

# CLAPDALE WOOL

Dalesbred | BFL | Mule | Texel

From farm  
to yarn in 50 miles

Traceable Yorkshire Dales Wool

Glencroft®

EST. 1987



Bleak Bank Farm, Clapdale, Yorkshire Dales



Packing fleeces into wool sheets



Justina, Richard and Edward Sexton, Glencroft

# Increasing the price of wool

Our local sheep farmers were receiving as little as 15p per kg (about 45p per whole fleece) for their wool. This does not cover the cost of shearing the sheep, a task that must be done annually for the animal's welfare. In some cases, it was cheaper for farmers to dispose of the wool than transport it for sale.



Glencroft's Clapdale Wool project pays farmers a minimum of £1 per kg for their wool plus a share of 10% of the profits of every product sold (yarn, jumpers, tweed).

We want to create a circular local economy for wool and bring back value for a versatile and natural product that grows on the hills around us – in the Yorkshire dale of 'Clapdale'.

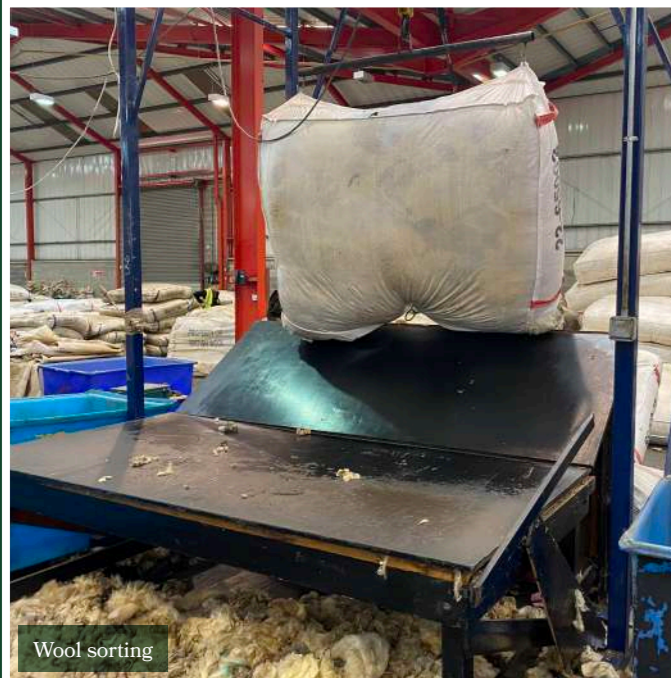
## The farmers

Clapdale Wool currently uses the wool on seven farms within 10 miles of Glencroft's warehouse in the Yorkshire Dales village of Clapham.



## Community

Glencroft is a family business established in 1987, second generation owner Edward went to school with many of the local farmers and we interact with them and this small local rural community every day. It's important to us that our business can contribute positively to the community we live in.



