

# **Environmental Policy**

Blairmore Farm & Estates Ltd is committed to ensuring that the purpose built, farmed and natural environment, which is the core our business is protected to the to the best of our ability. We continue to assess and improve an environmental performance by reducing our environmental impact throughout all of our business operations. Below is a description of how we are committed to managing this.

#### **Energy**

At Blairmore Farm we monitor and manage the use of energy and fuels. As a member of the Renewable Heating Initiative, all of our heating and hot water is produced by a wood chip biomass boiler. Through improved insulation and the recent purchase of energy efficient washing machines and dryers in our onsite laundry we continue to work towards reducing our energy consumption and production of pollutants. In the future we hope to be able to generate power onsite from renewable energy generation projects including solar and wind power.

#### Water

All of the water produced for the farm is derived from the farm. Using ground fed springs we collect and purify our water using a system of physical and UV filtration which produces clean and refreshing water this is regularly test for purity and quality.

#### Waste

Since the conception of the business in 2013, Blairmore Farm and its owners have been committed to reducing waste on the farm and we continue to work towards reducing the volumes of waste.

The installation of a biomechanical sewage waste system, using a soakaway system leading to a reed bed, has greatly reduced the waste levels on the farm.

Throughout our construction project we re-used and re-purposed as much of the materials including the stone from the cottages, to minimise any waste and the requirement to purchase new materials. The cottages have been built to reduce their environmental impact with wool insulation and using reclaimed materials where possible.

We have an internally managed waste and recycling program here at Blairmore Farm and encourage composting of all kitchen waste.

All of the disposable containers used on the website are fully compostable (www.vegware.co.uk).

# **Organic Recycling**

At Blairmore Farm we recycle various organic waste products on the farm, which reduces our use of non-organic man-made products, by using our recycled organic waste in our Market Garden. Any surplus market garden crops are used as fodder crops for our animals on the farm.

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#### **Carbon Footprint**

Blairmore Farm continues to reduce its Carbon Footprint. This has been done through reducing emissions for example through more effect use of agricultural machinery and the training of Clydesdale and Shire horses to perform certain farming activities such as logging and harrowing of our fields and paddocks. We also use our pigs to clear and rotavate the ground.

We are currently in the process of thinning and replanting in our 7-acre woodland. Taking care not to alter the biodiversity on the farm. The fallen trees are to be cleared and replanted with sustainable native species of trees.

## **Biodiversity**

Blairmore Farm is home to great wildlife. Following an ecological survey, we have discovered a wealth of wildlife living in our woodlands, grounds and fields. We have built bat boxes to provide additional housing for our bat population. Areas of our woodland have been designated to be left alone due to our population of red squirrels and we only clear fallen trees leaving the buzzard nest alone to allow the population to flourish.

In the year to come we are planting a number of hedgerows to further increase the farms biodiversity.

We also following with great interest the RBST and have a number of rare breeds that we breed on the farm.

# **Flooding**

At Blairmore we use traditionally formed clay field drains and also have re-purposed broken slate from the roofs of the steading as drainage material aid in the drainage of the land. We aim to manage flooding as far as is reasonably practicable and each year we undertake a project to help minimise flooding.

## **Transport**

Blairmore Farm works to reduce it contributions to environmental emissions from travel undertaken, and through minimising as much as possible the use of vehicle and machinery used for business purposes.

### **Procurement**

Blairmore Farm purchases good and services to minimise adverse environmental effects.

We have introduced ecologically friendly detergents and cleaning produces not only for our cottages but also in the kitchen. Ecover products are now used for all our cleaning purposes.

We have installed Low Energy light bulbs in all our cottages and public areas.

Blairmore Farm will continue to use local suppliers where possible.

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# **Our Team Members**

We recognise the responsibility staff have in contributing to good sustainable environmental management. Our team members have instigated a car pool system for travelling to work where possible.

#### **Our visitors**

Our visitors to Blairmore Farm are very important to us and theyappreciate the impact that tourism can have. In turn we have introduced policies for recycling and composting so as to help them reduce the impact.

This environmental policy and our targets will be reviewed annually. Reviewed April 2018.