



# Fordhall Organic Farm

## Teacher's Pack



An information pack for  
teachers and education group leaders

## The Past, the Present and the Future

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



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, online shop or through our catering trailers at local events.



The FCLI provides free farm trails, educational visits, newsletters, 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 that can be seen by visiting groups including hemp insulation, solid hemp walls, 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.

In 2018, we have plans to build a straw bale building to provide overnight accommodation for our volunteers and visiting groups (right). This will be built using straw bales by our volunteers and community groups. When complete it will have a boys and girls bunk room and two private rooms for teachers/support workers.



Visiting groups will be able to see the construction of this building throughout 2018 and it will be available for use from Spring 2019.

Plus, shares are still available for individuals or as a group, such as a 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 young 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.

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 the enclosed picnic area 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.



Fordhall is a wildlife haven. By the river Tern, kingfishers can be spotted sweeping over the water and even otters are occasionally spotted. Dragonflies, damsel flies, coots and swans are often seen whilst our grasses, herbs and wildflowers provide habitats for a variety of insects. Over fifty species of bird have been recorded at Fordhall. Small mammals such as mice and rabbits are abundant, with larger mammals such as foxes feeding on them. Starling

murmurations, circling calling buzzards, badger setts, owl roosts and a rookery are all part of Fordhall's rich diversity.

In the south-east corner of the farm, the ruins of a Norman ringwork and bailey castle can be seen. The wooden structure on top of the ringwork is long since gone, but the excellent defensive position is evident. The hill overlooks the surrounding land, enabling intruders to be spotted early and easily fought off.

## Fordhall Organic Farm Education Group Visits

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The castle bailey, with its sleeping quarters, stables, cookhouse, workshops and storerooms, would have existed on the flat area around the ringwork and near to the river that curves around the whole hill providing a natural moat at this point.

Trees in the landscape include horse and sweet chestnuts, oak, ash, elder, birch, sycamore, box and blackthorn with willow and alder beside the river Tern and the spring-fed pools. Ancient hawthorn hedges provide shelter for birds, other wildlife and our livestock.

Hens roam free, visitors stroll through the meadows and we are proud to boast our organic history and future vision.



# Welcome to Fordhall

England's first community-owned farm



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!

1 farmer, 8000 landlords

## Food and Farming Programme

Target Group/ Curriculum links	Activity Title	Content and Focus
<u>KS1, KS2, KS3 and KS4</u> Science, Geography PSHE. Business Studies	A Year of Food and Farming	Guided farm tour. A practical hands-on half day including; Fordhall's history, the FCLI, organic principles, tasting and debating, cows, lambs, pigs, worms, grasses activities; relevant to all age groups.
<u>KS1 and KS2</u> Science, Geography, PSHE.	Farm Shop	The Healthy Living Farm Shopping Basket game or Food Miles Shopping Basket Challenge
<u>KS1 and KS2</u> Art, PSHE. 	Fun on the Farm	Creative Arts. Natural Sculptures. A game of Prickly Ticky and Colour Pallets. This activity would work well in conjunction with the guided farm trail.
<u>KS1, KS2 and KS3</u> PSHE, Physical Education, Design and Technology, Geography.	Trails and Navigation	Setting and following trails. An introduction to, orienteering and map work with an introduction to compasses at KS2. This activity would work well in conjunction with the guided farm trail.
<u>KS1 and KS2</u> Geography, English, PSHE	Organic Farming and Sustainable Living	Role-play. Tasting and debating. The Food Miles Shopping Basket Challenge.
<u>KS1 and KS2</u> Science	Habitat Hunt	Fordhall Habitat Map. Stream, Woodland or Meadow Minibeast Hunt. Tree and Wildflower Bingo. Optional Tree ID games. This activity would work well in conjunction with the guided farm trail.
<u>KS1 and KS2</u> Science 	Mother Nature's Table	A game of Mother Nature's Table - a fun activity to illustrate food chains and energy pyramids.
<u>KS1 and Nursery</u> English, Geography, Art, CLL KUW CD	Story Tours 	Farm Tour with either focus:- Young Ben Hollins Had a Farm - with singing journey sticks or The Three Little Pigs - with creative shelter building.
<u>KS1 and KS2</u> History Art, Geography	Ford hall's Past	Discover how the early settlers lived at Fordhall. Discover the evidence. Role-play the characters. Explore the Ringwork and Bailey site. Cook over an open fire.
<u>KS1, KS2 and KS3</u> Design and Technology, PSHE	Shelter Building	Woodland Shelter Building and a Campfire This activity would work well in conjunction with Trails and Navigation or a guided farm tour.
<u>All ages</u> Cross curricular	Woodland Experience	A woodland based session with seasonal, practical experiences. Our most popular visit after 'A Year of Food and Farming'.