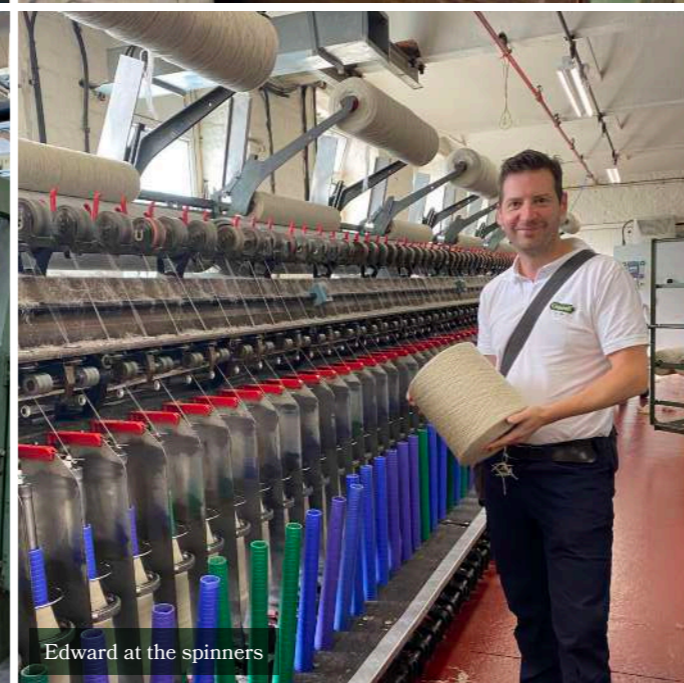
Wool sorting



Wool carding and combing



Weaving blankets



Edward at the spinners

# Are your jumpers made from local sheep?

This is a question that in the past visitors to the Glencroft warehouse in Clapham, Yorkshire Dales would often ask us. We'd have to explain that 'no, while we do use 100% British Wool from British sheep and manufacture our knitwear in the North of England. The wool itself is purchased from a merchant and we can't trace it back to the exact farms it came from.'

However we always wanted to be able to answer 'yes!' to this question. In 2020 with the help of wool experts, farmers and a grant from the Yorkshire Dales National Park, we made our dream a reality and took the first bales of raw wool from two local farms.



## Collected

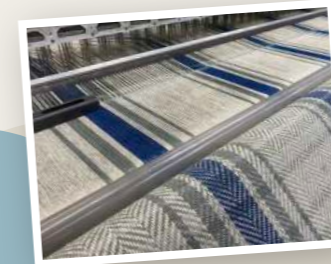
Clapham, Yorkshire Dales National Park

## Scoured

Haworth Scouring, Bradford

## Woven

Mallaliues of Delph



## Woolen Spun Yarn

Gardiner Yarns, Huddersfield



We work with a variety of factories across the North of England to create jumpers, flat caps and other Clapdale Wool clothing.



## Carded

IMT, Bingley



## Worsted Spun Yarn

Laxtons, Shipley





Texel



Bluefaced Leicester



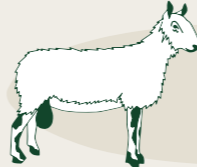

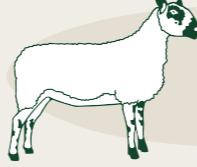
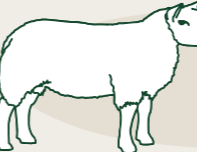
Dalesbred

# Sheep breeds

Clapdale Wool uses all our local sheep breeds, both the traditional and the modern. We currently use two different blends, best identified by how we spin them.

