



# East Clayton Farm

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Nineveh Trust Report  
Year 2: 2018/19

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# Introduction

Lorica Trust is a charity which works with disadvantaged and marginalised people at our Care Farm in the South Downs National Park. Activities on our 120-acre farm include livestock tasks (donkeys, sheep, pigs & chickens), conservation management (wild flower sowing, hedge planting, fencing) and horticulture (plant & vegetable growing).

Our main aims and objectives are:

- Providing opportunities for vulnerable and disadvantaged people to gain skills to improve their employability, instil confidence and a sense of purpose in a farmed environment.
- Providing opportunities for people to volunteer to gain additional skills, help others and enhance their appreciation of the countryside.
- Allowing those who are disadvantaged, as well as volunteers, to develop physical health and mental wellbeing through practical land based projects.
- Conservation including creation of wild flower meadows, lowland heath and stream restoration in conjunction with Natural England, National Trust, South Downs Conservation Board and Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust

In 2017 Nineveh Trust approved funding for a three-year project to support the employment of Development Manager to develop, co-ordinate and deliver Lorica services for disadvantaged people on the Farm.



## Highlights - 2018/19

- 96 people have taken part in activities including fencing, construction tree planting and general farm duties that have helped improve their employment credentials and increase their vocational knowledge.
- 86% of young people engaging with the Farm have reported an increase in self-esteem as a result of their engagement.
- 172 people, through volunteering, have supported over 24 external community events during 2019
- Alternative provision at the Farm has grown by 222% since 2017/18.
- 3 young people have achieved a nationally recognised qualification since our Learning and Development Centre gained Awarding Body approval
- Planning permission achieved for a new Farm “Hub” building, offering youth provision and services that will no longer be weather dependent
- We have hosted 5 Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) days, for 3 different companies, with over 60 employees engaging with the Farm

Outcome 1: 150 people improve their employment credentials and vocational knowledge by the end of three years (achieved 178 by Year 2)

Our school provision is continuing to grow at a rapid rate, during the academic year 2018/19 our service grew by a staggering 222% with 71 young people (many of whom were at risk of permanent school exclusion) benefiting from the alternative provision provided at East Clayton Farm. We continue to see a large number of these young people, 78%, with special educational needs (SEN). Our programmes continue to provide additional support to ensure active participation and success for all those participating.



Our minibus continues to enable us to collect young people who wish to engage with the Farm but have no means of transport, it has proved very popular. Demand for our provision is growing month on month and we now offer provision 4 days a week with an expectation that this will become five days a week by late 2019

Our Learning and Development Centre (L&D) achieved approval from ABC Awards in early 2019 enabling us to offer vocational qualifications to all those that engage with ECF provision and programmes. To date three students have achieved a nationally recognised qualification (Large Animal Care) with a further 4 enrolled for 2019/20

With such a dramatic increase in our provision and a seemingly endless number of young people requiring the type of support offered by the farm we took the decision late last year to develop a new Farm hub – a building in which we can house and grow our provision and services. We have successfully applied for and achieved planning permission – quite a result given it's a new build located within the South Downs National Park, but this we feel validates what we do and regrettably underpins the need for what we do .

Funding is now underway and we expect to have our new building operational by Christmas 2020. This will open up a whole range of new opportunity and we look forward to reporting back next year on the buildings progress and impact on our services

We have developed, alongside our young people, a film about our alternative provision work. We now use this to promote and showcase our services to schools, referral agencies and individuals expressing an interest in working with us. We have also revamped our website, better reflecting our work, provision and services and developed a generic film about our Farm and volunteering opportunities.



Young People and Schools: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g5TH00AdfZY>

About Us: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0a0rOik1x3s>

Website: <https://www.eastclaytonfarm.org.uk>



Outcome 2: 350 people are more confident and report an improvement in their feeling of self-worth at the end of three years. (Achieved 246 by Year 2)

Our relationship with Forward Facing (a Brighton charity working with children and families facing life limiting illness) continues with over 14 events taking place on the Farm in 2019 and 84 young people and their families enjoying time at the Farm, benefiting from a relaxed atmosphere, interaction with our livestock and time spent walking and hugging our donkeys.

