



Natural
Environment
Research Council

Responsible Business Statement 2026-2030

March 2026

OUR ROLE

NERC enables world-leading environmental science which helps us sustain and benefit from our natural resources, predict and respond to natural hazards and understand environmental change. We fund ambitious research and innovation, and provide the training, skills, and infrastructure the UK needs to remain at the forefront of environmental science. Our research helps society understand and find solutions to the social, environmental and economic challenges it faces.

We act as advocates for the natural environment, working closely in partnership with the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), other funders, businesses, government, and the public.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

NERC has a responsibility to deliver benefits to society and to the environment beyond our research outcomes. This statement sets out our commitments to act responsibly through our operational delivery model for research and research funding in line with the UKRI values and NERC Strategic Delivery plan.

The principle that we should aspire to have a positive contribution permeates through each of our commitment pillars, presented below, informing the action we take to add value and ensure impact.

OUR COMMITMENT

NERC will play our part in addressing the societal and environmental challenges we face – not only through the research we enable but also how we operate as an organisation.

This statement covers our operational and delivery activities, including those of NERC Centres and collaborative activity with our National Capability partners.

NERC Responsible Business Pillars

RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH

Working in partnership to adopt responsible research practices and to promote good research conduct.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Driving our positive impact through restoring and enhancing the natural environment, resourcing responsibly, mitigating climate change and building resilience to our future climate.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Supporting a positive and inclusive culture for our staff and wider community while raising awareness of the benefits we bring to wider society.

RESPONSIBLE STRATEGIC DECISIONS

Acting in a transparent and fair way across our practices, considering the long-term implications to our stakeholders and with partners that share our core values.