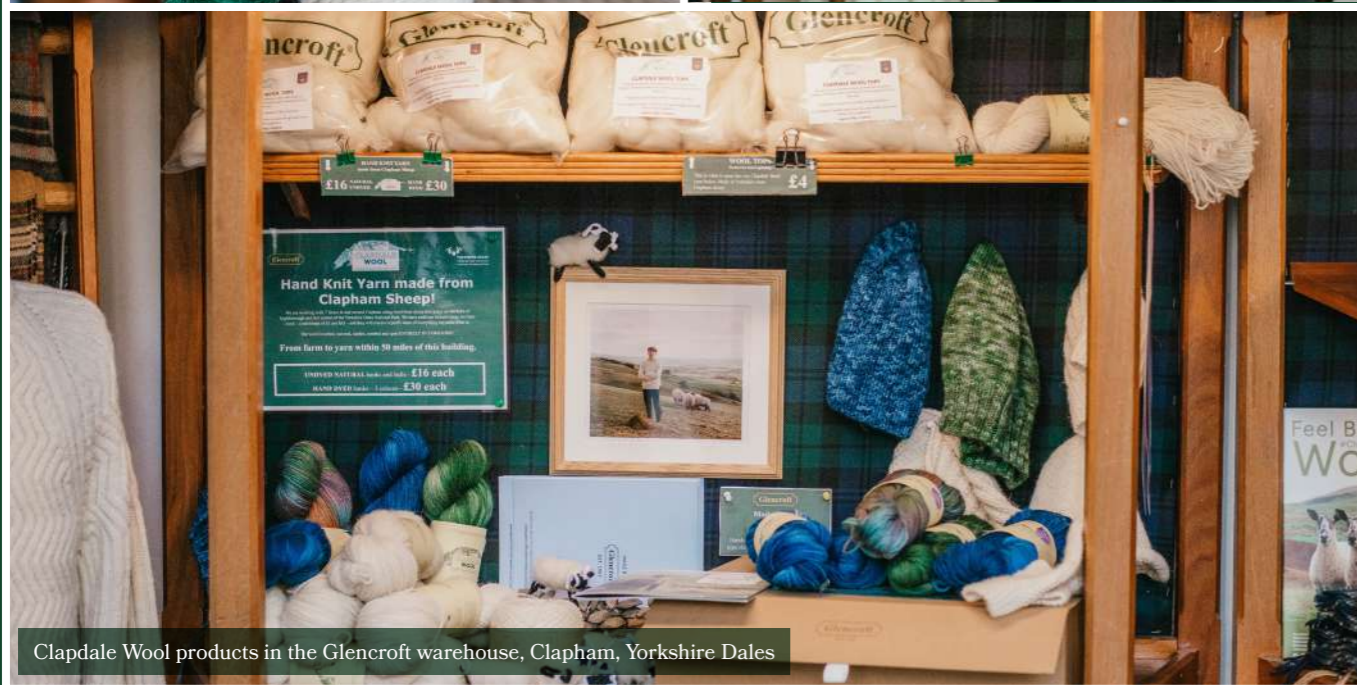
- 1 *Worsted spun* - this uses all the breeds and becomes our hand knit wool and knitwear.
- 2 *Woollen spun* - this uses primarily Dalesbred wool for our woven cloth and blankets.

## Wool by breed contained in Clapdale Wool, %

Local Breed	Worsted spun	Woollen spun
 <p>Bluefaced Leicester</p>	6%	
 <p>Dalesbred</p>	10%	68%~
 <p>North of England Mule</p>	64% medium ewes no. 2*	
 <p>Texel</p>	20% medium ewes no. 1*	



\* British Wool doesn't separate the wool from these two breeds by breed, but by texture ("medium ewes no. 1" and "no. 2"), "no. 1" are the softer fleeces. We know 84% is from these two breeds, but can't be sure of the exact breakdown.  
 ~ Our original intention was to have 100% Dalesbred but discovered as we begun the spinning process that this would create a yarn that was too thick for the weaving machines. This was not something we could easily predict when we started, we therefore blended in 32% of a softer Cheviot breed British Wool to achieve the desired yarn specification. We had to buy this in as it was over ten months from shearing when we got to this point. In future we will source the Cheviot or similar breed more locally.



Clapdale Wool products in the Glencroft warehouse, Clapham, Yorkshire Dales

# Sustainable Wool

Glencroft jumpers are made from 100% wool making them more durable and longer-lasting than jumpers made from synthetic fibres.



*Did you know?*  
If you wear your jumper **400** times this can reduce its environmental impact by **49-68%**

Length of time the jumper is worn	Cost per wear – Clapdale Wool Cattlegrid Jumper (RRP £199.95)
3.3 years (approx. 181 wears)	£1.10
10 years (approx. 548 wears)	£0.37
20 years (approx. 1097 wears)	£0.18
30 years (approx. 1647 wears)	£0.12



*Environmental impact - full life cycle of a jumper*

Glencroft 100% Wool Jumper

**21kg CO<sup>2</sup>**

Average 100% Synthetic Jumper

**65kg CO<sup>2</sup>**

Based on 109 wear average (Wiedemann et al., 2020) and jumper weight of 875g. Results calculated using data collected in a 2018 report (Nolimal, 2018).

At Glencroft we believe in slow fashion. This means producing garments which are excellent quality and incredibly durable, lasting you generations. This is not only better for the environment, but better for your wallet.

