



Prospectus 2019

Larkrise Community Farm, West Ashton Road
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Introduction

This prospectus is aimed primarily at school and college teachers and tutors, special educational needs staff, and careers advisers.

Larkrise Community Farm provides not only opportunities for practical animal husbandry for students already taking animal management courses at college, it has also been particularly successful with school age students who are not achieving their potential, likely to leave school with minimum (or no) qualifications, or who are unmotivated at school.

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; the many letters we receive are testament to this. Below is an extract from one of the many letters the Farm has received:

'Thank you so much to you and all your staff for your support of E..... We really appreciate the patience, understanding and enthusiasm of you all in adapting to her ways and encouraging her progress. We both felt uplifted by our visits to Larkrise. It is a wonderful place and the work you do is an inspiration to us all.'
(E's parents).

We provide full day or half day placements for students and adults. They benefit from working as part of a team and learn how to look after animals in a practical way. At the end of the period of placement the student/adult receives a Placement Certificate detailing their work experience and skills.

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

Who are we?

We are a user friendly, hands-on community farm that is run as a charity.

Our objectives are:

"To advance education and provide facilities for recreation and other leisure-time occupation based around it for those who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, poverty or social and economic circumstances."

Larkrise Community Farm (LCF) provides an opportunity for people to work with a range of different animals to advance knowledge and life skills. In working with others as a team, individuals also gain self-esteem, recognition and importance – so important whether working towards a recognised qualification or directly to future employment.

The Organisation

Larkrise Community Farm is led by a committed Board of Trustees. There are currently 9 Trustees with expertise in many fields including: special needs; agriculture; finance; Health & Safety; administration and commerce. The Chair is Susan Bradbrooke.

The farm is staffed by 14 full and part time employees led by The Farm Manager, Wendy Self. Our team comprises the following:

- The Farm Manager
- An Assistant Farm Manager
- An Education Coordinator
- A Finance Officer
- An Administration Officer
- A Stock Person
- A Head Groom & An Assistant Groom
- Four Student/Client Support Workers
- Volunteers with experience in education, special needs, and animal husbandry





Who comes to Larkrise Community Farm?

- School students (some of whom take Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network courses, ASDAN via the RDA), and others who benefit from attending without taking a course
- School students with special needs (learning and physical)
- Adults with special needs (learning and physical) who are also able to take the above qualification
- College students undertaking their practical animal management placement as part of their course
- Children attending Saturday Farm Club
- Visiting public, including school groups of all ages, clubs eg Brownies and elderly residents from Care Homes
- Children attending activity days in the school holidays
- Disabled-riders taking part in our Riding for Disabled programme and our EAL learners

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 & Guinea Fowl



Some of these 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 school students and/or students with learning difficulties
- 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?

- LCF work programmes are designed to gain short or extended work experience in a farm environment. Following completion, a LCF Work Placement/Experience Certificate is provided detailing skills achieved.
- ASDAN via our RDA group – Towards Independence Program certificates in animal care/horse care

Course content

The work for each course is set out in a booklet designed by the Larkrise Education Committee.

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

How do students choose which course is appropriate?

LCF's Education Co-ordinator 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 may require half days, single days or two days per week over one or two years.

LCF delivers all farm-related aspects of the ASDAN courses. Courses for school and college students are run during term time, although students fulfilling the practical placement element of their courses often attend LCF during school/college vacations.

ASDAN information

We can tailor the length and type of course appropriate for individual or groups of students. Please contact us to discuss this.

At the start of the course a contract is agreed between LCF and the individual or appropriate support. Courses start at any time of the year.

The LCF Instructors works primarily with the Equine Department on the Farm.

Certificates awarded by ASDAN are sent directly to LCF and can then be forwarded to schools for award ceremonies.

For further information on educational courses or placements offered by LCF please email education@larkrisefarm.org.uk or contact Amanda on 01225 751675



Other Activities

- **SATURDAY FARM CLUB** is aimed at encouraging children aged 5 – 16 years to have hands-on experience with a variety of farm animals. Farm Club takes place every other Saturday morning from 9.30am – midday. The cost is £7 per child.

Full details are on <http://www.larkrisefarm.org.uk/Pages/11/Saturday-Club.html>.

- **RIDING FOR THE DISABLED**, our friendly, highly trained team of staff and volunteers help children and adults with special needs enjoy the multi-sensory experience of horse-riding. We offer 30 minute lessons to individuals, as well as to local Special Schools. An initial assessment of the rider is carried out prior to lessons taking place.
- **EQUINE ASSISTED LEARNING**, this new programme has been trialled at the farm in 2018 will be fully operational in Spring 2019. These are half-hour therapy sessions working with the horses/ponies/donkeys.
- **INDIVIDUAL VISITS**, we are open to the general public for visits from Monday – Friday from 10am – 3pm, all year except on Bank Holidays. The cost is currently £2.50 per adult and £1 per child.
- **GROUP VISITS**, we also offer guided visits for:
 - Nursery and school groups;
 - Sensory visits for care home residents;
 - Evening visits for Brownies/Guides/Beavers/Cubs/Scout groups;
 - Educational visits for school groups.

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

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

If you would like to attend Larkrise Community Farm on a placement, our Saturday Club, or 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/Client Information

Student's/Client's name:

Student's/Client's address:

Telephone number:

Date of birth:

School/College address
(if appropriate):

Telephone number:

Tutor:

Preferred Activity (please tick) Placement ASDAN Saturday Club RDA

Date/time of preferred activity:

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