

# The Great Tew Estate

## Environmental Policy

The Great Tew Estate is situated in North West Oxfordshire. The Estate comprises of 2,000 acres of arable, 750 acres let grazing along with woodland, parkland and game crops for the shoot. The farm has been in environmental schemes since 2009 and is committed to maintaining and improving the biodiversity of the estate, whilst continuing to farm commercially.

Pollinators play a vital role on the farm, there are 30 bee hives situated around the estate along with 20 acres of pollen and nectar mix to provide food and habitat for various insect species. 25 acres of wild bird seed margins provide both summer and winter food for farmland birds, lapwing plots are also situated in some of the arable fields. Where building work has taken place trees are planted to offset the visual and environmental impact. Where habitats have been lost in the case of old buildings being renovated, owl and bats boxes are put up to replace them. The Estate has in excess of 42km of hedges and 1,300m of dry stone walling.

Energy/fuel use is monitored regularly by comparing the fuel used with the hours worked for each machine to measure efficiency. Solar energy is harnessed by the 250kWh of solar panels with excess energy feeding in to the national grid. The majority of the tractors are ad-blue to reduce emissions.

The soil types are ironstone, heavy clay, sandy loam and limestone brash. Tracked machinery is used where possible to reduce compaction and the majority of the straw is reincorporated. Compost is applied to maintain organic matter levels and increase Potassium and Phosphorus. All of the permanent pasture is in environmental schemes and no inorganic fertiliser is applied to it. Sheep and cattle on graze the grassland between the months of April and October to reduce the risk of poaching and maintain habitat.

Water quality is protected by ensuring there are 6 meter grass buffer strips alongside all watercourses and ditches. These grass margins also provide habitat for natural predators such as ground beetles. Cover crops are planted on some of the light land over winter to prevent nutrient leaching and field drains are maintained to prevent waterlogging. Regulation and legislation such as NVZ rules and timing of hedge cutting are complied with. The majority of waste produced on the farm is recycled, this has now extended to the offices and will continue to be reviewed and improved.

The LEAF membership will be used as a means of engaging and educating the local community. The annual audit will serve as a review point for the year to assess the farms performance.