\*On average in the UK, people actively use garments for just 3.3 years before they are disposed of and would likely wear a wool jumper 181 times during this period. Source: (Nautiyal et al., 2023) (Cooper and Claxton, 2022)



## Biogenic Carbon

Biogenic carbon means carbon which is part of the natural carbon cycle.

## Wool and Carbon

(Swan, 2024)

### What's the difference?

Fossil carbon is more problematic than naturally occurring biogenic carbon. When fossil fuels are burnt this creates fossilised carbon, which is released into the atmosphere as CO<sup>2</sup>. Biogenic carbon is part of a cycle, where organic carbon is absorbed and released into the atmosphere through plants and animals.

## Wool and the Carbon Cycle

Unlike the fossilised carbon which is created when synthetic fabrics are produced, sheep are part of the natural carbon cycle. This means that sheep naturally consume and produce carbon. Carbon is stored in plants and soil, so whenever sheep graze they are consuming carbon. Through the sheep's respiration and digestive processes, this carbon is then released back into the atmosphere.

## Fossil Carbon

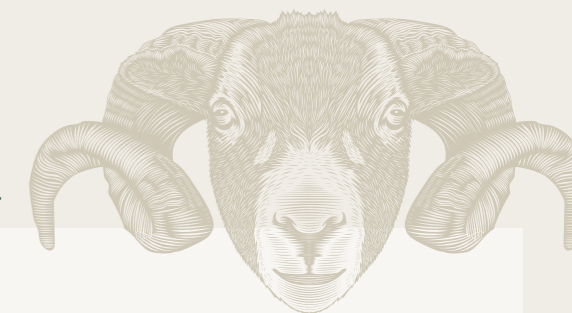
Fossil carbon means carbon which comes from fossil fuels, e.g. coal, gas and oil.



Our thanks to the University of York MSc in Sustainable Business: Leadership, Innovation and Management for this analysis and information (Amani et al., 2024).



# Wool Care Guide



If washed carefully (and rarely), wool products can last a lifetime.

## Care

*Heat and spin drying can shrink or felt wool, particularly 100% British wool.*

**HAND WASH IN COLD WATER** - The safest way to wash woollen items is to put them in a bath with cold water and wool detergent, soak for 10 minutes or so, then gently wash by hand. Rinse thoroughly. Be very careful if using a washing machine, even experts like us have shrunk jumpers on a 'hand wash' setting so it's safer to avoid them!

**AVOID HEAT & SPIN** - Don't tumble dry, spin or place on the radiator or direct sunlight.

**WASH LESS** - It's important to note though that wool really doesn't have to be washed very often. It's an amazing fibre that's both breathable and anti-bacterial – unlike man-made fibres.

**AIR DRY FLAT** - Dry the item flat, first by lying it between towels and getting rid of most of the excess, then leave it to dry naturally. Placing flat across the top of an ainer or clothes horse is perfect. Try to avoid hanging when wet as this can stretch the item.

**'WEAR & AIR'** - Hanging a jumper up outside will often be enough to refresh it. NB: This jumper will always smell of wool!

*Your wool item can look great for many years if washed this way.*

**MOTHS** - Moths can attack woollen items if not used for a few weeks, particularly in warmer climates and houses. Vacuum pack woollen items when not in use for long periods to prevent this.

## Repair - how to darn

Thread the darning needle with the wool yarn and make a knot at the end.

Anchor the yarn by weaving it in and out of the stitches around the hole a few times, be sure to go 2cm or so beyond the hole and into the strong fabric. Start by darning vertically, working your way up and down the hole.

Once you have darned vertically, start darning horizontally, weaving in and out of the vertical strands.

Trim any excess yarn and weave the ends in.

## Reuse and recycle

Once woollen items reach the end of their lives we encourage you to first reuse them – such as by donating to vintage or charity shops – and finally recycle at your local textile bank.

Wool is a natural fibre so once it finally reaches the soil it will biodegrade.



EST. 1987

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