

~~**VOLUNTARY CODE OF PRACTICE
TO CONTROL THE SITING OF POLYTUNNELS IN HEREFORDSHIRE**~~

**THE HEREFORDSHIRE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE TEMPORARY AGRICULTURAL
USE OF POLYTUNNELS**

1. Introduction

This Code of Practice is intended to apply to the use of ‘Spanish’ type ~~temporary~~ polytunnels ~~only~~ which consist of ~~temporary~~ metal frames, covered with polythene and ~~where~~ produce crops are grown in the existing soil. In addition, the Code of Practice is not intended to have effect where, in the opinion of Herefordshire Council as Local Planning Authority (LPA) on the facts available, that planning permission is required.

2. The Code of Practice

The code requires a grower to provide the LPA with information on a Polytunnel Checklist. This information will be used to determine if planning permission is required.

If the criteria is met, (planning permission is not required), the grower undertakes to provide notice to the Council confirming that notification has been given to the ~~parish~~ relevant Parish Council(s) and nearby neighbours of the intention to erect polytunnels.

3. Terms of the Code of Practice

- Siting of polytunnels will be ~~30~~ 50 metres from the nearest elevation of any dwelling subject to variation of that distance by agreement with that neighbour.
- Within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the grower will submit a landscape impact statement accompanied by ~~short term~~ mitigation measures. This may include the use of less reflective coloured ground cover plastic and less luminent polythene (less reflective) on the polytunnels.
 - Outside an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty the grower is encouraged to use less reflective coloured ground cover plastic and less luminent polythene (less reflective) on the polytunnels and to make provision for screening where appropriate.
 - Siting of polytunnels shall be restricted to 2 years (being a complete season) subject to the polyethylene covering being removed from the frames for a minimum period of 6 months in any calendar year.
- ~~Polythene covering of the frames shall be restricted to a time period necessary to meet customer quality requirements subject to a maximum period of 6 months in any calendar year.~~
- Polytunnel framework shall be removed from the land in accordance with the statement on the Polytunnel Checklist.
- Notice will be given by the grower to the Council confirming written or verbal notice has been given to the Parish Council(s) and nearby neighbours.

Polytunnel users will use all reasonable endeavours to -

- Avoid disturbance to nearby residents at unsociable hours.
- By best management practice avoid noise nuisance to nearby residents from unsecured polythene, pumps or other activity sources.
- Store unused polythene away from public view, waste polythene to be removed from the land and be recycled.

Compliance with the terms of this code will bring benefits to growers, residents who live near to polytunnel sites and Herefordshire Council, in terms of information and notice.

Herefordshire Council as Local Planning Authority will regard compliance with terms of the ~~Voluntary~~ Herefordshire Code of Practice as a material consideration when investigating any complaint or consideration as to the expediency of instigating enforcement action.

POLYTUNNEL CHECKLIST



The purpose of this checklist is to provide Planning Services with information on which to advise a grower on the need for planning permission. If it is clear from the information provided by the grower that planning permission is required the voluntary code of practice does not apply. A separate checklist form should be completed for each location where a grower wishes to erect polytunnels.

Name and address of applicant	Site of Polytunnel (if different)
Full name	Address
Address
.....
..... Postcode
Tel. No. Postcode

1. Approximate date erection of polytunnels commencing:	
2. Overall size of farm:	
3. Type of crop:	
4. Method of growing – in ground, grow bag on the ground or off-ground:	
5a). Area covered by polythene c) method of irrigation <u>eg electricity.</u>	b) height of polytunnel d) any other services connected eg electricity
6. Expected period of time polythene to be in position	
7a. Approximate date of removal of metal hoops, fixings and frames from land: 7b. <u>Written confirmation that land has been cleared shall be sent to Planning Services within one month of 7a.</u>	
8. Method of disposal of waste polythene:	
9. Location plan enclosed:	Yes / No
10. <u>Landscape impact statement – i.e. Within and adjacent to an AONB submission of a landscape impact statement to include a map showing where polytunnels can be viewed from and proposed mitigation measures. E.g. leaving hedges untrimmed, erecting grey/green mesh wind breaks, tree planting.</u>	Yes/No
<u>Do you wish the information provided to remain confidential</u>	Yes / No

Signed(Applicant/Agent)
Date

Notice may be sent to the Local Planning Authority by Fax: 01432 261970, or to: Planning Services, PO Box 230, Blueschool House, Blueschool Street, Hereford, HR1 2ZB.

NOTICE TO HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

From:	
If you have any comments to make or wish to discuss my proposal please telephone:	

Prior notice of the proposed erection of polytunnels at:	
Expected date of erection:	
Expected date of removal:	
I confirm I have notified the <u>relevant</u> Parish Council(<u>s</u>) and near neighbours	Signed: Dated:

Please send this notice to Planning Services, Herefordshire Council, Blueschool House, Blueschool Street, Hereford, HR1 2ZB, or by fax: 01432 261970.