All our sessions are practical and hands-on. All sessions can be adapted to suit the requirements of the group and the needs of the school. We believe that learning should be fun.

Each guided visit lasts for up to 2 hours. We encourage groups to choose two programmes and stay for the day using our picnic area and shelter for a picnic. We are able to subsidise some farming and agriculture based visits and we do this on a first come first served basis. Please enquire.

# Forest School

Target Group/ Curriculum links	Activity Title	Content and Focus
<p><u>Foundation stage , KS1, KS2</u></p> <p>Cross Curricular. </p>	<p>Forest School</p>	<p>We are happy to plan and deliver short or long term programmes for your group on a weekly basis using our Fordhall Farm, Forest School area. Sessions can be one off tasters or year-long, weekly/alternate weekly, programmes for class sized groups.</p>
<p><u>KS3 to adult</u></p> <p>Cross Curricular, PSHE, Wellbeing and Healthy Lifestyles</p>	<p>Forest School</p> 	<p>We are happy to plan and deliver short or long term programmes on a weekly basis using our Fordhall Farm, Forest School area. Skill based sessions can be one off, tasters or year-long, weekly/alternate weekly, programmes for groups of up to 18 depending on individual needs.</p>
<p><u>Family, Community, Toddler and Childminder Groups</u></p> <p>Cross Curricular Promoting well-being, healthy lifestyles and relationships.</p>	<p>Forest School</p>	<p>We are happy to plan and deliver short or long term programmes on a weekly basis using our Fordhall Farm, Forest School area. Sessions can be from one off seasonal tasters to year-long, weekly/alternate weekly, programmes for mixed age groups of up to 25.</p>
<p>Teachers, Group Leaders and Supporting Volunteers</p> 	<p>Forest School CPD</p>	<p>Our experienced staff will tailor bespoke training sessions to suit your needs. Sessions may range from "An Introduction to Forest School for teachers and governors" to "Ideas for outdoor learning" to "tool use" and "campfire cooking."</p>
<p><u>All ages</u></p>  <p>Cross Curricular</p>	<p>Outreach Forest School</p> 	<p>We offer an outreach service providing short or long term Forest School programmes within your own school grounds or community space. We provide the programme planning, the preparation, and delivery and any necessary tools. We also offer a consultancy service to enable you to develop your own Forest School Area.</p>



Our Forest School Leaders are all experienced Level 3 Practitioners.



Our site and activities are all fully risk assessed.



We guarantee an inspirational experience for children and adults.

# Outdoor Cooking

Target Group/ Curriculum links	Activity Title	Content and Focus
KS1, KS2, KS3 SC2 nutrition SC3 materials and their properties Design and technology	Pizza making using the clay oven 	A morning spent making and preparing pizza, culminating in a cooking session using our own clay oven, ready for lunch using produce from the community garden.
KS1, KS2, KS3 SC2 nutrition SC3 materials and their properties Design and technology.	Soup session - Cooking on an open fire	Using produce from the community garden or locally sourced, students participate in an outdoor cooking session that culminates in a delicious lunch for all to share.

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These sessions are generally summer and autumn term activities but if wet weather prevails we have contingency plans to allow the session to continue.



The aim of these sessions is to engage the senses, allowing time for children to tune in to the outdoor experience and relate to their learning in a relaxed and enjoyable manner.



Please inform us of any need to take account of allergies or special dietary requirements.

Interested in building a clay oven at your school? Having one is a great way to fund raise and bring your community into the school. Please ask Bex Syrett, our garden co-ordinator for more information.

# Orienteering

Target Group/ Curriculum links	Activity Title	Content and Focus
Foundation Stage KS1 CLL KUW CD PSHE. 	An introduction to Maps and Trails	A story based creative trail setting and trail following experience. Children will use natural materials and some tools to set their own trails.
KS1, KS2 and KS3 Physical Education, Design and Technology, Science, Geography, PSHE	Trails and Orienteering  	Learners will learn to recognise landscape features and through practical fun map making activities including following natural and unnatural trails and a map in a box challenge, will be introduced to orienteering. Groups will set and follow their own trails before following simple check point trails. An introduction to following an orienteering course using compasses is available for more experienced students.
KS3 to Adult. Physical Education Geography PSHE 	Orienteering	An introduction to map and compass work with a short or medium length Orienteering challenge.
<u>Groups</u>	Orienteering	Why not book the use of our permanent course for your own school, interschool or club event. There is no charge but booking is essential.



