

## GREEN POLICY

**Sustainability and being eco-friendly is at the heart of what we do at The Duke's Lodge.** We aim to implement environmental actions that are feasible, sustainable and can be built upon for the future. We comply with all legislation and regulations and monitor and evaluate our eco-policies wherever possible, with a mindset of continual improvement.

The use of local (low-miles), biodegradable and environmentally-friendly products is important to us.

We have also endeavoured to reduce the use of water and energy, and to minimise waste through recycling.

Duke's Lodge has a biomass heating system to heat the house and water, fuelled whenever possible by locally-sourced wood from fallen trees.

## SHARING THE LOVE OF LOCAL

We work with local businesses and organisations to improve the environment and encourage guests to be environmentally aware.

We encourage and make it easy for guests at Duke's Lodge to:

- recycle and minimise waste
- use biodegradable products
- shop locally
- enjoy environmentally-friendly activities
- enjoy the area, farm and countryside direct from the property

We do this by providing **comprehensive local information both at the property and online through our guest portal** (accessible after booking), covering activities, places to visit, maps and guides.

We also provide **wellington boots** and **bicycles** for guests to use during their stay.

Our **welcome hamper** is filled with locally sourced goodies and we ensure that information on where to go to get more is to hand.

## A PROPERTY WHICH PRACTISES WHAT IT PREACHES

During the renovations and building work at Duke's Lodge, we teamed up with local suppliers and tradesmen. In pursuit of the reduction of the environmental impact of the work and the property ongoing, activities included:

- installation of new double glazed windows

- re-insulation of the building
- installation of showers (not baths) with lower water-use heads
- fitting individual thermostatic and draught-sensitive heating controls in every room - radiators can be turned down if wished and turn off automatically if the sensor detects a draught (eg. from an open window)
- installation of modern toilets throughout, with minimal water-use features
- purchase of energy-efficient appliances
- installation of motion sensors in the hallways to reduce energy use
- installation of solar-powered lighting for some of the outdoor lights
- sourcing and actively upcycling almost every item of furniture
- use of low VOC paints, where paint was necessary,
- decoration of the house with local art work - some of it is even for sale!
- replacement all the light bulbs with LEDs.

In addition, for the use of guests during their stay, we provide:

- toiletries sourced from an eco-friendly company, in refillable stainless steel containers
- recycled and bamboo chopping boards
- reusable shopping bags.

**Looking to the future...** our plans include further investment in green technologies at The Duke's Lodge going forward over time including:

- EV charging point
- solar heating for the water
- wildlife cameras on the farm for guests to monitor and enjoy the natural world.

## SHARING A PASSION FOR WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENTAL FARMING

**When it comes to caring for the countryside and farming environment, the team behind the creation of Duke's Lodge couldn't be more hands-on.** And we always actively welcome suggestions from guests as to ways we can do more in this field.

Sharing our love and understanding of the land and Earsham Park Farm Estate is central to why we embarked upon renovating and sharing Duke's Lodge - as a wonderful place to stay together, to enjoy and learn about the countryside, as well as all that Norfolk and Suffolk have to offer.

We are members of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Waveney Farming Environmental Group.



Here on the farm, we have also taken a proactive hand in:

- **sharing our knowledge of hedgerow management** through a specific local open day
- digging new **ponds**
- creating **wildlife refuges** on marginal land and field edges
- putting up additional **nesting boxes**
- **safeguarding the local songbird populations** (by deliberately not having domestic cats!)
- **developing farm walks for guests** to explore the farmland and see the wildlife.

We are also preparing a **monthly online photo-led journal** to share insights with our guests into the seasons and showcase the wildlife and flora which can be enjoyed here throughout the year.

Watch this space!

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