



Leading organic farming
practice in the UK

Delivering sustainability

Investing for the future

What is Pollybell Organic Farm?

Pollybell Organic Farm is one of the UK's largest growers of organic vegetables and cereals. The farm is owned and run by the Brown family who have been involved with farming in the East Midlands for over 120 years.

The farm, part of Loveden Estates, employs 14 full-time staff and up to a further 80 seasonal staff. It is approximately 5,000 acres surrounded by the villages of Epworth, Westwoodside, Misterton, Gringley, Everton, Mission and Wroot. We started the conversion to organic in 1997 and now have 3,500 acres that are fully organic (certified by the Soil Association) with a further 350 that are in conversion, which takes a minimum of 2 years.

What do we do?

We grow organic broccoli, cauliflower, four types of cabbage, curly kale, bunched carrots, beetroot, leeks, onions, Swiss chard, wheat, barley and beans.

We supply all sorts of businesses including box schemes, local greengrocers, pubs and restaurants through wholesalers, processors, multiple retailers, animal feeds and export markets.

Leading the way

In 2008 Pollybell was named Organic Grower of the Year, in 2010 it won the regional Beautiful Farm Award and in 2011 we were awarded winner of the Land Management Category from British Trust for Ornithology with 133 different species of bird recorded on the farm in 2010. This is our sixth win in the biannual competition and over the last decade we have recorded over 190 species of birds on the farm.

The farm has invested heavily in innovative technologies some of which are firsts for the UK. These help reduce our



need for agency workers while at the same time employing more highly skilled local staff full time. This process is ongoing.

Looking after our environment

Our farm, which includes three Sites of Special Scientific Interest and an historic monument, is sympathetically and actively managed to monitor and encourage a number of species on the government's bio-diversity action plan. These species include barn owls, lapwings, brown hares and English grey partridge.



Our two full time conservation managers and everyone involved with the farm works hard to ensure that the best possible environment is maintained to encourage wildlife. This work includes leaving winter stubbles until February to provide shelter and a food source to farmland birds over the winter months, putting up nesting boxes for the owls and setting up bird feeding stations.

To ensure that the existing natural habitat is not overstretched we have also planted 48 acres of woodland, 2,934 trees and 21,660 metres of hedgerows – that's enough hedgerow to enclose every Premiership and Championship football pitch in England and still have enough left over to enclose the top seven teams in league one!

Active in our community

We enjoy being active in the local community. Our staff sit on

local water management and drainage committees. We regularly host educational visits from a wide range of groups including agricultural colleges, local community groups and the Soil Association. We have also provided work experience for a number of students on agricultural and environmental related studies. Annually we lend Misson Village use of our yard, fields and river banks for their annual duck race and help clear local villages, including Gringley, of snow during the winter.



Accreditations

We operate to the highest standards of food safety, efficient crop production, worker welfare and caring for the environment. In addition to our own rigorous checks we also welcome regularly external audits by, amongst others:

- Soil Association (audit organic status)
- Leaf Marque
- Red Tractor
- SEDEX
- Tesco Nurture
- M&S Field to Fork
- Waitrose Farm & Rural Assessment



Sustainability

The farm is very conscious about long term sustainability both in terms of our production methods, sourcing and energy and water efficiency.

We work under the guiding principles espoused by the Department for Agriculture and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) who define organic agriculture as, "a

whole system approach based upon a set of processes resulting in a sustainable ecosystem, safe food, good nutrition, animal welfare and social justice."

We constantly monitor water and energy usage and net carbon emissions and we are committed to looking at ways to reduce the impact our farm has on the wider environment.

Investing for the future

As part of our ongoing commitment to producing organic food for UK families we are investing in the farm. We are applying for planning permission to extend our existing cold storage facilities and add a production area to enable us to offer better value to our customers.

This facility will be an agricultural building for crops grown by the Pollybell Organic Farm on its own land. We believe that this development exceeds the limit for agricultural notification even though there is no change of use.

Visual Impact

Pollybell produces vegetables for UK major multiple supermarkets. It is important that the crops are stored and packed in a pristine, hygienic environment, the supermarket customers regularly audit their suppliers premises and inspect their farming practices.

The proposal is to extend the existing 688 square meters building by a further 1576 square metres. This would be the same eaves and ridge height as the existing and match the same colour.



Location

The proposed extension is based at Little Carr Farm, Carr Road, Gringley-on-the-Hill DN10 4SN. There is an existing set of cold stores, staff amenity block and farm cottage. The nearest 3rd party dwelling is about 1km from the proposed extension.

Energy Efficiency

The building will be constructed with the most up to date levels of insulations. The chilling equipment used will as energy efficient as possible and low energy lighting will be used where possible subject to a safe working environment.

Pollybell has been working with the Soil Association looking at carbon emission and following on from this is undertaking a feasibility study into using renewable energy to power the existing and proposed extension to the cold stores. The feasibility study is looking at the merits of solar photo-voltaic cells, a wind turbine or anaerobic digestion. Subject to the outcome of the study it is envisaged that a planning application may be made for the installation of a renewable energy source at a future date.

Access

Produce will continue to be brought into the store via tractor and trailers predominately from our farm roads to the north, east and west of the site. (Little Carr Farm is the last property serviced by Carr Road before it becomes a farm track). Produce will leave the farm in refrigerated lorries via Carr Road. It is not envisaged that this development will add to the number of lorries leaving the farm when compared to the historic traffic level generated by the previous conventional farming operation.

Planning Policies

In preparing this planning application the following planning policies have been considered and followed:

The Bassetlaw Local Plan approved in October 2001

- Policy 2/14 Expansion of existing businesses
- Policy 6/13 Protection of Chesterfield canal
- Policy 6/15 Development for Agricultural purposes
- Policy 6/16 Expansion of existing agricultural operations

National Planning Policies

- PPS7 Sustainable rural economy
- PPS4 Prosperous Local Economies