



INFORMATION PACK

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in visiting Carr House Farm. We hope that the experience will give your children inspiration and information about parts of the curriculum that are sometimes difficult to teach in a classroom environment.

The visit allows children to see for themselves how a modern farm works, in an enjoyable and safe environment.

We welcome visitors of all ages and can provide visits to the farm, which include activities in our flour mill, apple orchard, farm nature trail and around the farm animals we have. We can cater for groups of up to 30 children per visit

This pack will help you to prepare a successful programme tailored to suit the needs of your group.



Section 1: Pre Visit Information

What is farming?

Farming is the age-old practice of producing crops and livestock for food, fuel and fibre. The origins of human civilisation are closely linked to the development of farming when primitive hunter gatherers were gradually replaced by farmers producing the first domesticated plants and animals.

Modern agriculture is a highly competitive global industry. The UK produces 60% of the food we eat, the rest coming from other parts of the world. It is the first link in a sophisticated chain to prepare and process our food before we buy it in the shops. What a farmer grows depends on individual circumstances such as location, weather conditions, size of the farm, history of the area and market forces.

Farming has created the landscape that we see. It is the hedges and walls that divide fields that give the landscape its pattern, along with areas of trees and the colours of different crops. Even though they do not necessarily earn any money by activities such as cutting hedges and planting trees, farmers are helping to look after much of the wildlife in the countryside.

Many farmers also now operate broader enterprises to include leisure activities and environmental management. Defra provides advice and funding through agri-environment schemes to encourage farmers to follow more traditional farming methods that enhance the landscape, encourage wildlife, protect archaeological and historic features, and improve opportunities for enjoying the countryside. By conserving our countryside in this way we also play our part in the international agreement to maintain the natural diversity of animals and plants throughout the world.

The countryside offers an invaluable teaching resource. The visit can be used to teach all aspects of the curriculum through learning about farming and the countryside. We hope that this information pack will give you ideas to inspire your pupils and get the most out of your visit.



Farm information

Contact details

Farm name: *Carr House Farm*

Farm address:
Carr House Farm
Foston on the Wolds
Driffield

Contact person:
Hester Webb

Post code: *YO25 8BS*

Email: *farm@sideoven.com*

Tel no: *01262 488376*

Mobile no: *07493827895*

www.sideoven.com – more information available on our website including booking form



Booking a visit

In the first instance, please email or phone the farm. Visits are fully funded so there is no charge to the school but you will need to organise and pay for transport.

Please complete the Booking Confirmation Form supplied with this pack (or on the website) and return via email.

Cancellation arrangements

If you are unable to carry out your visit, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can make alternative arrangements.

