



River Dart County Park Sustainability Policy

About us

The River Dart Country Park is a camping and touring site and small visitor attraction located in 90 acres of woodland on the banks of the River, part of the 1200 acre Holne Estate. It was established in 1976 by the Simpson family, which has owned the estate for four generations. Throughout the grounds there are several lakes and extensive outdoor play areas as well as numerous instructor led activities including a recently extended high ropes course. The attraction is now open all year and is a focal point for whitewater paddle sports during the winter months when it also hosts a number of high profile kayaking events. The main house is also a popular venue for weddings and corporate events and is marketed separately as Holne Park House. Our target market is very diverse. For Holne Park House it is businesses and professionals, while for the River Dart Country Park it is adventurous families with children aged from 5 to 15 years old, schools and youth groups.

Our mission

Future generations must also be able to enjoy the park and its diverse wildlife. Therefore we will constantly strive to have as little negative impact on the environment as possible, both locally and globally. We will also educate people about what we are doing and why we are doing it. This will be with the aim of encouraging them to consider their own impact on the environment.

Education & experience

- Give our team sustainability training through an induction programme and ongoing training sessions.
- Produce material that encourages visitors to take notice of our sustainability work and encourages them to consider the wildlife in their own environment.
- Encourage visitors to participate in our various environmental initiatives, ensuring that the benefits are all clearly explained.
- Make it possible for visitors to organically understand what we are doing in terms of sustainability, why we are doing it and how it actually benefits them.
- Show people what we have achieved and answer any questions they may have.
- Facilitate research visits by school groups and other interested parties.
- Encourage visitors to consider their own impact on the environment and make appropriate changes or investments.

Consistency

- Ensure sustainability is embedded in all activities in all areas of the business.
- Be consistent in our approach to sustainability in all areas of the business.
- Ensure all staff are familiar with our approach to sustainability and give them the support and training necessary to apply our ethos to their own area of responsibility.

Measurement

- Identify social, economic and environmental measures of the sustainability projects implemented at the River Dart Country Park and use this information to develop performance indicators.
- Set improvement goals and evaluate progress based on these goals as well as through the use of the performance indicators above.

Transparency

- Publish information on our website about our sustainability performance and investments.

Behaviour

- Develop and implement projects to improve the sustainability of the business.
- Pursue a reduction in our use of energy.
- Enhance biodiversity and conservation in our grounds.
- Work closely with our local community and ensure that we only have a positive impact on it.
- Give our staff the training and support they need to always act with sustainability in mind.
- Pursue an overall reduction in waste in both the business and our supply chain.
- Minimise our use of water.
- Promote the health and wellbeing of staff in the work environment.
- Use local suppliers and encourage our guests to patronise local businesses in order to promote regional economic sustainability.
- Ensure accessibility and inclusion for the widest possible audience.
- Ensure that any eco projects will be as long lasting as the business is operating and not just a 'quick fix, short term' option.
- Prepare environmental impact assessments prior to the implementation of any project.

Roger Sell – General Manager

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