

NICHOLSONS

Leading solutions for the natural environment

The Park | North Aston | Oxfordshire | OX25 6HL
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PAS 2060 QUALIFYING EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

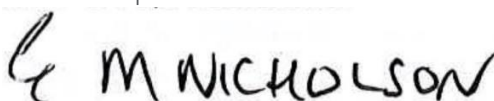

This document forms the Qualifying Explanatory Statement to demonstrate that Nicholsons has a plan to achieve carbon neutrality by 2025 for its Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions. As well as a further ambition to achieve carbon neutrality for Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions by 2030. To achieve this the company commits to reduce its emissions where possible, alongside using carbon offsets.



In the reporting period 1 August 2021 to 31 July 2022, its total emissions were 958.28 tCO₂e.

PAS 2060 Requirement	Response
Entity making PAS 2060 declaration	Nicholsons
Subject of PAS 2060 declaration	The offices, yard, plant equipment and vehicle fleet operated by Nicholsons. All UK operations within the company's operational control.
Description of Subject	<p>Nicholsons provides multiple services and products, based around landscaping, environmental consultancy and forestry.</p> <p>Garden, landscape design and implementation provide: garden design, implementation (both hard and soft landscaping), contracting, and garden maintenance. The company runs a plant centre, tree nursery and restaurant.</p> <p>Environmental planning provide: planning advice, arboriculture, ecological consultancy, natural capital appraisal, soils and land restoration.</p> <p>Forestry provide woodland design, woodland creation and woodland management. As well as tree management and surgery.</p> <p>It directly employs ~200 employees</p> <p>At North Aston, the company is responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Plant Centre, also containing a management office.• A restaurant.• A tree nursery.• 3 office buildings.• 1 vehicle barn.• 1 logistics barn.• 1 storage barn.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 rainwater fed reservoir. <p>Operating from North Aston are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80 vehicles • 30 assorted pieces of plant equipment <p>From the end of January 2022, Nicholsons merged with Lockhart Garratt, which operates from a managed office in Corby, Northamptonshire. This is excluded from this year.</p>
Rationale for selection of the subject	The scope and subject was selected as it represents the operational control boundary as defined by the UK Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines.
Type of conformity assessment	Independent 3 rd Party Certification
Baseline date for PAS 2060 programme	1 August 2021 to 31 July 2022
Achievement period	Carbon neutrality not achieved
Commitment period	1 August 2021 to 31 July 2025
Individuals responsible for the evaluation and provision of data necessary for declaration	Mark Nathanson, Forestry Alan Bevan, Purchasing Manager.
Declaration of achievement	
Recorded carbon footprint of the subject during the period stated above	958.28 (tCO ² e)
Carbon footprint reduction target for period	n/a
Location of GHG emissions report supporting this claim	Annex A
Location of the details describing the carbon offsets	Annex B
Location of the Carbon Footprint Management Plan	Annex C
Name of representative	Signature
	

PAS 2060 Requirement	Response
Declaration of on-going commitment	<p>Nicholsons commit to achieving carbon neutrality for its Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions in accordance with PAS 2060 by 31 July 2025.</p> <p>Nicholsons further commit to achieving carbon neutrality for its Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions by 31 July 2030</p>
Name of representative	Signature
	

Methodology

We have followed the March 2019 UK Government environmental reporting guidance. We have set the boundary as the assets within the company's operational control. We have recorded and used the company's usage of materials, rather than financial reporting.

We have used the '2021 UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting'. Calculated GHG emissions have been rounded to 1 decimal place.

For electricity data, annual energy consumption in kWh, over the reporting period was converted tCO₂e using the above described CHC conversion factors.

Company owned vehicle data usage was obtained from fuel cards, and from fuel use at the central re-fuelling point at North Aston. Litres were converted into tCO₂e using the aforementioned '2021 UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting'.

Information supporting Scope 3 was drawn from the internal company stock system. Units used were converted to a weight measurement. The weight per length of material / unit (e.g. fencing) has been directly obtained from each specific manufacturer.

Uncertainties and gaps in the evidence

Scope 3 emissions only cover stock delivered to the North Aston site. It doesn't include all of the miscellaneous materials delivered direct to site (except for concrete, cement and post-crete, which are included)

Waste is collected and disposed of by multiple companies. The quantities and types of waste have been estimated based on invoices, rather than an accurate sorting of contents. Then assumption has been made that skips are full when collected, and that contents are recycled. This waste includes that collected from off-site landscaping and forestry projects. The assumption has been made that soil and stone rubble goes to landfill.

Water bills with estimated meter readings have been used. For future carbon accounting, accurate water meter readings will be taken.

For sector specific products (such as deer fencing wire) the UK Govt conversion factor for metal use in construction projects has been used.

Employee commuting data has been worked out using anonymised postcodes and GoogleMaps distances. The assumption has been made of a 5 day working week, from a central office location, discounting annual leave entitlement and bank holidays.