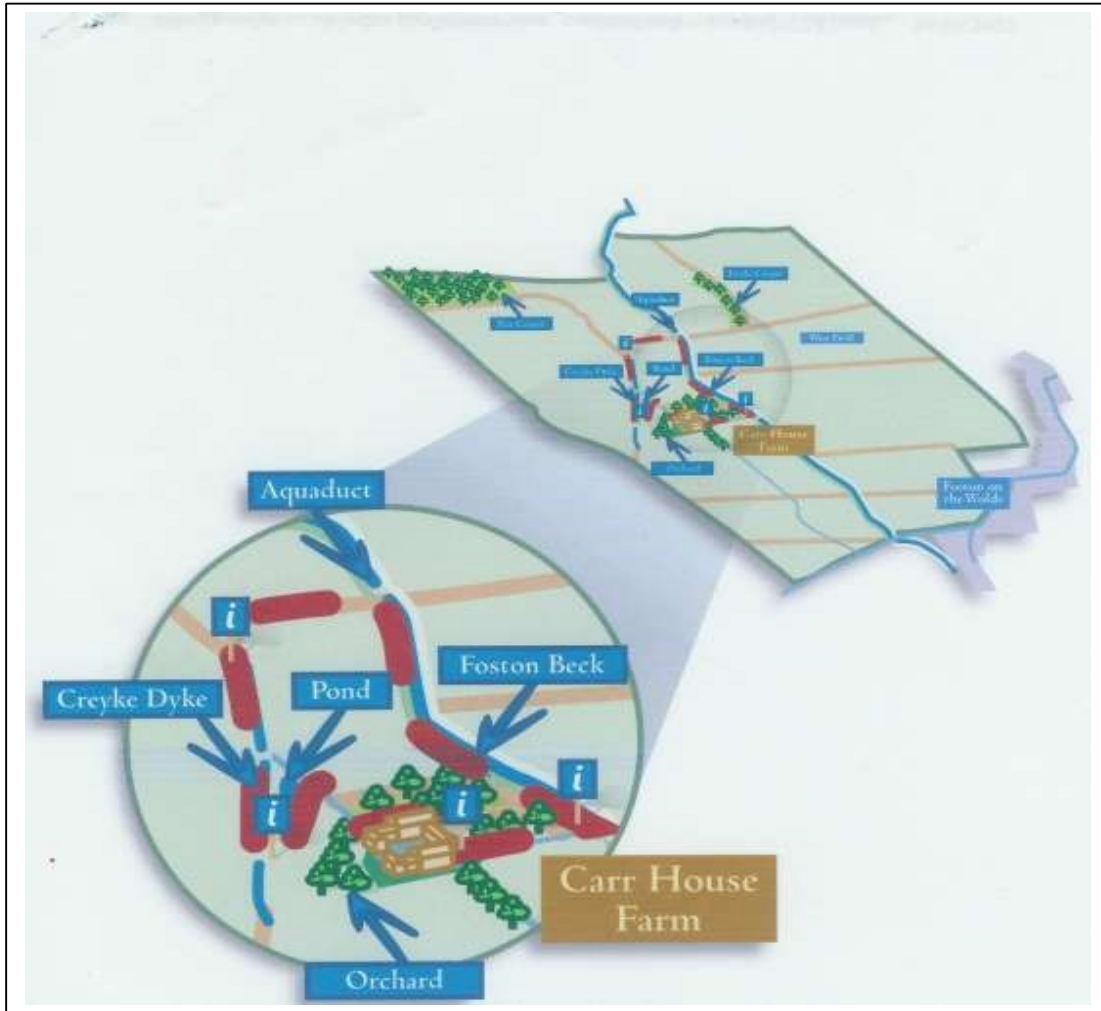
How to get here

*Carr House Farm
Foston on the Wolds
Driffield
YO25 8BS*



CARR HOUSE FARM

FOSTON-ON-THE-WOLDS



Carr House Farm is easy to find, just outside of the village of Foston-on-the-Wolds. The postcode will bring you to the next door farm, Cruckley Farm. Drive passed Cruckley Farm and Carr House farm is on your left and is set back from the road.



On arrival

The farm has a sign 'Carr House Farm' at the end of the farm lane. Turn off the road and follow the lane for approximately ¼ mile to the farmhouse and buildings. Coaches or mini buses can park in the large car parking area. Please ensure that no gates or entrances to buildings/stores etc are blocked.

The group will be met in the car park, but the main meeting point for introductions and health and safety briefing etc for large groups will be in the 'Strawbarn' classroom.

Pupils can also leave coats, bags etc in the 'Strawbarn' classroom during their visit, however this area is not locked and we can not take responsibility for any items left.

Depending on the size of the group, and the weather, the group may have to be split into smaller sections and visit the different parts of the farm and the activities in smaller groups.

Facilities:

Toilets and Hand Washing Facilities:

A disabled toilet with hand washing facilities is available for visitors.

We ask that school staff supervise toileting, and that the toilets are left in a clean condition ready for other visitors to the farm.

2 additional handwashing sinks are available in the classroom.

Access for those with disabilities:

A disabled toilet is available. A section of the farm walk down to the river is suitable for wheelchairs.

Hester will accompany the visit at all times, however in the case of emergency please contact the Bakery.



Section 2: The Countryside Classroom

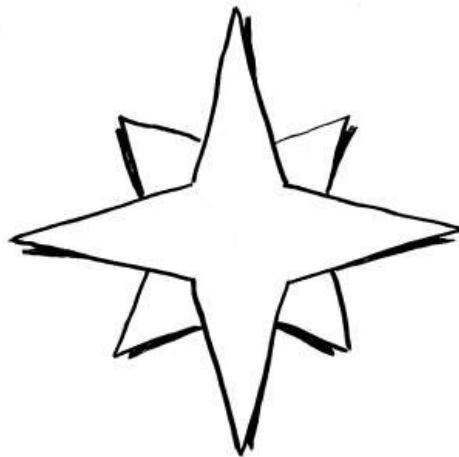
Learning opportunities

There are many ways in which farming and growing can enrich the curriculum

Scope of Work

Food production & services

Fruit and Vegetables, Cereals, Food processing, Retail, e.g. farm shops, Drinks and beverages, Farmers' markets, Speciality products



