

BUDOCK VEAN

THE HOTEL ON THE RIVER

GREEN FACT SHEET

Since 2004 the Budock Vean has been one of the most proactive hotels in Cornwall in terms of instigating a suitable environmentally friendly policy. We have won numerous sustainability awards, as listed on the back of this sheet. We are an Ambassador for COAST; a member of the International Tree Foundation and a corporate member of Cornwall Wildlife Trust. We are totally committed to purchasing as many products and services as possible from Cornwall and particularly local based suppliers, on the basis that they meet our requirements of value, quality and reliability of supply. Menus clearly show items that have been purchased locally.

This fact sheet gives you a brief run down of improvements we have made.

Reducing water consumption

- Demand for water irrigation has been reduced by the introduction of perennials and shrubs. We no longer irrigate using mains water but drawing water from the hotel's own bore hole and storage tanks.
- One specific project which helped achieve the objective of not using mains water for irrigation was the installation in 2006 of a specially designed system to recycle chlorinated water from the swimming pool and hot tub into a pressurised tank. All water backwashed from the pool and hot tub goes to the storage tank, where it is initially treated with enzymes. Then, before being used for irrigation, the water is passed through a UV filter.
- We manage the grounds organically.
- Water use awareness amongst our team is high with a 'switch-off' culture.

Reducing energy consumption

- All bedroom kettles are less than 1000w.
- We use towel cards in all the bathrooms and invite guests to use towels for as long as possible. We are of course happy to change as required.
- Our light bulbs are of the low energy variety.
- Dimmer switches are installed in the Golf Bar, Main Restaurant, Country Club Room, Pendennis Lounge, Helford Lounge, Trelissick Lounge, snooker room and Health Spa. This represents more than 50% of our public rooms.
- TRV's are fitted to over 90% of all radiators.
- All external lights are either activated by timers or light sensitive cells.
- Time clocks are used on all heating and hot water boilers in the hotel. In addition a thermostatic control is used to control the swimming pool boiler.
- The hot tub is covered to retain heat from 10:00pm to 8:00am.
- Following a program of replacement over recent years, double glazing is installed to more than 60% of windows in the hotel.
- In 2009 we introduced a liquid pool cover to the swimming pool. This forms a harmless liquid layer which covers the pool at all times. When the water is still there is no release of steam from the pool and heat is retained. This has reduced our swimming pool oil consumption by 35%
- In 2013 we have installed electric charging points for plug-in cars. These points are available for guests to use completely free of charge.

Reducing waste

- Food waste is composted on site and used by the Gardening team around the grounds.
- Information about recycling is included in our Guest Information Folders which are in all the guest bedrooms and self-catering cottages. All guest bedrooms have a recycling bag in the room next to the general waste bin. All the self-catering cottages have a green recycling bin alongside a black general waste bin.
- Green Waste is all composted and used on site. No green waste leaves the estate. We have built two large compost pens to manage green waste produced on site.
- Timber arising from woodland management scheme is all used on site for hotel log fires and for making useful things to enhance the grounds, including for example, several bench seats for guests, a gazebo and bird tables.
- Cooking and edible oils are purchased from a Cornish company. Used oil is put back into the cans and these are collected by the company and recycled.
- We use a range of high quality toiletries from Elemis and have elected to provide these to guests in refillable bottles. We buy in larger bulk containers and from these we refill the bottles in the guest bathrooms for each new arrival. In this way, we reduce plastic waste by continually reusing the same bottles.
- All office cartridges are collected by a specialist contractor and recycled.
- We use recycled toilet paper in all hotel bathrooms.

