

Ballyboley Dexters and Orlock Farm Sustainability Policy

At Ballyboley Dexters and Orlock Farm, sustainability means caring for the land, animals, people and local community in a way that supports the farm for generations to come. We aim to share a genuine, working coastal farm with visitors while protecting the landscape, wildlife and heritage that make this place special.

Our Farming Approach

We farm using regenerative, pasture-based principles. Our Dexter cattle are raised on forage only, with no meal or concentrate feed, and we do not use artificial fertiliser or slurry.

By working with grass, grazing and natural cycles, we aim to build healthy soils, protect water quality, reduce reliance on bought-in inputs and support a more resilient farming system.

Animal Welfare

The welfare of our animals is central to everything we do. We provide attentive daily care for our cattle and manage them in a way that supports their natural behaviour, health and wellbeing.

We believe that good food starts with good farming: animals reared carefully on pasture, with traceability from our fields to the food we serve.

Nature and Biodiversity

Our coastal farmland is home to grassland habitats, hedgerows, birds, insects and pollinators. We manage the farm with wildlife in mind and seek practical ways to protect and enhance biodiversity as the business develops.

We also care for native Black Irish bees and use our visitor experiences to help people understand the importance of pollinators, pasture and healthy natural systems.[1]

Local Food and Farm-to-Fork

We are proud to produce pasture-fed Dexter beef from our own farm and serve it through our farm-to-fork events and experiences. Keeping food close to home helps visitors understand where it comes from, how it is produced and why careful farming matters.

Where possible, we work with local suppliers, makers and producers, choosing seasonal ingredients and services that reflect the food, skills and character of our area.

Responsible Visitor Experiences

Our experiences are designed for small groups and an unhurried pace, helping visitors connect with the land, animals, food and stories of Orlock Farm. From guided walks and bee experiences to wild dining and music events, we aim to offer welcoming, meaningful visits with a light touch on the farm.

We ask all visitors to respect the countryside, follow farm guidance, take litter home or use the bins provided, and help us keep the farm safe for animals, wildlife and future guests.

Reducing Waste and Resource Use

We aim to use resources carefully across the farm and our visitor activities. This includes reducing unnecessary single-use items, separating and recycling waste where facilities allow, using reusable equipment where practical, and avoiding food waste through sensible menu planning and portioning.

As our visitor offer grows, we will continue to look for realistic ways to improve energy efficiency, reduce waste and make thoughtful purchasing decisions.

Community and Heritage

Orlock Farm is a family-run farm rooted in its local landscape, farming traditions and coastal community. We want our activities to create positive local benefit by supporting local businesses, sharing knowledge, welcoming visitors and creating opportunities for people to experience rural life in a respectful, enjoyable way.

We will continue to tell the stories of the farm, its people, its animals and its place in the wider heritage of Ards and North Down.

Our Commitment

Sustainability is an ongoing journey, not a finished task. We will review this policy regularly, set practical improvement actions where we can, and welcome ideas from visitors, neighbours, suppliers and community partners.

By choosing to visit, eat with us or support Ballyboley Dexters and Orlock Farm, you are helping us care for a working farm, native breeds, pollinators, local food and the coastal landscape we are proud to call home.