

Matson Ground Estate Co Ltd – Environmental Policy

Introduction

MGECL operates Matson Ground Farm, 7 holiday lets, 125ha of woodland and about 20 residential properties. MGECL is the owner of Braesteads Farm Ltd which is a hill farm operating in Patterdale. The policy outlined below applies to all parts of the Company and to Braesteads Farm.

Matson Ground Farm is operated to organic standards (certified by Organic Farmers and Growers). All land is managed under a Higher Level Stewardship Agreement with DEFRA. We comply with OF&G and DEFRA requirements on the management of land and use of water, and DEFRA's cross compliance requirements.

We recognise our responsibility to manage the environmental impacts of our activities. Our most significant impacts include :-

- use of fossil fuels (diesel for tractors and Landrovers, and electricity (primarily in holiday flats and cold store)
- use of water
- disposal of waste water (including effluent from cleaning products in holiday lets)

We aim to prevent pollution during all farming operations and any building work by requiring adherence to best practices and by appropriate sourcing of materials and appropriate disposal of waste materials.

We intend to continually lessen adverse impacts (eg fossil fuel use) and continually improve positive areas (eg tree planting).

Our environmental policy is :-

- 1 to comply with existing relevant environmental legislation.
- 2 to identify the environmental impacts of each area of the business, to identify the largest impacts and if reasonable to implement actions to reduce those impacts.
- 3 to identify the key areas of high carbon footprint and if reasonable implement actions to reduce the footprint
- 4 to continue to plant trees and new areas of woodland and to maintain, at least, the present area of woodland.
- 5 to continue to manage the environment for wildlife.
- 6 to reuse and recycle as much as is reasonably possible all waste from holiday lets.
- 7 to ensure that contractors working on any buildings or land minimise waste and use methods and materials to control environmental impact.
- 8 to minimise use of energy on Matson Ground Farm, and in holiday lets and other residential properties (eg continue installation of low energy lighting)
- 9 to continue to supply, and to increase, sales of organic produce to local consumers (within 30 miles of Matson Ground).
- 10 to continue participation in the farm plastic waste scheme
- 11 to ensure cleaning products are ethically sourced.
- 12 to continue to monitor water and energy usage
- 13 to review levels of insulation in all rented properties and to implement a phased programme of improvement.

We will communicate this policy to all employees and contractors and this will also be made available to our holiday let customers.

Date : 2 February 2009