



Environmental Policy

The Straw Bale Cabin and the Straw Bale Cottage show case environmentally responsible building. Although there are a handful of straw bale houses in the UK, these are the first holiday homes. We aim to provide good quality accommodation in a countryside setting whilst demonstrating that straw can be used to create a beautiful yet practical, durable and energy efficient home.

The buildings have super-insulated walls of locally grown wheat straw rendered externally with lime and internally with clay. They will keep the building warm in winter and cool in summer, reducing the amount of energy needed for heating. Both the Straw Bale Cabin and Cottage have their roofs insulated with sheep's wool. They have wooden double glazed windows, wooden floors, natural paints and finishes and a variety of other environmentally friendly features (see below).

We have a great little railway station nearby; quiet but well served by trains from everywhere in the UK. To encourage train travel we offer a collection service on arrival, free use of bicycles, a buy local shopping service and a small honesty shop. We provide OS maps and ideas for walks, bike rides and train trips so that everyone can enjoy all that this part of Yorkshire has to offer.

We provide organic towels and bedding, local hand-made natural guest soaps, recycled kitchen roll and recycled loo roll. We provide composting facilities and a wormery. We collect glass, plastic, paper, cartons and tins for recycling.

Only environmentally friendly products are used for cleaning and laundry. Guests are requested not to use bleach or any other chemicals that would harm the delicate balance of our site eco system.

Our “Green” libraries contain many books and magazines about building with straw and other eco friendly materials together with photographic records of our own straw bale journey. There are other books too – nature, poetry, romance and thrillers and a good selection of games and jigsaws.

Most of our furniture and fittings are recycled, carefully chosen for their good quality from local charities and small ads – diverted from landfill and given a new lease of life.

The Straw Bale Cabin

The south facing roof of the Cabin is perfect for the solar thermal panel. It provides hot water for a significant part of the year to shower and wash up (but there is mains backup for those odd times when the sun doesn't shine!)

A micro wind turbine and solar photovoltaic panel provide sufficient renewable 12V energy for the lights, fridge and 12V kettle. There is a 1KW inverter to provide 240V for small appliances such as lamps, phone chargers or a laptop for example. There is not enough renewable power for heating or cooking so there is a mains supply of electricity for these. A wind up radio, torch and lantern are also provided.

The Straw Bale Cottage

As the Cottage roof faces east/west it is not ideal for solar energy collection. Instead, the Dunsley Highlander log stove provides heating and hot water from renewable wood fuel. The whole system works by gravity. As there is no pump, there will still be heat and hot water in the Cottage during a power cut.

Electricity for the back up immersion heater in summer is 100% renewable from Good Energy. There is an extra coil and wiring to the hot water tank ready for the day when

we can afford a small wind turbine or solar panel on site for this purpose.

The cooker runs on propane gas. Although this form of gas is not technically renewable, it is an instant heat source that is far less wasteful and far more efficient than electricity. Perhaps one day biogas will replace propane?!!

A wind up radio, torch and lantern are also provided.