



Our Sustainability Pledge

Sustainability is important to us and has been whilst the development of the site here at Brecks Farm.

Our aim is to provide all our guests with the utmost comfort and to do this in the most eco friendly way.

Wildlife

We are blessed to be surrounded by open fields all around us but to just be a short hop into the City centre.

Before we created the holiday cottages we had an abundance of wildlife that would frequent the fields, trees and skies.

We have over 100 bird boxes on and around the perimeter of the farm which we have installed over the years in partnership with members from the local British Ornithology Society who come regularly to check the nest boxes, ring and document the birds on the farm.

We have an abundance of Swallows who visit the farm outbuilding during the summer along with the most common birds that you will see in your garden from sparrows, blue tits and wrens.

We do feed the local birdlife so you may spot some feeding stations around the cottages especially during the winter.

We also feed the buzzard who can be seen soaring up high on a summer's day but also if you're lucky enough you might get to see the Barn owl who has taken to the boys Treehouse for his midnight snack.

You may also hear the tawny owls at night in the trees at the front of the properties.

We do occasionally get a pair of deer that like to take a stroll in the field where the wildlife pond is.

You will find a pair of binoculars and some books in the cottages to help you identify the wildlife.

Warm Cosy nights

All of our cottages are heated by a ground source heat pump. The heat pump takes heat from under the field in front of the cottages and disperses that between the cottages. All of the rooms have underfloor heating so there are no radiators in any of the properties. The pump also provides all your hot water.

Wood Burning Stoves.

All but The Mill have a small wood burning stove which will add to that snuggle up cosy feel in the winter although you are unlikely to need it with the underfloor heating!

All the logs are locally sourced from our local tree surgeon who also supplies us with the charcoal for the BBQ. He makes this from all the offcuts of wood.

Electricity

At the moment we are reliant on the national grid for our electricity which we do consume a lot of in the winter to keep you all warm and toasty.

Our mission is to be able to install Solar panels on the main barn in the farmyard and to become carbon neutral in the years to come.

Watch this space.....

The Buildings

All our cottages were fully insulated with the top of the range products and we have used all low voltage LED lighting in and around the properties to ensure the most cost effective living without cutting the costs.

All the properties had to be pressure tested to ensure that we loose as little heat as possible.

Recycle and reuse

We have installed a full range of local council recycling bins in the bay at the front of the cottages.

We recycle paper, plastic, bottles and general household waste so we ask that you kindly think about what goes in the bins.

When building the properties we ensure that we try to reuse as many materials as possible.

Traceys father did a lot of woodwork in the properties from beams to stairs but the best recycling project was an old oak tree that was felled due to disease.

This was made into the drawer and cupboard fronts in the Mill.

We don't provide you with toiletries, apart from hand wash in the cottages as we feel this is an area that does create a large amount of plastic waste. It also does cost a lot to keep all the toiletries replenished in the properties after every stay.

Think Local

Through the build we used people who had local businesses that Guy had known through his time as a kitchen and bathroom fitter.

We market our cottages through a local agent in York who in turn markets these on the national sites.

Our welcome packs are purchased from the local village stores in Wigginton and if the girls are feeling good you will have some lovely fresh eggs from our happy hens.

There are some lovely pubs in the villages of Haxby and Wigginton along with an abundance of shops from butchers, bakers, veg shops, coffee shops and if you are wanting just something a bit special then there is an amazing gift shop all just a 5 minute drive away.