



Fordhall Organic Farm

Teacher Pack

Discover at
Fordhall
Organic Farm



Fordhall Organic Farm

Education Group Visits

Target Group/ Curriculum links	Activity Title	Content and Focus
<u>KS1, KS2, KS3 and KS4</u> Science, Geography PSHE. Business Studies	Farm to Fork Tour 	Guided farm tour. A practical hands-on half day including: Fordhall and FCLI's history, organic principles, tasting and debating, cows, lambs, pigs, worms, grasses activities. Tailored to all age groups.
<u>KS1, KS2, KS3 & KS4</u> Design and Technology, PSHE, STEM	Wild Woodlands including Shelter Building 	Woodland Shelter Building and a Campfire. A comprehensive woodland-based session with seasonal, practical experiences. Tool skills and whittling available for groups no larger than 10 from KS2 and above. Works well in conjunction with Trails and Navigation or a guided farm tour.
<u>KS1 and KS2</u> Science	Habitat Hunt 	Stream, Woodland or Meadow Mini-beast Hunt. Rivers/Ponds.
<u>KS1, KS2 & KS3</u> Science, English Geography, PSHE, Maths, Technology	Eco Cooking, Organic Farming and Sustainable Living Farm Shop 	Looking at where our food comes from and how it ends up on our plates. Nutritional information as well as cooking, tasting and debating.

Activities we offer



All our sessions are practical and hands-on.

Sessions can be adapted to suit the requirements of the group and the needs of the school. We can deliver sessions for groups with special educational needs, please ask for further details on booking.

Each activity session lasts for up to 2 hours. We encourage groups to choose **two** activities and stay for the day using our picnic area or shelter for a picnic.

Booking a Visit



Staffing

Experienced FCLI education staff will host your visit. We recommend a ratio of one adult to six children for Nursery and KS1 and a minimum of one adult to ten children for older pupils.

Teachers and Group Leaders must remain with your group at all times and are responsible for the group's behaviour.

Health and Safety

We have trained first aiders on site. The Farm and all our activities are risk assessed and these are available once a booking has been made.

Charges

We offer some free-of-charge farming-based group visits on a first come first served basis (subject to a feedback form being completed on the day of visit) – please enquire when booking.

Two-hour session/visit: **£175.00 (price increase for Eco-cooking)**

Dry space for lunches and baggage storage: **£30**

Please note:

- Maximum group size of one standard class/35. Minimum group size/10.
- Payment via invoice in advance.
- If cancelling a pre-booked visit, please give at least 8 weeks' notice. Or it will result in payment in full.
- We carry on in most weathers, but contingency plans will be made where needed.
- We recommend a visit to the farm before you visit with your group.
- At the end of your visit please take home all picnic waste.

Please enquire if your group size is larger than 35 and we will try to accommodate.

An information pack for **teachers and education group leaders** **The Past, the Present and the Future**

The pastures at Fordhall have been organic for over 70 years, providing rich and diverse habitats and an abundance of wildlife. Our tenant farmer, Ben Hollins, runs our Foggage farming system. Everything produced at Fordhall is sold direct to the public either through our onsite farm shop, farmers markets, our online shop or through our catering trailers at local events.



The Fordhall Community Land Initiative (FCLI) was created in 2005 to save Fordhall Organic Farm from development and to utilise the land as a community resource. It successfully raised £800,000 through the sale of non-profit making shares in a high-profile campaign, making it England's first ever community owned farm. As a Community Benefit Society its main purpose was to provide affordable and accessible land to new and young entrants to

farming and to increase access and awareness of sustainable food and farming.



recycled newspaper insulation, sheep's wool insulation, Welsh slate, lime plasters, clay paints and recycled aggregate paving. We also generate our own electricity using PV Panels and generate our own heat using an air source heat pump.

Owned by its 8,000 strong membership, Fordhall Organic Farm is a community asset for all to enjoy.

The FCLI provides free farm trails, educational visits, newsletters, an organic café, meeting room space (in our eco-building), events, a youth project working with young people who struggle in the classroom setting, a care farm working with adults with learning disabilities, and numerous opportunities for volunteering.

Our eco-building (above) was constructed using many natural materials including hemp insulation, solid hemp walls,



In 2019, we opened our straw bale bunkhouse (right) providing overnight accommodation for our volunteers and visiting groups. This was constructed by our volunteers and community groups using straw bales. Sleeping accommodation includes separate boys and girls bunk rooms and two private rooms for teachers/support workers.

Shares in the farm are still available for individuals or as a group, such as your school. - it is not too late to be a part of our sustainable future!

What to expect at Fordhall Organic Farm

Fordhall is a thriving working farm run by inspirational people, where visitors are welcome and there is always something new to see and fun is guaranteed.

The farm has 140 acres of woodlands, wetlands, sandy grasslands, peaty areas, spring fed pools, streams, hedgerows and river. It is a wildlife haven with kingfishers, otters, dragonflies, damsel flies, coots and swans by the river Tern. Whilst our grasses, herbs and wildflowers provide habitats for a variety of insects. Over 50 species of bird have been recorded, with starling murmurations, buzzards, an owl roost and a rookery all contributing to the rich diversity.

The sheep and cattle are reared on a Foggage farming system relying on a diversity of over 70 different grass and herb species to keep the pastures productive throughout the seasons, ultimately allowing the livestock, traditional Hereford and Angus breeds to remain outdoors on the pasture for 12 months of the year.

Our Gloucester Old Spot pigs are reared on an extensive free-range, GM Free system in pens close to the farm yard and their antics can be viewed from piggy paradise where you will also find the community garden and hands on activities for children.