Here at Fordhall we have a permanent White short length Orienteering Course and a permanent Yellow medium length Orienteering Course.

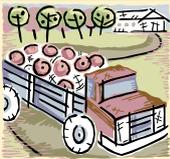


There is no charge for schools and groups who wish to make use of our orienteering courses for their own events. Booking is essential.



Fordhall Farm visitors are welcome to purchase a map for £1 from our cafe to follow the orienteering courses at any time during cafe opening hours. Please see our web site for opening times.

# Outreach Fordhall

Target Group/ Curriculum Links	Activity Title	Content and Focus
<p><u>Foundation Stage, KS1, KS2, KS3, KS4, Teachers and Community Groups</u></p> <p>Cross Curricular Sustainable Living and Healthy Lifestyles</p> 	<p>See our Farm based</p> <p><b>Organic Farming, Growing and Gardening, Forest School, Orienteering and CPD</b></p> <p>Visits Programmes</p>	<p>We will bring the Fordhall Farm experience to you. Choose from our extensive farm visits programme and our experienced staff will visit your school or setting with an exciting, meaningful and practical programme to suit your needs. We are happy to lead a half day or a full day for a whole class or a series of classes. We will work in your school grounds or can lead a classroom based session, an introductory School Assembly or a whole staff Outdoor Learning/Forest School CPD training session.</p>

## Let us come to you!!



Talk to our experienced staff to plan a fun filled, Fordhall Farm Outreach learning experience at your school or setting.



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# Booking a Visit

Fordhall Community Land Initiative owns Fordhall Farm in Market Drayton, Shropshire.

Fordhall is a working organic farm modelling sustainability, community and healthy living – connecting people with the countryside!

At Fordhall we lead group visits offering a wide range of curriculum linked learning opportunities to suit Foundation Stage through to KS4 and adult groups.

Please see our extensive choice of programmes including:  
organic farming, gardening, outdoor cooking, orienteering,  
forest school, community land initiative studies  
and outreach Fordhall.

## Staffing

Experienced FCLI education staff will host your visit. Teachers and Group Leaders must remain with your group at all times and are responsible for the group's behaviour. 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.

## Equal opportunities

We are able to cater for groups with special needs, please ask for further details on booking.

## Health and Safety

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

## Charges

Two hour guided visit: **£ 90.00** per half day  
Maximum group size of one standard class.

Pizza cooking session: **£ 120.00 + £2 per child** for pizza ingredients (*this additional session is subject to our team's availability*)

Please pay on the day. Cheques payable to 'Fordhall Community Land Initiative'

Limited numbers of free of charge DEFRA subsidised, farming themed, group visits are available on a first come first served basis (subject to a feedback form being completed on the day of visit) – please enquire when booking. Charges for Forest School, CPD, Outreach and Birthday Parties are available on request.

If cancelling a pre-booked visit please give one weeks' notice. Failure to comply will result in payment in full.

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.**

After your visit please encourage your group to contribute an article that we might include in our newsletter or on our farm blog.

See our ONLINE DIARY <http://fclidiary.blogspot.com/>

**Fordhall Community Land Initiative**  
**Education Group Visit Booking Form**



Name of School/Organisation.....

Contact Person/Teacher in Charge.....

Email Address.....

Contact Tel No.....Fax.....

Address .....

.....

..... Post Code.....

Number in Group .....

Age of Group .....

Number of Teachers/leaders.....

Date options for visit 1..... 2..... 3.....

Time of arrival..... departure.....

Activities required.....

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Please give details of any special needs.....

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Please give details of any medical needs.....

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Permission for Photographs for publication and promotional use: Yes / No

**To book a visit please contact:**

Fordhall Community Land Initiative Ltd, Fordhall Farm, Market Drayton, Shropshire TF9 3PS.

Tel: 01630 638696

E-mail: [project@fordhallfarm.com](mailto:project@fordhallfarm.com)

Web site : [www.fordhallfarm.com](http://www.fordhallfarm.com)

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