



The Water Mill

Environmental and Sustainability Policy

Available in large print – email: bookings@thewatermill-bradbourn.co.uk

Adjacent to and surrounding The Water Mill we are blessed with stunning and untouched views of the Peak District and Derbyshire countryside. Nature thrives around The Water Mill thanks to us preserving and shielding the habitats of local wildlife including the protected water vole, planting a large amount of plants and trees that encourage biodiversity, not to mention leaving sections of land to grow naturally to ensure we provide a safe haven for wildlife.

We continuously work hard to protect our acres of land while minimizing our impact on the environment through sustainable action, for example: ensuring we use local produce, tradesman and companies, conserving the local fields and picnic areas, using environmentally friendly cleaning products and saving energy where possible. We welcome our guests to do the same throughout their stay.

Energy Policies at The Water Mill

- **Reducing energy use:** the Mill is well-insulated with a boiler less than 10 years old. We also provide additional window shutters within specific bedrooms and blankets for all guests for use in the winter months.
- **Buying Renewable Energy:** We buy and use 100% renewable energy at The Water Mill.
- The Water Mill's **Hot tub** is electric; powered by 100% renewable energy. Hot tubs are kept cold and chlorinated between bookings – safer for you and better for the environment.

Accommodation policies at The Water Mill

- We use low-impact **washing powders** (Ecover) and **cleaning essentials** at the property (Method, Ecover, microfibre cloths etc)
- We leave 'unused bed and towel' signs at the property, so we do not need to wash and use energy on linen that has not been used.
- WE use **LED lightbulbs** at the Mill

- We provide **additional blankets and heavy duvets** for the colder months so the need for additional heating during the night is minimized
- All The Water Mill's **laundry** is onsite and therefore **powered by renewable energy**. This also means we are able to give our housekeeping team year-round employment
- The Water Mill was converted from a historic mill, specifically to a holiday let – it is not a second home and there is no planning permission for year-round occupation. So your stay at The Water Mill **boosts the local economy without taking accommodation away from local people**

Waste Policies at The Water Mill

- We always look to **repair rather than replace**
- The Water Mill **encourages our guests to join us in recycling** paper, glass, cans, plastics, cardboard etc, **and composting** food waste. In any case, we use a company that sorts through the waste from The Water Mill; separating recyclables from general waste to ensure nothing has been missed.
- We ask for our guests to turn off lights, appliances and water when they are not in use to avoid wasted energy.

Water policies at The Water Mill

- **Water** for nourishing our plants is mostly collect from run-off rainwater
- We take **care with what we put down our drains**, using eco-friendly washing up liquid and detergent only
- The Water Mill's **hot tub is an optional add-on**; we charge per stay to cover the extra resources (the water and renewable energy). We use environmentally-friendly chemicals and any waste water from the hot tubs supports the section of land opposite the Mill that accommodates a number of flourishing trees.

Transport Policies at The Water Mill

- We encourage our guests to use public transport and provide them with **information on local bus routes and how to arrive here via train/ bus**.
- We **encourage our guests to visit local** pubs and cafes, attractions and sites, that are within walking distance of the Mill; maps are provided at the property. We also post local events on our social media sites, and local days out on our website.
- We **provide bike storage** so guests can visit the local area. We are also **affiliated with a bike company** that can drop off a selection of bikes to our guests for the duration of their stay.
- We are **due to install EV charging at the property**. We currently provide an outside three pin socket for electric car charging and indicate to guests where they can charge their car whilst visiting the Peak District.

Land Management at The Water Mill

- We plant trees, wild flowers, and a range of local flora to encourage local wildlife including butterflies and bees, while further promoting biodiversity on our grounds. This is an ongoing commitment and one which we hope will offset our carbon emissions.
- We ensure the land around the river is partially obstructed by trees and overgrown with wildflowers and plants to ensure guests do not disturb the protected water vole that resides here alongside other local wildlife.
- We do not allow pets at The Water Mill so not to disturb or harm local wildlife such as pheasants, badgers, water voles, stouts, birds or foxes.
- Collecting flowers, dead wood or disturbing wildlife is forbidden. Hunting is also forbidden.

Sustainable Business Policies at The Water Mill

- The Water Mill promotes local food producers and retailers (including a refill station for eco-friendly products, located in Ashbourne). Guests can 'order ahead' before they arrive. Our Welcome hamper is full to the brim with local produce from the Peak District, with fresh bread and milk from Ashbourne, cheese from Cromford, crackers and biscuits from Ashbourne, chocolates, jam and chutney from Bakewell
- We purchase locally to minimize environmental damage through road and air miles. Should it be unavoidable, we do order in bulk to save on packaging.
- Our office records are kept electronically or on re-used paper and we heat our office with renewable energy. All ink cartridges are recycled.
- We work with local businesses to provide final touches and activities for our guests
- We encourage and promote to our guests the 'Respect, Protect and Enjoy' campaign when discussing the idea of exploring the peak district. We also leave a copy of the Countryside Code at our cottage.
- We have a separate green policy within the Office that details our goals regarding employee education on the green policy, and office standards for green and sustainable practice.

At The Water Mill we recognize we can always be doing more. We do welcome suggestions to reduce our impact on the environment further. We commit ourselves to review this policy and continuously improve our sustainable and eco-friendly practices.