

UFFORD PARK WOODBRIDGE HOTEL, GOLF & SPA



Sector	Hospitality	<p>Ufford Park Woodbridge HOTEL GOLF SPA <i>Gateway to Suffolk's Heritage Coast...</i></p>
Business size	Medium	
Area(s) of green Expertise	Energy efficiency, Food, Green Buildings Procurement, Waste	
Business network/ Club membership	Suffolk Coastal Heathlands, Chamber of Commerce, FSB, IOD, RSPB	
Website	www.uffordpark.co.uk	

About the business

Ufford Park Woodbridge is a 90 bedroom independent hotel with an 18 hole golf course, health club (Pool & Gym) and luxury thermal suite spa. This family owned & run business is set in 120 acres of parkland with wedding, conference & events facilities with bar & restaurant, all open to both day visitors & residents.



Environmental highlights

Our Green-keepers minimise their chemical use on the golf course and prefer sustainable & natural methods of caring for the greens & fairways. 10,000 trees have been planted over the 20 year ownership of the premises. In 1997 a reservoir was built to hold 4 million gallons of water to boost the existing summer water supply to irrigate the golf course. In March 2012 48 PV solar panels were installed to help heat & light half the complex including the swimming pool & spa. There is a 5 acre conservation/wet woodland area within 120 acres, which is also home to honey bees & a wild flower plantation. LED lights installed into all the Public Areas & bedroom corridors in the older part of the hotel & 30 low energy electric heaters were installed in Nov/Dec.14.

Green credentials

Won The English Golfer Environmental Award in 2005 in recognition of commitment to ecological good practice. The Silver Award for Green Tourism since approx. 2000. Most recently Bronze Suffolk Carbon Charter Award Jan 15.

A summary of environmental achievements

Ufford Park Woodbridge has always recognised their social and environmental responsibilities on behalf of their guests, employees and the local community. Being a family and local business it has always been pleased to support local schools and charitable organisations through donations for fund raising, work experience placements for students and mentoring to schools in the locality. This included raising approx. £20,000 for the East Anglian Air Ambulance (which is one of 3 charities we routinely support).

In 1997 after the droughts of summer 1993-6, we built a reservoir on the golf course, to hold 4 million gallons of winter water which is used for irrigating the golf course. The construction utilised 14,000 redundant car tyres, covered in soil, to reduce wear and tear and give the waterproof lining a more natural appearance. The tyres were delivered by a local supplier as an eco-friendly alternative to disposing of them. The grounds and golf course operate nature friendly policies and have developed a natural habitat for wildlife and flora, RSPB bird counts identifying some 68 species of bird across the site.

Personal testimony

With a building our size and the fact that over 20 years it has been extended & extended going as Green as we would like has not been commercially viable. BUT we have done as much as practical and still wish to do more. Having organisations who can help companies who typically do not tick all the boxes has been invaluable. There is always so much paperwork to wade through when applying for any kind of grants but help from Aimee Clarke (from Groundwork) has made it as painless as possible.

Key lessons

Hindsight is a wonderful thing but we would have looked at the bigger picture every time we expanded if we could do it again - for ways to conserve energy for the whole complex as one example, we could have relocated boilers etc. from the outset.

Where did I get my advice?

Groundwork Suffolk and Suffolk Coastal District Council