Sheep graze in our meadows and during lambing time, in the spring, they can be seen more closely when we bring them into the barns for monitoring.

The community garden is managed by our Care Farm project and supports the production of fruit and vegetables. Our Youth Project actively manages the farm landscape for conservation and visitor satisfaction.





Welcome to Fordhall

England's first community-owned farm



The map illustrates the layout of the farm, including:

- Fields:** Dutch Barn Field, Paddock, Cottage Field, Mill Meadow, House Field, Broad Meadow, Little Meadow, Long Meadow.
- Buildings:** Dutch Barn, Car Park, Composting Toilet, Picnic Area.
- Water:** River Tern.
- Paths:** A network of paths including three marked with dashed lines: Charlotte's Walk (red), Ben's Walk (black), and Arthur's Walk (green).

1 farmer, 8000 landlords

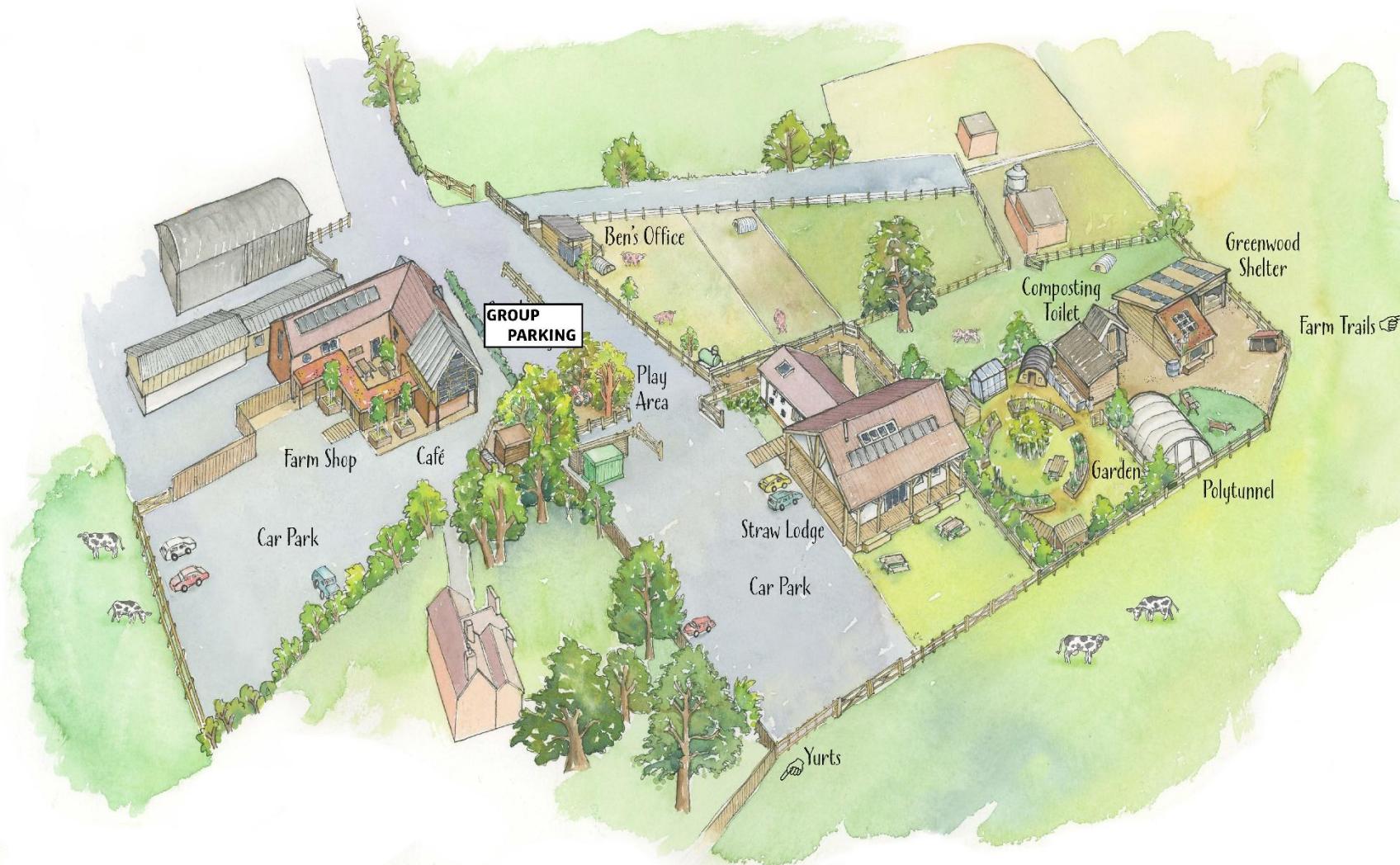
This farm is unique, it is owned by people living all over the world! In 2006 they helped Ben and Charlotte Hollins save Fordhall Farm by buying thousands of shares. This made Fordhall the first community-owned farm in England. Fordhall Farm now promotes sustainable farming methods whilst using the land for community benefit.

Organic farming pioneers

Fordhall has been managed using organic farming methods since the 1940's, using a pioneering foggage system developed by Charlotte and Ben's father, Arthur Hollins. Fordhall continues to be farmed using organic methods and with traditional breeds.

We hope that you enjoy your walk around the beautiful pastures of Fordhall. Everything you see plays its part in the farming system and every inch of the farm has its own story to tell – enjoy exploring!

Parking map



OVERNIGHT STAYS

Residential stays are available.
If you are interested in this option, please visit our webpage or
contact:
gemma.church@fordhallfarm.com

