures.

We will keep our stakeholders updated on this progress, and update this document and our action plan annually, or if our business changes its activities significantly.

John Carrington, Chair of Trustees

Date: July 2022