



## **Sustainability at Denbies Wine Estate 2022**

### ***Our Policy***

As a working farm and tourist destination located in the Surrey Hills AONB, Denbies Wine Estate and our staff take responsibility for the environment and our surrounding countryside. Denbies Estate houses a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) known in particular for its rare acid grasses. Denbies strives to maintain the balance between both agricultural and visitor centre operations on this diversified site.

Denbies is a unique model in that it supports primary, secondary and tertiary business operations, which in itself means that the growing of the grapes to the bottling and selling of the wine all takes place on one site.

**This statement demonstrates how we, as a business, are committed to achieving our goals:**

- Denbies complies with the requirements of environmental legislation and welcome new regulations that genuinely reduce our impact on the environment.
- We work to reduce pollution, emissions and waste.
- We continuously strive to reduce the use of energy, water and other resources we consume.
- We support environmental groups and other charitable companies to not only help our environment but the local community.
- We work closely with likeminded companies in all areas of the business.

### ***Helping the Environment***

- Denbies have extended the woodland area by planting 1,600 oak and hazel trees.
- On-going work on the estate is also taking place in conjunction with Natural England and the Forestry Commission to further enhance this unique area in the heart of the Surrey Hills.
- 265 acres of vines are constantly being maintained and Denbies current expansion over the last 24 months, programme has included the planting of 45,000 vines. These particular vines have been selected for their high disease and frost resistance which require less maintenance.



- Denbies work closely with Surrey Wildlife Trust and the reintroduction of two beekeeping sites to the estate is part of our long-term investment in wider countryside issues, including leaving dedicated areas of vineyard to natural wild flower growth.
- Denbies is the first vineyard in the UK to become members of the Bat Conservation Trust. Three bat ‘rocket boxes’ have been installed near the woodland area of the vineyard to encourage pest management, based on research from US vineyards.

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/winemakers-are-building-houses-bats-make-vineyards-greener-180956381/?no-ist>

### ***Reduce Carbon Footprint***

- We supply information on public transport links on our website.
- We continue to have strong relationships and offers with local railway links (e.g. southern railway).
- Investment in our website has created easy to use instructions and information to almost 100% eliminate the use of printed material (February 2022). Visitors are also encouraged to use the website for information.
- The vineyard tractors are experimenting with bio-diesel fuels to measure efficiency and output, bio-diesel burns cleaner than diesel, producing less particulate and fewer sulphur compounds.

### ***Saving Water and Energy***

- The water usage within our building is minimised through the use of low-flush toilets, metering and other devices.
- All lighting has been replaced with LED lighting.
- Denbies have installed motion sensitive lighting systems.
- Heating systems are monitored on a weekly basis with an aim to reduce as much energy usage as possible.
- Energy efficient hand dryers have been installed throughout.
- NOx Class 6 New Boiler installation –  
Air quality has become a significant environmental issue all over the world, particularly in larger cities where motor vehicles and heating homes both contribute significantly to air pollution. Some of the more important pollutants are the oxides of nitrogen which contribute to the formation of smog and acid rain. NOx is a generic term for the nitrogen oxides that are most relevant to air pollution, namely nitric oxide (NO) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2). These gases are usually produced from the reaction between nitrogen and oxygen during the combustion of hydrocarbon fuels in air, especially at the higher temperatures encountered in



car engines and boilers. This legislation was further tightened when NOx class 6 was introduced and became a mandatory requirement under ErP in September 2018. This reduced the maximum NOx level allowed from 70mg/kWh for class 5 down to 62mg/kWh for class 6 (based on the net calorific value of gas). At the same time as NOx class 6 was introduced the method of calculation was changed to be based on the gross calorific value of natural gas, where-as previously net calorific value was used when calculating NOx classes 1 to 5. This resulted in a new maximum NOx limit of 56mg/kWh.

Denbies boilers have NOx levels lower than the maximum limit of 56mg/kWh for class 6.

### ***Green Work Practices***

- Denbies has joined and been awarded a GOLD membership status by Greentourism.com, which offers credible, trustworthy, independent guidance to tourism businesses wishing to operate sustainably.
- Our staff are encouraged to be environmentally friendly through our cycle to work scheme, use of public transportation and car sharing.
- When starting, staff are briefed on our sustainability here at Denbies to ensure that the Denbies Team are familiar with the evolving sustainability practices throughout the building.
- Denbies on-line Staff Newsletter now includes a Green focus section
- All staff adhere to considering the environment before printing with the added consideration within internal and external email signatures.
- The marketing team use email/emarketing as the main means to reach existing customers and new clients, print production has been reduced by 90% in the past 5 years.
- Internal communications are now all directed electronically – including payroll
- Denbies played an integral part in the introduction of the Leith Hill Greenway Trail. **The Leith Hill Greenway Trail** is a 15km multi-user off road route linking Box Hill to Leith Hill. A section of the vineyard was incorporated to support the initiative which was completed in 2021. <https://www.surreyhills.org/discover-route/leith-hill-greenway/>

### ***Increased Recycling***

- We have our own recycling program to curb our waste to avoid sending anything to landfill and where applicable we will use business waste as compost.



## ***Catering and Retail***

- We source and use locally produced food and drink products.
- Staffs dealing with food and food service are fully briefed on the source and characteristics of local food and drink products.
- We source locally produced food, drink, arts, crafts and gifts products for our Gift Shop in order to honour our commitment to sustainable management and support the local community.
- All gift wrapping and carrier bags used within our Gift Shop are 100% recyclable.
- Energy saving measures -  
Progressive energy-saving measures have been introduced, with low energy LED lighting installed throughout the building, sensor switches and low-flushing toilets.