Introducing local, seasonal and sustainable foods to your plate

- Our Cornish suppliers include Mathew Stevens providing fish and shellfish landed at Newlyn and other local ports, Brian Etherington supplying meats from Cornish farms, Roskilly's ice creams, Hawkridge Farm cheeses, Camel Valley wines, Helford River oysters, Skinners beer, milk from Newlands Farm, yoghurt from Gwavas Farm, Boddingtons strawberry jam, Rodda's clotted cream, and our own Budock Vean Honey from bees on-site.
- Our Tregothnan tea is grown and blended just 10 miles from the hotel at the Tregothnan Estate. Origin coffee is roasted in Helston and purchased direct from the farmer to ensure a fair practices.
- Herbs and wild garlic are grown on-site. We also use daffodils and other flowers, in season grown on site at the hotel, in bedrooms and on the dinner tables.
- We source natural products where possible and appropriate such as Spiezia Organic skin care products, which we use in the Health Spa. They are the only range of 100% organic skin care and beauty products available in the UK as certified by the Soil Association and they are also made locally in Truro.
- Paper used in the office and Reception is made from pulp produced from timber from sustainable forest. This includes plain white and other coloured paper as well as our hotel letter heads, compliment slips, envelopes and headed card folders.

Encouraging Wildlife

- We are situated within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and adjacent to a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), as well as being in close proximity to several Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Local and National Nature Reserves (LNNR). As such all measures have been taken to ensure the preservation of biodiversity and landscape both within and outside the estate boundaries, using organic methods to deal with the grounds.
- The woodland at Budock Vean is subject to a Woodland Grant Scheme for nature reserve purposes and all operations adhere to Forestry Commission, DeFRA and English Nature guidelines.
- Non native invasive species are in the process of being removed from the woodland and grounds generally. Over 2500 new native trees have so far been planted in the last 9 years, the vast majority propagated on site. These trees are of local provenance. The Cornish oaks have come from the internationally significant ASNW of Calamansack and so are indicative of the ancient Helford River Oak woodlands.
- In May 2010 we welcomed the arrival of our own Honey bees. This will help the dwindling number of bees in the UK and at the same time produce honey for breakfast.
- A list of fauna and wildlife which can be found on the estate is available from reception.
- Large ancient semi-natural tree species have been identified and maintained to prolong their life. An aeration system designed specifically for large specimens has been adopted.
- A new Cornish orchard and management of remnant orchard areas have allowed for a collection of over 15 different varieties of Cornish apple trees to be established, including one new discovery, currently and unofficially known as the Budock Vean Pippin Seedling (at least until its first propagated offspring bare fruit and this is still to be verified).

Community Participation

- The hotel actively supports local wildlife and landscape initiatives and organisations. In 2006 the hotel became a corporate member of the Cornwall Wildlife Trust and in March 2005 became a corporate member of the International Tree Foundation.
- 30 nest boxes, bat boxes and feeding stations as well as an otter holt have been introduced to increase biodiversity of fauna. The otter holt was built in conjunction with the Cornwall Wildlife Trust and the British Trust of Conservation Volunteers.
- The hotel is also a member of Westcountry Woodsmen, The Helford River Association, The Helford Voluntary Marine Conservation Area and South West Forest Products Network.
- Annually, we take at least two or three school students in for work experience placements organised through their school.
- We have also helped to fund the Parish Map, initiated by our very active Parish Council. It provides a wonderful document, full of useful local information including local footpaths for our guests.
- In 2007 we supported the Mawnan Anvil Trust by donating £1000. In 1851 there were four working smithies serving nineteen farms in the parish but sadly in 1994 the doors were closed on the only one remaining for the last time. The Mawnan Anvil Trust restored The Smithy in Carwinion Road and it opened its doors again in 2007.

Awards & Accolades

Considerate Hotel of the Year 2010 ~ Cornwall Tourism Awards 2007 – Sustainable tourism initiative of the year ~ Green Tourism Business Scheme – Gold since 2006 ~ Cornwall Sustainability Awards 2007 - Winner for medium business category ~ Cornwall Sustainability Awards 2006 - Winner for medium business category ~ Cornwall Tourism Awards 2006 - Cornish Distinctiveness Champion - Silver ~ Cornwall Tourism Awards 2006 - Sustainable Tourism of the Year – Silver ~ Cornwall Tourism Awards 2005 – Cornish Distinctiveness Champion of the Year – Bronze ~ Cornwall Sustainability Awards 2005