Access & leisure

Heritage, Pathways

Non-Food goods & services

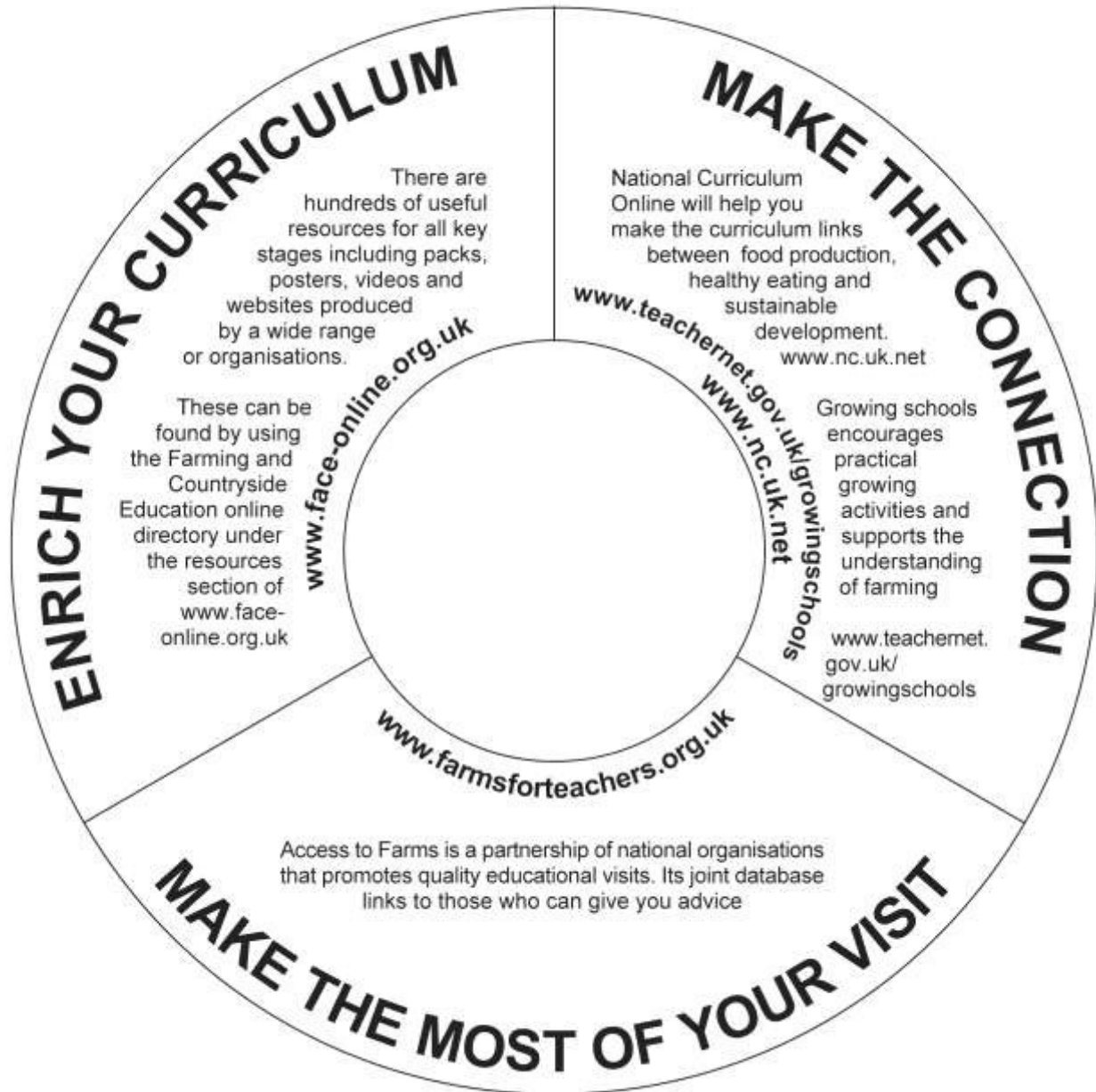
Retail

Environmental management

Woodlands, Wildlife conservation, Habitat maintenance & creation, Landscape management



**CARR HOUSE
FARM**
FOSTON
ON-THE-
WOLDS





At Key Stage 1 the farm visit can widen the pupils' first-hand experience in a whole range of **visual, tactile and other sensory situations**. Within this are the important messages of **the life cycle** and **seasonal change**. There is a wealth of opportunity for **language development** and **literacy skills**.

At Key Stage 2 the visit can stimulate and excite pupils' curiosity. It also satisfies their curiosity as they begin to **apply their knowledge and understanding** of ideas. Pupils can consider the farm as a good example of **an environment affected by human activity**, think about **attitudes to farming**, the rural environment and the **conflicts of interest** that arise.

They talk about their work and its significance and **communicate their ideas** using a **wide range of language**.

