

Lowberdale Farm

Annual Report for period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

1. Charity Details

Lowberdale Farm – a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Charity Registration Number – 1180913

Address of Operation: Field House Farm, Hulme End, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 0HQ

Trustees:

Chair – Robert Sales

Treasurer – Henry Rusch

Rev Timothy Morris - Resigned

Andrew Brown

Liz Hitch

Dorothy Hawton

Tamara Oates

Fiona Goodyear

Andrew Warren - Appointed 11/03/2024

2. Governance and Management Structure

The existing group of trustees has been in place now for a number of years during this period has met three times in the year to ensure the Charity meet regulatory requirements, is operating effectively and meeting its goals. The Board is supported by a secretary, Andrew Warren. The day to day management of the Care Farm continues to be carried out by Mark Lowe, an experienced teacher and farmer. Mark is assisted in his role by trained volunteers.

Work has also continued by the Board to ensure policies have been updated annually and procedures are in place for running programs on the farm.

3. Objectives, activities and achievements during the period

We ran a 'Easter Lambing School' over the Easter holidays, in conjunction with 'Carers Connecting SEN High Peak'. Two groups of young people attended for two half day sessions. One group consisted of three 14-17 year old lads, and the other group of three 8-10 year boys. The majority of the young people had previously attended the Summer Shepherding Program.

The feedback from the parents was again positive, as shown in the example below:

'The lambing course provides fabulous opportunities for children with SEN to interact in a social setting they would never normally access. This provides them with great opportunities to learn new social skills and grow in self confidence. These courses have been a wonderful way for our son to socialise outside of the home/school environment.'

The 'Summer Shepherding School' ran again on four Fridays over the 2023 Summer holidays, this time Lowberdale took its own referrals. Two groups of young people attended, one group in the morning and one in the afternoon. The morning group consisted of 3-4 young people aged from 8-10 and the afternoon group consisted of 4-5 young people aged 14-17.

Some parental feedback is detailed below:

'My son really enjoyed the few weeks he spent at Lowberdale Farm in the summer. For a neurodivergent child, they can struggle to socialise in holiday activities, especially when they do not understand the rules and etiquettes of sports or the confidence of the arts. Mark provides something unique, it gives like minded children an opportunity to socialise in a very special environment. I believe animals are very calming (although maybe not when you're sorting 20 sheep into pens), our son gave us a full account after each session of the daily activities, he loved having a job and getting stuck in and being part of a team. I can't thank the team at Lowberdale Farm for their patience and time in running these courses, it definitely was a highlight of my son's summer holidays and he would definitely come and help again.'

One young person from the older group, continued to attend the farm on Saturday mornings on a supported work experience placement. He is a young man with high levels of social anxiety and poor school attendance (40%), but a real enthusiasm for farming. He still continues to come to the farm with enthusiasm and has grown in confidence and farming understanding over this period.

In January 2024, a young man with ASD started attending the farm for a tutoring session with Mark, one morning a week, funded through his personal budget, allocated by the LEA. By March, this had increased to two sessions per week.

In March 2024, we agreed our first service level agreement with a school for the provision of a supported work experience placement with a young man who had attended the farm in the previous Summer. It would commence in April 2024.

In the future, we look to continue with the Summer and Easter programs, and offer group and individual programs to schools/colleges and home school families.

The charity has received parental donations as well as an income, (as some children have attached funding), from these tutoring sessions. This has demonstrated to the Trustees that there is an ongoing demand for the services that the Charity provides and that we should explore the benefits of one to one tutoring more fully.

During the year discussions have been held with a number of organisations such as High Peak SEN, the Countryside Trust and Fill funding, to explore ways in which the Charity can assist young people in the area and funding options to be able to add additional resources so that regular term time sessions can be provided.

5. Financial Review

The reporting period covers the year to 31st March 2024. The charity began with £7652 and ended the period with £6739. Income included funding and donations of £1190 from home schooling sessions, while costs were contained at £2908. Focus is now very much on how best to generate income to support the Charity and the provision of our charitable objectives.



Charity Name			No (if any)		CC16a
Lowberdale Farm			1180913		
Receipts and payments accounts					
For the period from	Period start date		To	Period end date	
	1st April 2023			31st March 2024	

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Lambing Course	320	-	-	320	-
Home Schooling Donations	290	-	-	290	-
Ashbourne Methodist Donation	485	-	-	485	-
Tutoring AB	900	-	-	900	-
Shepherding Course	- 0	-	-	-	1,750
	- 0	-	-	-	-
	- 0	-	-	-	-
	- 0	-	-	-	-
Sub total(Gross income for AR)	1,995	-	-	1,995	1,750
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	
	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	- 0
Sub total	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	- 0
Total receipts	1,995	- 0	- 0	1,995	1,750
A3 Payments					
Premises	1,200	-	-	1,200	1,200
Bank charges	61	-	-	61	61
Session Costs	1,440	-	-	1,440	-
IT	206	-	-	206	51
Insurance	- 0	-	-	-	523
Prior Year costs	- 0	-	-	-	628
	- 0	-	-	-	-
	- 0	-	-	-	-
	- 0	-	-	-	-
Sub total	2,908	-	-	2,908	2,463
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	
	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	
Sub total	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	- 0
Total payments	2,908	- 0	- 0	2,908	2,463
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 913	-	-	- 913	- 713
A5 Transfers between funds	- 0	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	7,652	-	-	7,652	8,365
Cash funds this year end	6,739	-	-	6,739	7,652

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		6,739	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Total cash funds	6,739	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval
		Henry Rusch		