

CHURCHDALE FARM

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Churchdale Farm is beautifully situated in the heart of the Peak District National Park. The three, five star cottages are located on our working sheep farm. Guests can enjoy our peaceful location. The farm is ideally located for a holiday as it is next to the Monsal Trail. Our guests enjoy leaving their cars at the farm and walking in all directions and enjoying the countryside, the flowers and the fauna and the huge variety of birds.

John and Sarah were both born and brought up on farms and love the countryside. Their aim is to help to keep this glorious part of England intact for future generations to live in and enjoy. Approximately half the guests to the cottages are repeat visits.

The farm provides the opportunity for people to experience the various seasons and cycles of sheep farming and to watch the animals grazing at close quarters in a natural environment.

Six years ago the business started a re-cycling scheme. This began to make everyone aware of the waste which was negligently produced and disposed of and from small beginnings the business is now committed to doing all it can to help the environment.

In 2007 we were delighted to be awarded a Bronze Award by the Green Business Tourism Scheme and then in 2009 we were awarded **Silver Award by the GTBS**. The GTBS is the leading sustainable tourism certification in the UK.

In 2010 the business was awarded the **Peak District Environmental Quality Mark**, the EQM. The EQM is a certification mark presented by the Peak District National Park Authority for conservation and best environmental practice.

WASTE AND REFUSE

A re-cycling station has been built next to the car park.
Bins are clearly marked for bottles, plastics, cans and paper.
A composting bin is also in use.
Ash from the log fires is re-used on the farm.
The manure produced on the farm is re-cycled as fertiliser.

ENERGY

- Low Energy Saving Light Bulbs are used extensively in the cottages.
- A new central heating system has been installed to replace the old energy inefficient night storage heaters
- Outside Lights are fitted with Infra Red Sensors (PIR's)
- All windows are double glazed and draught free.
- Roofs are well insulated
- Curtains fitted over doors to keep out the draught
- Draught strips fitted to the doors.
- TV and Videos switched off when not in use.
- Fridge freezers kept frost free and switched off when the cottages are not in use.
- Logs for the stoves sourced locally.

We believe that too many notices in the cottage are an intrusion to the enjoyment of a self catering holiday. We therefore would be grateful if our guests would endeavour to help us save the environment by switching off lights and switching off the TV's

WATER

- All showers have been fitted with aerated shower heads to reduce water consumption
- Taps are regularly checked for drips

- Kettles are all Eco Kettles so that guests only need to boil and use the required amount of water.
- Bowls are provided in all the kitchen sinks to reduce the water consumption.
- A water butt is used for collecting rain water to water the plants.
- The newly replaced toilets have a dual flush

CLEANING AND LAUNDRY

- The laundry is all done on site. We make as much use as possible of the sun and wind in line drying
- Non-biological soap powders are used
- We provide you with eco washing up liquids, wash liquids etc
- An outside washing line is provided for guests
- For deep cleaning the staff use a Steam Cleaner rather than powerful detergents.
- A non smoking policy reduces use of detergents for cleaning

PURCHASING POLICY

- As far as is practical all goods are purchased as locally as possible.
- Milk for the initial welcome is from the local dairy and the cakes are either sourced from the Chatsworth Farm Shop or Bakewell.
- The Welcome packs are all purchased from our local village shop. The shop is a one mile walk from the farm and all guests are encouraged to use it.
- Most of the cleaning materials are bought in bulk once every three months to reduce packaging waste and emissions.
- The farm has its own septic tank.
- All replacement electrical goods are purchased with a view to their energy star rating.

PLANTING AND WILDLIFE

The farm is primarily grass pasture for the sheep. We have owned the farm for over twenty years and over this time have planted specimen trees in the fields. When trees come to the end of their natural life they are replaced. We have a large plantation of mixed wood behind the hen house. This is an ideal habitat for wildlife, birds and animals. Badgers, owls and woodpeckers are just some of the wildlife living at Churchdale. We keep rare breed hens freerange. We are particularly interested in our bird life and have counted over 24 species in our garden over the last 12 months.

WALKS

Walks for all abilities are accessible directly from the front door of the cottages. Guests are encouraged to walk to the village to buy their supplies and the Monsal Trail at the bottom of the drive gives numerous walking possibilities. Maps are available.

BICYCLES

We encourage our guests to bring their bicycles with them and provide a covered bicycle storage shed. The Monsal Trail is ideal for everyone, even the young inexperienced riders.

DO ENJOY OUR WONDERFUL PEAK DISTRICT