



# Environmental Statement

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## Our Commitment

We are committed to running our cookery school in a way that respects the local environment, protects wildlife, and supports sustainability.

## Protecting the Land and Wildlife

- The marquee is a temporary structure – it is removed after each block of use, with no permanent impact on the land and we have no works requirements that involve the disturbance of local habitats, trees, or hedgerows.
- Lighting and noise have been carefully planned to avoid disruption to wildlife.
- Waste is collected and separated daily in accordance with our Waste Management plan. Litter is collected into a locking front loading bin, to prevent harm to animals.

## Supporting Sustainability

- **Local sourcing:** The ethos of the cookery school is to source the overwhelming majority of food and drink produce from local growers and suppliers, reducing transport emissions and supporting the regional rural economy. Many of our local suppliers come from within 20 miles of the farm, helping us to generate the lowest possible food miles.
- **Reusable or recycled serviceware:** We serve food and drink from enamelware and silverware, which is washed and reused after each session - or from recycled, compostable vegware. We are therefore avoiding plastic waste.
- **Low-impact design:** The marquee uses efficient heating and lighting systems to minimise energy use.

## Rewilding of Agden Valley

- Alongside our investment in the buildings on the farm, we are also leasing and investing in the rewilding of the 20 acre Agden Valley, adjacent to the site. Our plan has been to return the valley to its natural state, leaving it free to reseed itself with native flora and fauna.
- In the past few years, we have witnessed the exciting natural regrowth of over 250 oak saplings. We have also seen a dramatic increase in avian wildlife (including housemartins, red kites, multiple kestrel families), as well as the moving of river voles venturing further south of the reserve.
- We have always kept Agden Valley open to walkers, and have no intentions of fencing off the rights of way. We welcome dogs, as we keep no grazing stock, and we fully support community access to this green space.

## St. Mary's Rostherne & Rostherne Mere

- Rostherne Mere, a Site of Scientific Special Interest (SSSI), a National Nature Reserve (NNR) and a Ramsar Wetland site of International importance, is just over a mile away. We do not anticipate that any wildlife from this area will travel to the farm, but are confident our rewilding plans will welcome them if they do.
- We have engaged with the PCC at St Mary's Rostherne, who have confirmed that they have no objection to our plans. We have the service schedule on file and have direct correspondence with the warden to ensure that there are no disturbances to services at the church.