Our volunteers play a crucial role in our work with young people, as our provision has grown their support of our young people has become more important and very much valued. Many now work alongside individual students, in a mentoring capacity. Not only has this made a significant impact on individual students but our volunteers have reported an increased sense of purpose and value.

Our Development Manager and Harper Adams student attended a two day Mental Health First Aid course to better equip them with supporting and working with volunteers and young people struggling with mental health. Over the last year we have seen an increase, particularly amongst the young people we support, with anxiety and depression related challenges. This course has enabled us to better identify the signs of mental health un-wellness , offer much needed “first responder” support and where necessary refer on – enabling us to more confidently support those on the edge of crisis.



Our bees continue to go from strength to strength – we now have 9 active hives – and both volunteers and students have enjoyed their bee time. We have been filmed as part of the BBC’s series Escape to the Country (yet to be screened) and also for Meridian Weather, unfortunately we now have a whole bee colony who expect superstar treatment!. Luckily, however, we have no shortage of people willing to ensure they are well looked after and managed. We are yet to take off this year’s honey but the 100 jars they gave us last year were very well received amongst supporters of the farm – given their superstar treatment we are hoping for considerably more this year but only time will

tell!

We are about to enter a new partnership with Turning Tides, who will be taking on the Farmhouse from the YMCA in December. This is an exciting new step forward in our work to support those who have been homeless. Through the new partnership a Support Worker, funded by Turning Tides, will be based at the Farm Office. They will work alongside our team to develop new opportunities whilst better integrating existing farm activities with our farmhouse residents. It’s an exciting project and one we very much look forward to seeing grow and develop.

Outcome 3: 200 people improve their relationship with their local community at the end of three years.  
(Achieved 370 by Year 2)

We have hosted a number of CSR days for The Body Shop, GlaxoSmithKline and Lloyds TSB. Over 60 employees have supported work on the Farm that we otherwise could not have achieved. This has included coppicing, manure spreading, stable revamps and hedge laying. The Body Shop have run three events for different internal staff teams, a number of whom now volunteer individually in their own time.

Our donkey walking, an opportunity for members of the public to walk one, or more, of our donkeys for a small fee, has grown considerably over the last 12 months. It's proved very popular and helps to raise additional income to support our donkey herd which will have expanded to nine at the end of October. Whilst this activity has helped to raise the profile of the farm in the wider community it's also had a positive impact in other less obvious ways.

For example:



- A number of donkey walkers have gone on to become regular and dependable farm volunteers
- GSK corporate volunteering day was through an employee undertaking a donkey walk
- A number of external engagement opportunities have arisen through donkey walks
- Our young people have the opportunity to support the walks, interacting with our visitors, telling them about the difference the farm has made to them
- A number of walkers go on to donate to the farm or adopt their walking companion for an annual fee

Our care home visits, with our donkeys, continue to grow. Many of the residents who so enjoy meeting, hugging and grooming our donkeys are living with dementia. It's wonderful to hear their stories of donkeys they have met in the past, owned, ridden or travelled with. They enjoy talking about them and their loved ones get a chance to see and hear the person they are losing to such an awful disease – it can be quite an emotional meeting.

For this reason we continue to explore the creation of dementia friendly provision at the Farm. It is, however, proving far from easy. Whilst we know there is a very strong need for such a service we are yet to find a means of creating a sustainable dementia friendly offer. It seems that whilst dementia is on the increase the funds available to support those living with dementia are almost non-existent. But we will continue to look, challenge and seek ideas and partnerships that might help solve this challenging conundrum

Finally we have attended a whole range of external events over the last 12 months with our donkey team, over 24 different events including village days, country shows, horticultural shows and the Findon Sheep Fair! The donkeys participated in six Palm Sundays and eight nativities - with one event raising over £500 in donations – quite extraordinary the difference they have made to the farm on many different levels

