**Environmental Credentials**

**Intro**

At Manor House Farm Cottages, we are blessed to live in a unique and special place. We are custodians of 50 acres of ancient grass-land with many historic features, and important natural diversity. We take our responsibility for this small piece of The Peak District National Park very seriously, and always aim to preserve and enhance our surrounds.

**Heritage**

Our self-catering accommodation has been created from a range of 250 year old traditional farm buildings which are no longer suitable for agricultural use. The planning for the property conversion was done in close collaboration with The Peak District National Park Authority to ensure that the essence of these important heritage assets has been preserved.

Around the farm we have undertaken significant restoration of dry stone walls, including the reinstatement of some ancient walls which had been removed several decade ago. In total we have restored or replaced 750 meters of dry stone wall; yes, three quarters of a kilometre!

As you enter the site at Manor House Farm Cottages, you may notice a strange squat looking building near the gate, which is beginning to crumble around the edges. This was once the base for a large water tank which was fed via a sequence of pumps, from a natural spring some 600 feet below us, near the river Wye. The tank provided water to the village from 1880 until mains water arrived in 1958. This important piece of our social history is being restored and preserved with a grant through the ‘Farming in Protected Landscapes’ scheme.

**Energy**

Our holiday accommodation was converted in 2018, and meets modern insulation requirements. Despite our barns being 250 years old, they retain their heat as well and any modern house.

We installed a Biomass boiler to service our accommodation in 2018 under the ‘Renewable Heating Initiative’ scheme. All of our heating and hot water is generated from renewable biomass sources. This represents almost 80% of our total energy use across the whole site.

In 2023 we installed solar panels to the roof of one of our modern agricultural barns. The solar electricity will be stored in ‘intelligent’ Tesla batteries and provides all of our ‘peak’ energy requirement. Manor House Farm Cottages is now 95% off grid from renewable sources of energy.

EV car charging is available for our guests through a regular 3 pin socket in the car park. We plan to extend this to include fast charging facilities in future.

**Farming and Nature**

In addition to preserving our built environment, we also play our own small part in the preservation of rare and native breed livestock on the farm. We have flocks of Herdwick, Jacob, and Southdown sheep which are slow grown and grass-fed. In the summers we take in and fatten rare breed Oxford Sandy and Black weaner pigs which are raise in our woodland. In 2023 we introduced Highland Cattle which will help with the natural fertilisation of our land. Our livestock is primarily raised for meat and is grown around twice as slowly as it usual supermarket equivalent.

Our farm produced meat is sold through our onsite farm shop to our holiday guests, who can buy sausage, bacon, and eggs for breakfast, or burgers and lamb chops for the BBQ in the summer. We also post meat boxes to previous guests when we have a surplus using wool insulated packaging.

Apart from livestock farming, our other main farming activity is haymaking. We make traditional field-dried hay, the same way it has been done on hill farms for centuries. We have invested in small scale haymaking equipment and run our tractor on vegetable based bio-fuel (not like me!). We sell any surplus hay to local farmers and smallholders.

The preservation of our traditional meadows means that we are fortunate to live amongst some endangered native species, including brown hares, curlews, and skylarks. We continue to explore schemes and grants with The Peak District National Park and DEFRA which encourage wildlife havens in our field margins and lanes.

We planted a small fruit orchard of 20 trees in 2020.

**Local Environment**

We work closely with many local artisan producers to help our holiday guests to access the best that The Peak District has to offer. Our welcome gifts include locally produced biscuits, coffee which is roasted and ground locally, and our own farm eggs. Our small guest farm shop includes locally produced preserves, chutneys and cooking oil.

We provide recycling bins so that our holiday guests can recycle glass, metal, plastic, & paper. We have a compost heap for vegetable scraps, some of which can be fed to our livestock.

Our complimentary cottage toiletries all use refillable containers, and dishwasher tablets are made from plant based natural ingredients.

To minimise car use, we provide all of our guests with suggested walks from the door, and we provide safe cycle storage to encourage cycle use.