At Key Stage 3 many different subject requirements can be satisfied. For example in history, the adaptation of farm buildings over the centuries can offer first-hand evidence of **social and technological changes**. This readily promotes the skills of **handling and assessing**. Pupils can **investigate and debate** a wide range of **complex issues** and begin to understand the **environmental, social and economic** implications.

At Key Stage 4 farm visits can be used to deliver examination subjects both academic and vocational. Contact with farmers will help to focus on the real life **application of skills within the workplace**, engaging pupils with **contemporary issues** and focusing on their role as users and consumers.



Section 3: On the Farm

Risk assessment

We advise a pre-visit to our farm, during which you can carry out a risk assessment and become familiar with the site. A copy of the farm's risk assessment is available on request.

Health & safety

We comply with Health and Safety Regulations, and details of facilities for handwashing, etc. are provided later. However, it is important that all children and supervising adults are aware of the correct Health and Safety guidelines.

The risk of infection is very small, but disease caused by an infection could be serious. By following simple guidelines, similar to everyday basic hygiene recommendations, the risk can be easily minimised.

All animals naturally carry a range of micro-organisms, some of which can be transmitted to humans, causing ill health. Some, such as the bacterium *Escherichia coli* O157 (*E coli* O157) cause infections which can potentially cause disease, which may be particularly acute in young children.

While the hazard from infection resulting from a farm visit is real, the risk can be readily controlled by following sensible steps which will help make your visit safe, healthy and enjoyable.

Before your visit:

- decide what the ratio of pupils to teachers/assistants/parents should be, using advice from the Registration and Inspection Unit of your local authority social services department. As a general rule, the ratio of supervisors to children should be 1:1 for children under 1 year old, 1:2 for children between 1 and 2 years old, 1:3 for children between 2 and 3 years old, 1:4 for children between 3 and 5 years old, and 1:8 for those between 5 and 8 years old. If supervision levels are less than this, you should not allow direct contact with the animals for children under eight



- discuss with the supervisors, who may be parents or staff of the school, creche, etc. their role during the visit. They must understand the need to make sure that the children wash, or are helped to wash, their hands thoroughly after contacting animals, and follow the other rules suggested below:
- discuss with pupils the rules for the visit, stressing that they must not eat or chew outside the areas in which you permit them to do so
- make sure that pupils wear appropriate clothing, including sturdy outdoor shoes (not sandals) or wellington boots if possible
- check that cuts, grazes, etc. on children's hands are covered with a waterproof dressing.

During and after the visit, make sure that the children:

- always wash their hands thoroughly before and after eating, after any contact with wildlife, and again before leaving the farm
- eat only food that they have brought with them, or food for human consumption that they have bought on the farm, in designated areas, and never eat food which has fallen to the ground, or taste animal foods
- do not suck fingers or put hands, pens, pencils or crayons, etc. in their mouths
- clean or change their footwear before leaving, remembering to wash their hands after any contact with animal faeces on their footwear.

Check that the children stay in their allocated groups during the visit, and that they:

- do not use or pick up tools (e.g. spades and forks) unless permitted to do so by farm staff
- do not climb on to walls, fences etc.
- listen carefully, and follow the instructions and information given by the farm staff
- approach and handle animals quietly and gently
- do not chase, frighten or torment the animals.

Remember:

- the children are your responsibility during the visit
- you should supervise them during the visit, especially during hand washing, to make sure that each child washes thoroughly. Farm staff may be able to help with this supervision
- allow plenty of time before eating or leaving so that the children do not have to rush.

If a member of your group shows signs of illness (e.g. sickness or diarrhoea) after a visit, advise them or their parent/guardian to visit the doctor and explain that they have had recent contact with animals.



Clothing

You and your pupils should wear appropriate outdoor clothing, including sturdy shoes or wellingtons, not sandals.

Behaviour

Teachers/group leaders are responsible for the children's behavior throughout the visit. The children should understand how to behave on the farm and always follow the Country Code see below.

The Country Code

- Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.
- Guard against all risk of fire.
- Fasten all gates.
- Keep your dogs under close control.
- Keep to public paths across farmland.
- Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls.
- Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone.
- Help to keep all water clean.
- Take your litter home.
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees.
- Take special care on country roads.
- Make no unnecessary noise.

www.countryside.gov.uk



Section 4: What you can do on the farm

Activities we can provide on the farm

Field to table – wheat to flour to bread



By visiting the Carr House Farm children can see the process from ‘field to table’ - crops being grown, the flour mill being used to stone grind wheat into flour, and then the flour being used to make bread within the bakery. We can follow this story by seeing wheat growing in the field, milling our own flour and then using this flour to bake some bread.

