

Kitley House Hotel



Photo: courtesy of Kitley House Hotel

Overview

Kitley House Hotel and Restaurant is a historic country house located near Plymouth, Devon. The hotel provides a venue for country breaks, weddings and other events such as murder mystery evenings. The natural environment is an important feature of Kitley, which has been designated as a Devon County Wildlife Site in recognition of its unique status and habitat. It is also situated within an Area of Outstanding Beauty.

The managers have implemented a number of environmental measures to help care for the hotel's surroundings and reduce its carbon footprint but have also taken this further, to consider how the hotel will be increasingly affected by climate change, and what can be done to prepare. As part of this, it is recognised that;

- Longer, warmer summer will create a 'Riviera Effect' which could extend the peak tourist season, changing how the South West region is marketed. This is perhaps good for tourism but the benefits can only be maximised if businesses prepare for them
- Impacts of climate change may adversely affect the ability to travel – transport links may deteriorate
- The natural environment, which is a major attraction for tourists, may be degraded – both as a result of direct climate change impacts and of increased pressures from higher visitor numbers

Climate change adaptation measures:

- Investing time into the management of estate – e.g. the company has raised access pathways beside water
- Staff training about adaptation methods
- Purchase locally to tackle the concern over affects of travel and reduce disruption from extreme weather events
- The landscaping has been changed to create habitats to attract wildlife in grounds
- Integrated water efficiency to help reduce the demand for water

A number of climate change mitigation measures have also been implemented, including:

- New plant investment in the kitchen to reduce power usage. Specifically new freezer to replace 6 smaller ones and change ovens to electric

Benefits

- £2,000 a year has been saved after fitting water pressure reducing valves
- More customers attracted by wildlife areas and “green” credentials
- Silver award achieved from South Hams Green Business Tourism Scheme

Benefits from other sustainability measures include:

- A total of £13,000 a year has been saved through new environmental management actions
- Saving of over £2,000 a year have been achieved by changes to lighting
- Over 60% of the hotel refuse is now recycled and this is increasing

Challenges

- Capital costs of new plant was a significant inhibitor
- Installation costs were reasonable but timing was difficult due to business commitments
- Access to information regarding power consumption was difficult on some equipment

Further thoughts

- Importance of networking.
- Contact organisations such as Envision www.envisionsw.org.uk and Envirowise www.envirowise.gov.uk for further information and practical help
- Use the government support and information.
- Green Tourism Business Scheme – good practical tool allowing for self-measurement and step-by-step approach www.green-business.co.uk

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Relevant links:

Website: www.kitleyhousehotel.com