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ANNEX A – GHG emissions report supporting this claim

		Current reporting year 2021-2022
		UK and offshore
SCOPE 1 tCO ² e		
Fuel use for fleet vehicles		158936 litres diesel = 397 tCO ² e
50KW woodchip boiler 85KW woodchip boiler		272m ³ of woodchip = ~182 tonnes 1 tonne = 1,334Kg CO ² e 243 tCO ² e (outside of emissions)
TOTAL		397 tCO²e
SCOPE 2 tCO ² e		
Electricity consumption		83,656 kWh = 17.8 tCO ² e (Outside of emissions as supplier is solely renewable energy)
Electricity production (Solar array)		19,882.96 kWh = 41.55 tCO ² e (outside of emissions)
TOTAL		0 tCO²e
SCOPE 3 tCO ² e		
Waste production and collection:		
Green waste and wood		628 tonnes = 13 tCO ² e
Paper and cardboard		78 tonnes = 1.7 tCO ² e
Commercial and industrial waste including plastics		154 tonnes = 3.2 tCO ² e
Soil and stone		64 tonnes = 1.1 tCO ² e
Glass		4 tonnes = 0.08 tCO ² e
Material and resource use:		
Water Consumption		8,273m ³ = 1.2 tCO ² e
Concrete		203.1 tonnes = 27 tCO ² e
Cement		16.35 tonnes = 2 tCO ² e
Post Crete		30.78 tonnes = 4 tCO ² e
Steel		25.48 tonnes = 101 tCO ² e
Wire / Netting		37.02 tonnes = 147 tCO ² e
Iron		4.74 tonnes = 19 tCO ² e
Plastic tree shelters		29.75 tonnes = 97 tCO ² e
Plant Centre plastic pots		10.88 tonnes = 29 tCO ² e
Workforce Commute		491445 miles = 115 tCO ² e
TOTAL		561.28 tCO²e
TOTAL EMISSIONS		958.28 tCO²e

ANNEX B – Carbon offsets supporting this claim

Not applicable. Offsets will be utilised to achieve carbon neutrality in Scope 1 and 2 emissions in the period 2024-2025.

Annex C - Carbon Footprint Management Plan

Nicholsons are committed to reducing our carbon footprint. Nicholsons has a plan to achieve carbon neutrality by 2025 for Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions. As well as for Scope 3 emissions by 2030. Although these targets will be achieved in part through the purchase of carbon offsets, the company will also continue its efforts to reduce emissions. Due to the nature of the business, particularly forestry, it has proven difficult to reduce emissions when using carbon intensive materials in projects to protect carbon sequestration activity, such as tree planting. Nevertheless, the company has set itself the target of reducing its Scope 1 emissions by 30% each year to July 2025. As well as reducing its Scope 3 emissions by 50% of their current total by 2050.

With respect to **Scope 1 emissions:**

There is a target for 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023 to reduce vehicle fleet emission by 30% (119 tCO²e) by bulk buying HVO fuel and converting part of the diesel fleet.

Out of the total vehicle fleet of 80 vehicles, 43 are convertible to HVO fuel. 20 vehicles are currently using HVO, as of March 2023. There is the intent to convert a further 21 vehicles during the period 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024. Out of the 30 assorted types of company owned plant equipment, 3 tracked excavators and a Mecalac 6 T dumper have already been converted to HVO.

Nicholsons are committed to increasing the number of electric and hybrid vehicles in the fleet. As of March 2023, 6 are electric / hybrid with an intent that future vehicle purchases will be electric where possible.

Through the above HVO and electric vehicle use strategies, the target for 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024 will be to reduce vehicle fleet emissions by a further 30% (83 tCO²e). The target for 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2025 will be to further reduce vehicle fleet emissions by 30% (58 tCO²e). Leaving a residual ~150 tCO²e which will be offset.

With respect to **Scope 3 emissions:**

There is a target for 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023 to reduce concrete and cement related by 30% (10 tCO²e) by designing out concrete or utilising low carbon concrete products.

Throughout 2022-2023, there is a plan to reduce plastic consumption by trialling and utilising plastic free tree shelter alternatives. Where possible, future purchases of plastic tree shelters will come from suppliers of closed loop (recycled) plastic. Nicholsons is already working with manufacturers of biodegradable and low plastic tree shelters, to establish certification, and product specific carbon footprint data. With respect to metal usage, Nicholsons intend to reduce the amount used in fencing by utilising and promoting reusable fencing systems.

Throughout 2022-2023, Nicholsons will continue to reuse plastic pots in its tree nursery and plant centre. As well as prioritise the sale of closed loop, recyclable plastic 'taupe' pots to customers.

Nicholsons will continue to enable home working, to reduce employee commuting emissions. The company will incentivise employee use of electric vehicles, by maintaining current access to company vehicle electric charging points. As well as investigate the installation of charging stations in the staff car park.

Throughout 2023, there is a plan to manage our supply chain to ensure that suppliers' sustainability goals are in line with our own. We are committed to working closely with existing and future suppliers to reduce the impact our operations have on the environment.

Planned future offsetting:

Nicholsons are already supporting a reforestation project in Kenya. The intent will be to purchase certified carbon credits in support of this project from 2024-2025 onwards.

Centre for Assessment Declaration



Following the completion of our assessment of this Qualifying Explanatory Statement and the data and information supporting its content, Centre for Assessment is able to make the following declaration in accordance with the requirements of PAS 2060:2014 Specification for the demonstration of carbon neutrality:

Carbon neutrality of the facilities at The Park, North Aston, Oxfordshire OX25 6HL and business operated by Nicholson Ltd in the United Kingdom **make a commitment to achieve carbon neutrality for scope 1 and 2 emissions by 31st July 2025** and to all scopes emissions by 31st July 2030, the baseline for the period commencing 1st August 2021 to 31st July 2022, certified by the Centre for Assessment.

Lead Assessor: Stephen Halsall

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Helen Taft'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Decision maker: Helen Taft

Date of Declaration: Date 1st September 2023

Notes:

This Declaration is issued on the understanding that evidence will be provided by the Entity to demonstrate that the QES has been made publicly available.

If the entity identifies, following the issuing of this Declaration, any material issues associated with this QES or the data and information that supports it, the Entity shall immediately contact Centre for Assessment to determine the need for re-issue of this QES, and for the possible re-assessment of the information within it.