We will be making the bread in the classroom but the children will have an opportunity to see the bakery and

all our bread will be baked in the ovens and will be returned to the children to take home with them.

Apple orchard and pressing apple juice



On the farm we have our own apple orchard. It serves as a brilliant learning opportunity for school visits. In the autumn we will take groups to the orchard to learn about the apples and then pick them. We then bring these back to the classroom to allow the children to then press their own apple juice using our hand press. The children can be fully involved in the process and then can have the opportunity to taste the apple juice afterwards as well.

Again, children can witness the process of field to table, by being involved in the whole process from picking apples to tasting the juice they have made.



Farm biodiversity

Carr House Farm is 190 hectares and consists of 13 fields, numerous hedgerows and woodland.



A circular walk around the farm is available. The path leaves the car park and follows a mixed hedgerow down to the river (this section is suitable for wheelchair access).

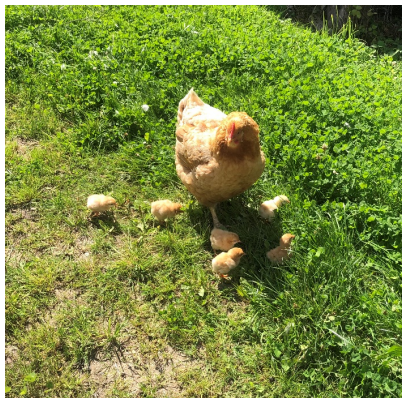
The path then follows the river bank before heading along the edge of several fields and back past the orchard and soft fruit area to return to the farm.



A variety of farm crops and practices can be viewed as you follow the walk, as well as a wide range of wildlife. Crops grown on the farm include spring wheat as the biggest single crop, clover, beans and spelt wheat. During this walk the children will have chance to look at the different habitats on the farm and look out for the animals that may live there – e.g. log pile, hedges, wildflower areas.

Please note that sections of the farm walk are next to the river and water filled ditches, so close supervision of school groups is therefore necessary.

Animal care



Although Carr House farm is not a livestock farm we do have animals on the farm. We have a small rare breed flock of Teeswater sheep, chickens and horses/ponies on the farm too. We can include these into activities, such as learning about the fleece of the sheep and how it's sheared and what we use it for. Learning about how we care about animals, what they eat and what they can do for us is a great activity.



Farm profile

History:

- The farm buildings date to the Victorian era.
- Previously, the farm was a traditional mixed farm with arable crops and animals. A range of outbuildings on the farm were originally stables, feed stores and a cowshed.
- The farm has been organic since 1999 and gained full organic accreditation in 2006.
- Diversification into the juicery and bakery occurred in November 2003.

Soil:

- The soil found at Carr House Farm is a medium to heavy clay loam with a pH reading of 6.5. Clover is grown on the farm as a crop to increase fertility and to produce and increase Nitrogen in the soil for the arable crops.

Landscape and Wildlife:

- The landscape of Carr House Farm is a patchwork of fields, hedgerows and ditches. The river runs through sections of the farm.
- There is a wide range of bird species on the farm including a heronry, barn owls, little owls, and traditional farmland birds which have nationally seen a decline in recent years including corn bunting, tree sparrows and grey partridges. Overwintering stubble provides a food source for large finch flocks.
- A range of mammals also live or visit the farm including foxes, badgers, hares, otters and water voles.

Climate:

- The farm keeps all its own weather records for rainfall and temperature, and these can be made available for school use if they are required.
- Climate is very important to any farm, but with Carr House Farm being organic the climate is especially crucial, as fertilisers etc cannot be used to force the crops forwards.



Involvement under Countryside Stewardship:

The Countryside Stewardship aims to enhance the landscape and wildlife of the farm.

On the farm we are implementing a range of methods to maintain and enhance the biodiversity of the farm. These include:

- allowing 6m field margins around the fields. These grass stripes have been enhanced to increase the wild flower content. This then benefits a wide range of insects, which in turn attract birds and mammals;
- the creation of a beetle bank;
- we leave 1 hectare of unharvested wheat to attract seed eating birds;
- we plant 1 hectare of wildbird seed mix to produce food seed for birds over the winter months;
- when planting hedgerows, we use a mix of mainly hawthorn but also include blackthorn, elder and field maple to increase diversity; providing nest boxes;

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Dear

Confirmation of visit booking

Thank you for booking a visit to our farm. Please complete the following details:

Name of school:	
Date of visit:	
Time of arrival:	
Time of departure:	
Number of children:	
Age range of children:	
Any special needs or allergies we need to accommodate:	
Number of adults:	
Outline programme:	

We look forward to your visit. Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,