



# Prospectus 2023

Larkrise Community Farm, West Ashton Road  
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## Introduction

This prospectus is aimed primarily at school and college teachers and tutors and mentors for people with additional needs.

Larkrise Community Farm is a user-friendly, hands-on Community Farm. We provide our therapeutic training in life skills for our students within an animal-based environment.

We mainly work in conjunction with Education Authorities helping coach children with social and emotional needs back into learning. We also work with adults who have a range of needs including learning difficulties and provide opportunities for practical animal husbandry for students already taking animal management courses at college.

Our students work with a variety of different animals to advance their animal knowledge and also their life skills. They work with others as a team to improve self-esteem and confidence and achieve a sense of importance. Some students find working with animals can reduce stress and anxiety. They may be working towards a recognised qualification or directly towards future employment.

We find that school students attending Larkrise Community Farm have shown improvements in motivation because they want to attend the Farm. This in turn has led to improved school attendance and motivation within school lessons.

We provide full day or half day placements for students. At the end of each daily placement they are required to write a record of their activities on the farm on that day in their personal portfolio.

The Farm also offers ASDAN courses to enable students and individuals to develop life skills, as well as practical animal care experience.





## About Larkrise Community Farm

### Our Mission Statement

***'Everyone is good at something: understand, empower, enable.'***

We are a user friendly, hands-on community farm that is run as a charity. Our objectives in our Constitution are:

*'to advance education and provide facilities for animal care, agricultural and rural recreation and similar occupations in the interest of social welfare for the inhabitants of Wiltshire in agriculture, conservation, country life and related subjects with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants, and particularly for those who have need of such facilities by reason of their age, infirmity or needs, poverty or social and economic circumstances.'*

### The Organisation

Larkrise Community Farm was set up in 1987, in association with Larkrise Special School in Trowbridge. It then became a separate entity in 1999 and is now run by a committed Board of Trustees as a Charity. It is known as: Larkrise Community Farm and as of 1 April 2023 is a CIO, Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

As of April 2023, there are currently 6 Trustees with expertise in agriculture, finance, special needs, Health & Safety and administration. Our Chair is Rob Ham. The farm is staffed by 2 full-time and 8 part-time employees.



Our team comprises the following:

- The Farm Manager
- Business Operations Manager
- Education and Business Development Officer
- Finance Officer
- Administration/Health & Safety Officer
- 4 Student Support Workers
- Equine Lead/Student Support.

In addition, we have a small team of volunteers with experience in education, special needs, maintenance and animal husbandry.

### **Who comes to Larkrise Community Farm?**

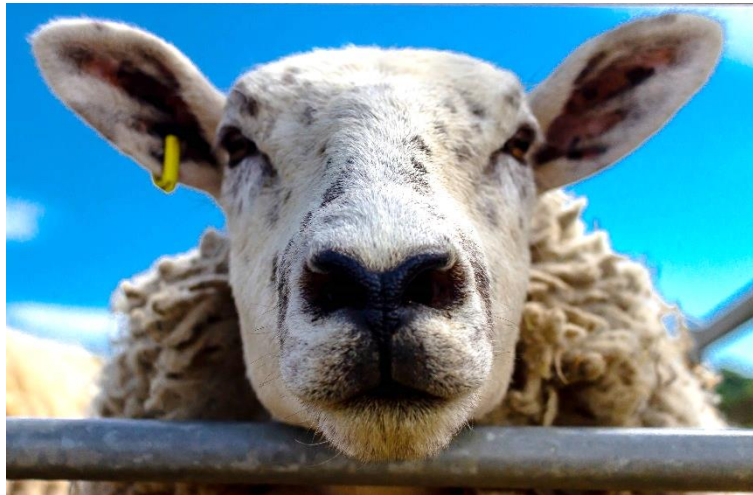
- School students with social and emotional needs, some of whom take ASDAN, (the Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network), and others who benefit from the nurturing and caring environment around animals.
- Adults with learning and physical disabilities can also take the above qualifications.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Form/College students studying social care who undertake work experience as part of their course.
- Visiting public, including school groups of all ages and Care Home resident.
- Children attending activity days in the school holidays.
- Disabled riders taking part in our Riding for Disabled programme.

