



## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY STATEMENT

### OUR AIMS:

**Walby Farm Park aims to farm sustainably, to the best environmental standards. We will strive to protect and enhance the long-term future of wildlife and the environment, whilst protecting our heritage.**

**We aim to provide a valuable educational facility for all those that visit Walby Farm Park.**

### OUR POLICY:

- Land is entered into the Countryside Stewardship Scheme at Entry Level. There are 3 key objectives at Walby Farm Park:

**The Landscape:** To maintain and enhance the Solway basin landscape by managing lowland pastures and fen as well as restoring hedges.

**The Wildlife:** By the sympathetic management of pastures and fen, and by the creation of wildlife and arable margins along with arable stubbles, as well as increasing the diversity of herbs and fine grasses, and improve breeding conditions for ground nesting birds.

**History/archaeology:** To maintain the traditional field pattern of the area by restoring hedges.

Walby Farm Park therefore delivers higher levels of environmental management and enhancement.

- Our pond has created a habitat for pond wildlife and also provide a valuable education facility for 'hands on' learning where children can participate in pond dipping.
- There is also a range of wetland at Walby Farm Park, this again provides a habitat for wetland flora and fauna. The wetland is managed in its natural state and is frequently the site of lapwings and other rare breeds of birds.
- Walby Farm Park lies in the Solway Basin, a mile from the River Eden and is built on top of the line of Hadrian's Wall, a World Heritage Site. Walby Farm works with English Heritage and local authorities to conserve the remains of this monument whilst carrying


out the business of a working farm and open farm visitor centre.

- The business will meet or exceed all relevant environmental legislation.
- We minimise energy and water consumption as far as possible and aim to reduce the use of all raw materials, energy and supplies. For example, the toilet facilities are operated using an economy flush system. Water is sourced for our farming operations by our own borehole that we drilled on our land, providing a sustainable supply.
- Manure is put back on the land to replenish the soils nutrient levels and organic matter.
- We installed solar PV panels on to our Play Barn roof so that we can generate and use our own electricity, supplying any surplus back to the National Grid.
- We actively promote the role of the Rare Breed Survival Trust and have achieved RBST Approved Conservation Centre Status. Walby Farm Park is home to a number of rare breeds including one of the largest remaining herds of Bagot Goats. We are involved in the conservation, breeding and promotion of rare breeds and demonstrate the importance of rare breeds to our visitors as well as to school children on educational visits.
- We recycle all glass, tin and cardboard used on the farm.
- Cooking oil from our kitchen is recycled into biodiesel and food waste is entered into our Hotbin Composters.

This Environmental Policy applies to all aspects of our work. All the team at Walby Farm Park share in the responsibility for the success of the Environmental Policy. The owners, management and wider team are responsible for promoting and implementing the businesses positive approach to sustainability, and to ensure that the Environmental Policy is communicated to all team members through the induction programme, information that can then be passed onto the visitors during their visit to Walby Farm Park.

The Environmental and sustainability Policy is used to raise awareness and to encourage participation in environmental matters by highlighting the importance of the policy when delivering educational visits to school children.

The owners are responsible for regular monitoring and review of the Environmental Policy so it is kept relevant, up-to-date and is used across the farm.

Signed: 

Date: 2 January 2016