The commitment to sustainable practice is embedded in the ethos of Denbies Wine Estate Ltd.

## ***Denbies Vineyard Hotel***

In September 2019 the Vineyard Hotel opened on the estate. The hotel is located in the middle of the Denbies' vineyard and offers 17 en-suite rooms with a restaurant and bar area. Denbies is committed to establish best practice in green-tourism. Therefore the architect sought to adopt some of the best measures to achieve carbon neutral status, reducing the impact on the environment and blending the hotel building into the natural surroundings of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the North Downs.

### ***Solar panel installation -***

The overall goal of carbon neutrality is to achieve a zero-carbon footprint and many measures have been put in place to achieve this at the hotel. The building has high level thermal insulation and low energy lighting, meaning minimal heat loss and energy efficiency. Solar panels have been installed to generate power that is stored in Tesla batteries for use throughout the building 24 hours a day. Excess power is put back into the grid therefore reducing the overall power usage in the entire building. Electric car charging points and cycle parking encourage visitors to use sustainable transport methods.

Solar energy generated is managed by an intelligent control system. This system then distributes the power where it is required for heating and electricity within the building. Any excess power will go straight to the grid.

The Vineyard Hotel at Denbies Wine Estate is one of the first hotel in England which is carbon neutral. Hotel guests enjoy the benefit of knowing that their stay will have a positive



environmental impact and that they are directly contributing to the green status of the beautiful estate that they are visiting.

#### ***New for 2022 – Investment in PV solar generation***

At a time where climate friendly solutions are in the greatest demand, Christopher White, Denbies CEO, has pledged to offset the investment in future projects with a percentage investment in green initiatives.

Spring 2022, by doubling the power generated from PV panels feeding into 15KW of Tesla batteries, the hotel runs self-sufficiently, 24 hours a day.

Outside the hotel, electric car charging points and cycle parking facilities have been installed to encourage visitors to use sustainable transport methods.

#### ***Architect and design/building process -***

The hotel is designed to blend into the natural surroundings of the North Downs and fit specific AONB criteria. One of the main challenges was to ensure that the building was in keeping with the desired aesthetics and functionality, whilst being sympathetic to its surroundings. A key objective of the hotel project was for the building to sit within the ethos of Denbies and exist in harmony with Denbies Visitor Centre, therefore the original Denbies Winery architect, Tony Oke was commissioned to design and oversee the project.

#### ***Energy saving measures -***

Progressive energy-saving measures have been introduced, with low energy LED lighting installed throughout the building, sensor switches and low-flushing toilets. The commitment to sustainable practice is embedded in the ethos of Denbies and is reflected in Denbies' Green Tourism Gold status.

#### ***Commitment to green tourism -***

Ultimately, the hotel has been designed with long-term environmental benefits in mind. Instead of adding carbon to the atmosphere and thus possibly contributing to global warming, the hotel will essentially conserve and protect the environment.

#### ***Corporate Commitment to Sustainable Issues***

- All charity related events incur no room hire.
- Denbies continue to actively involved and support local charities. Denbies has supported the MND Association for over 20 years.



Denbies keep abreast of legislation and welcome new regulations that genuinely reduce their impact. Denbies like to support environmental groups and other charitable companies to not only help our environment but the local community.

### *Partnerships within the Denbies Estate*

Several likeminded businesses are now located either within or adjacent to the winery building. Main criteria include – supporting local producers/health and well-being/sustainable best practise/community based/local employer

- Surrey Hills Physiotherapy - <https://www.surreyhillsphysiotherapy.co.uk/>
- Surrey Hills Brewery - <https://surreyhills.co.uk/>
- Village Green Farm Shop - <http://www.vgfarmshop.com/>
- Just Pedal bike hire - <https://just-pedal.com/>
- Paradox Parlours Escape Rooms - <https://paradoxparlours.com/escape-rooms/dorking>
- Park Run - community based 5k weekly run - <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/>

### **Vineyard/Winery Best practice**

- Denbies Vineyard and Winery is a certified and founder member of the **Sustainable wines of Great Britain**. This Trade Mark may only be used by WineGB members who have successfully completed a Scheme audit, conducted by Ricardo (Auditing Partner), within the last three years. <https://www.winegb.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/SWGB-Guidelines-2021.pdf>

- Denbies winery has been audited and awarded a SALSA accreditation, as follows:

#### THE SALSA STANDARD

The SALSA standard was written by experienced food safety experts to reflect both the legal requirements of producers and the enhanced expectations of 'best practice' of professional food buyers. Approval certification is only granted to suppliers who are able to demonstrate to a SALSA auditor that they are able to produce safe and legal food and are committed to continually meeting the requirements of the SALSA standard.

- Denbies is a member of NRoSO – National Register of spray operators

What is NRoSO?



A central register of sprayer operators using Continuing Professional Development (CPD) as a means of ensuring ongoing training.

- Denbies participates in the National Sprayer Testing Scheme, this a voluntary nationally recognised accreditation
- Denbies is one of the first vineyards in the UK to make use of Using Precision Viticulture (PV) to aid Vineyard Management. By adopting this methodology, Denbies can specifically target the areas of the vineyard that require nutrients etc in order to operate a more efficient approach, reduce spraying together with reduction in costs.
- Biofuel tractors – trial of tractor to measure efficiency and output, bio-diesel burns cleaner than diesel, producing less particulate and fewer sulphur compounds.

**Further announcements will be released shortly on Denbies' next phase of eco initiatives that will positively benefit the environment in Surrey and the surrounding areas.**

July 2022

<ENDS>