### **What type of animals do we have on the Farm?**

- Livestock - Cattle, Pigs, Sheep, Goats & Pygmy Goats
- Equine – Horses, Ponies, Donkeys
- Small Animals - Rabbits and Guinea Pigs
- Poultry - Chickens, Ducks, Geese and Guinea Fowl

Some animals are breeding stock and so have young at various times of the year.





## Larkrise Community Farm courses and work programmes

Courses run at LCF have the following aims:

- To raise self-esteem and self-confidence, foster a sense of personal achievement and motivate in all our students
- To provide a working environment in which all students can achieve, and be seen to achieve, real life practical working situations
- To prepare students for future placements and gain knowledge of career opportunities
- To enable students to gain national qualifications, demonstrating achievements in the following key skills:
  - Communication
  - Problem solving
  - Ability to work with others
  - Improving own learning
  - Information technology
  - Literacy & numeracy skills
- To motivate students so that they can begin to experience success in other learning situations



## **What courses does LCF run?**

Our placements are designed to gain short or extended work experience in a farm environment. As part of the placement, it is possible to undertake accredited ASDAN courses.

Courses available are: Towards Independence, Work Awareness; Animal Care Programme, Transition Challenge and Land Based Sector Vocational Taster. These can be a pathway to access future further education.

## **Course content**

The work for each course and learning outcomes for our students are overseen by the Larkrise Farm Education & Business Development Officer.

Evidence files and ASDAN portfolios are verified by the Larkrise Internal Verifier and are moderated externally.

## **How do students choose which course is appropriate?**

LCF's Education & Business Development Officer will help to decide which course is appropriate for each student, in collaboration with the student and school/college tutors.

## **How long are the courses?**

Courses usually require the student to attend the farm two days per week to achieve the qualification within a maximum of three years.

LCF delivers all farm-related aspects of the ASDAN courses during term time.

## **ASDAN information**

We can tailor the length and type of course appropriate for individuals or groups of students. We can be the sole provider of the course, or act as the practical environment for other educational establishments.

Courses start at any time of the year and give a student a solid foundation in future academic achievement. Certificates awarded by ASDAN are sent directly to LCF and are then forwarded to schools.

For further information on educational courses or placements please email [education@larkrisefarm.org.uk](mailto:education@larkrisefarm.org.uk).



## Other Activities

- **RIDING FOR THE DISABLED**, our friendly, highly trained team of staff and volunteers offer 30 minute rides to help children and adults with disabilities enjoy this multi-sensory experience. An initial assessment of the rider is carried out prior to lessons taking place. Please contact Katie our groom and RDA Coordinator at the farm, on 01225 751675 for prices and availability.
- **CARRIAGE DRIVING**, Wendy, our Farm Manager offers carriage-driving lessons from March to October, duration from 30 minutes to 1 hour, dependent upon experience. Please email Wendy on [manager@larkrisefarm.org.uk](mailto:manager@larkrisefarm.org.uk) for more details.
- **INDIVIDUAL VISITS**, we are open to the general public for visits from Monday – Friday from 10am – 12.30pm, all year except on Bank Holidays. The cost is currently £3 per adult and £2 per child.
- **GROUP VISITS**, we also offer guided visits for:  
Nursery and school groups;  
Sensory visits for care home residents;

Prices depend upon the length of your visit and your precise requirements.

- **SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITY DAYS.**  
These take place in the Easter and Summer Holidays on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. They currently cost £20 per session. The sessions are from 10H00 – 12H00 or from 13H15 – 15H15.

For further information on other activities, please contact: - Wendy Self or Suzanne Metcalfe

Larkrise Community Farm, West Ashton Road, Trowbridge, BA14 6DQ  
Telephone 01225 751675  
Email: [manager@larkrisefarm.org.uk](mailto:manager@larkrisefarm.org.uk)

If you would like to attend Larkrise Community Farm on a placement, RDA, please complete the form on the next sheet and return to:

Wendy Self, Farm Manager, Larkrise Community Farm, West Ashton Road, West Ashton, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 6DQ.



## Student/Adult Information

Name:

Address:

Telephone number:

Date of birth:

School/College address  
(if appropriate):

Telephone number:

Tutor/SEN worker:

Preferred Activity (please tick) Placement  ASDAN  RDA

Date/time of preferred activity: .....

Please give any important information about yourself that we may need to know, eg special needs, allergies etc: