



New Fordhall Community Land Initiative project manager Sophie Hopkins gets straight down to

Sophie has new role at Fordhall

FARMING siblings have secured another pair of hands to help with their dream project of turning their farm into a community project.

A £35,000 grant means a salary for a project manager at Fordhall Farm and Ben and Charlotte Hollins have now officially taken on volunteer Sophie Hopkins.

The Fordhall Community Land Initiative received the money from the Northern Marches England Leader Programme. The Fordhall initiative was officially launched in September, as a not for private profit organisation selling shares at £50 in a bid to raise the £800,000 the project needs by July 1st to purchase the farm.

Feeling lucky

Sophie, 24, who has been working as a Fordhall volunteer for 10 months, said: "I feel lucky to be given the opportunity to continue my work in a more formal post and to help develop the Fordhall Community Land Initiative.

"A key feature of this pioneering project is its involve-ment of a large number of young people who all have the enthusiasm and determination to make a change."

One of Sophie's first jobs is organising a volunteer work-ing weekend at the farm on February 4 and 5, with activi-ties including tree planting and hedge laying.

Volunteers wanting to attend the weekend can contact Sophie Hopkins on 01630 638696 or email project@ford-hallfarm.com but there are only a few places left.