



UK Holiday Parks Campsites are Making a Positive Contribution to the Natural Environment

'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment', sets out what the UK government aims to do to improve the environment, within a generation¹.

It aims to deliver cleaner air and water in our cities and rural landscapes, protect threatened species and provide richer wildlife habitats. It calls for an approach to agriculture, forestry, land use and fishing that puts the environment first.

By adopting this plan, the UK government hopes to achieve²:

- clean air
- clean and plentiful water
- thriving plants and wildlife
- a reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards such as flooding and drought
- use of resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently
- enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment

Policy and regulations surrounding the use of natural capital is evolving quickly. In the UK, the plan-making process is well underway and could give rise to a range of institutional and policy reforms, including changes to regulations and incentives that may affect how businesses operate, innovate and invest³.

According to the Prime Minister:

"By using our land more sustainably and creating new habitats for wildlife, including by planting more trees, we can arrest the decline in native species and improve our biodiversity. By tackling the scourge of waste plastic we can make our oceans cleaner and healthier. Connecting more people with the environment will promote greater well-being."

¹<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

The David Bellamy Conservation Award Scheme

The David Bellamy Conservation Award Scheme is one of many green tourism awards in the UK.

The scheme started with a pilot programme in 1996. The idea behind the awards is to celebrate what the best parks are doing for the British countryside and to encourage others to follow their lead.

"My dream is to upgrade all caravan parks up to some sort of conservation status so that they can educate the visiting public and help them respect and care for the countryside."

David Bellamy

The Awards have now been running for over 20 years and, with over 570 parks currently participating. They offer holiday makers and park home owners a proven way to choose parks that are making real strides to be environmentally sensitive and wildlife friendly.

"The proof of the effectiveness of the scheme is seen in the fact that participating parks are demonstrably working to make themselves more beneficial to wildlife and, at the same time, more attractive to green tourists. Not only are these parks helping to tackle the problems facing the British countryside, they are also helping more people to get out to experience, enjoy and, as a result, cherish that countryside."

Rufus Bellamy

There are other schemes also contributing to environmental sustainability such as green tourism.

²https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69315/8/25-year-environment-plan.pdf

³<https://www.wwf.org.uk/25YEP>

Holiday parks/campsites are supporting the environment and conservation in a number of ways

Holiday park/campsite operators are often uniquely positioned to support a range of environmental and conservation activities given the amount of green space they are responsible for. Operators participating in the 2019 Economic Benefits study⁴ highlighted the following:

- **recycling** – which was highlighted by the majority and included the education of guests and phasing out plastics
- **energy and water conservation** – through water harvesting, solar panels, light sensors and low wattage solutions, compost toilets
- **David Bellamy Award participation** – some have now achieved gold
- **support for local wildlife** – including a range of conservation projects across flora and fauna; some engaged in Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- **sustainable accommodation** – including upcycling of materials
- **restricted vehicle movement** – some have no car policy

The word cloud below shows the **importance of recycling, the environment, conservation and the David Bellamy Award Programme:**



Comments from holiday park/campsite operators included:

"We have introduced water and energy saving initiatives deployed via the 'Save It' campaign and are considering negative emissions technologies in collaboration with buying specifications for new assets."

Wales

"We have a central recycling depot and we only have refillable cups and paper straws and recyclable packaging for our take away food. The shop only stocks green carrier bags that disintegrate in water made from plant/vegetation and do not break down to micro plastics."

England

"All our huts are made from recycled materials, we do not allow cars to the door so conserving the woodland they are in. All service points have separate bins for recycling. Bird and insect boxes around the site."

Scotland

"Engaged in Bellamy Scheme, encourage recycling, educate guests and children regarding environment. Always looking for ways to reduce energy and water consumption and investing in energy efficient technology where cost effective to help achieve this i.e. solar panels."

England

⁴ This report can be found at www.ukcca.org.uk