

Environmental Policy & Environmental Impact Assessment

We aim for all our participants and staff to engender a high level of respect for the natural world and encourage all to be involved in decisions about their environment and safety. Our site is largely agricultural land, with a small strip of woodland and a stream, new planted willow areas, more than 100 windbreak trees planted around the fields and a rabbit and deer protected nursery where fruit trees and berry bushes are being grown to be planted out later on the land and some vegetables.

Minimising Impacts

Activity	Impact Mitigation
Collecting Wood	Limit the frequency of fires and evaluate the amount of dry, dead wood before having a fire. Collect only the minimum amount required for any given fire, and reserve specific areas for dead wood conservation. Purchased firewood should come from renewable sources.
Fires	Limit fires to the designated fire circle. If possible, dispose of ash into patches of nettles. Ensure that all fires are extinguished fully before leaving. In other locations, use a fire-bowl to contain fire.
Cooking	Provide a safe container or compost site for food waste.
Tree climbing, shelter building & swings	Restrict these activities to suitable trees that will tolerate them.
Collecting Nature	Choose samples of abundant plants, rather than ones where there are very few present. Children will be shown how to handle wild animals (such as invertebrates, frogs and newts) safely and with care and respect.

Habitat	Avoid damage to habitat of protected species, including nesting birds in the spring and hibernating animals in winter. Clear paths are allocated as safe walking areas.
Young trees and saplings	Care should be taken not to damage young plants
Workshop materials	Willow and hazel are specially grown for to be harvested for workshop activities.
Nursery/forest garden	This is a protected area for food growing. Access can be arranged by those who want to help with gardening, otherwise this area is out of bounds.
Water	Compost toilets placed well away from water. The river is not suitable for washing. A low impact method is provided for hand washing, to avoid use of too much water. of washing hands Use of phosphate free detergents is encouraged. Water from showers drains into a reed bed area.
Vehicles on site	Vehicles are limited to the designated track and parking spaces. Other access is sometimes permitted to drop off and pick up items, if the land is sufficiently dry.
Purchasing	Where possible, PowerWood purchases products that have been assessed for having a lower impact on the environment.
Rubbish and recycling	Rubbish and recycling is stored safely, then taken off site for disposal.