LOWER FARM

EAST MEON

Teacher’s Guidance on the educational opportunities at Lower Farm
Farm information

Contact details

Farm name: Lower Farm

Farm address: Lower Farm, East Meon, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU321EZ.

Contact person: George Atkinson

Contact address: (As above)

Tel no: 01730 823235

Mobile no: 07767336360

Email: e.atkinson@fwi.co.uk

Booking a visit

In the first instance, please telephone 01730 823235 and speak to George. Visits are free but you will need to organise and pay for transport.

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

Directions to farm:

Exit the A3 at Petersfield. Join A272 towards Winchester. At Langrish turn left towards East Meon. At East Meon, church on right, turn left into village. Follow road out of village towards Clanfield. Lower Farm is 1 mile out of the village on the right. The farm house is on the left just before the farm on the turning to Ramsdean.

On arrival

If no one is there to meet you, call at the farm house or ring 07767336360.
For your safety please follow these rules

1. Don't feed the animals.
2. Don't stand on stacks of hay.
3. Don't feed the donkey.
4. Don't stand too close to the tractor.
5. Don't feed the ducks.
Farm profile and background

The Atkinson family originated from Cumbria. They moved to South Farm East Meon 100 years ago and continue to farm the valley. George and Elizabeth Atkinson and their three boys live at Lower Farm.

Lower Farm lies around the Doomsday village of East Meon. The village is a thriving modern community with a shop; post office; primary school; two pubs; a Saxon church and many historic houses.

The source of the river Meon, the highest rising chalk stream in the country is also in the valley, giving a huge diversity of habitats and wildlife as it meanders through the farms’ water meadows on its long journey through the Meon valley until it eventually meets the sea at Southampton.

George farms: Lower Farm - 600 acres; Lower House Farm - 200 acres bought in 1994 and Peak Farm - 400 acres owned by Trinity College Cambridge on the side of the A272.

The farm is situated within the prospective Southdown’s National Park in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and much of the farm is within the Environmental Sensitive Area (ESA) and Countryside Stewardship Schemes (CSS). The farm is managed to help enhance wildlife habitats and encourage key species.

The farm has a large breeding flock of 850 sheep. 550 of these are Scotch Half bred ewes sourced from Cumbria as ewe lambs. These are crossed with a Suffolk ram to produce a Suffolk cross Scotch Half Bred lamb. The male offspring are reared and sold for meat. The females are sold on for breeding and some are kept to replenish our other flock of 300 Suffolk cross Scotch Half Breds. This flock is crossed with Texel rams and also Southdown Rams. All the offspring from this flock are reared for meat. Lambing takes place during March and April.

The 350 acres of arable land is contracted out to the other Atkinsons in the valley, which has enabled the work force to be reduced and so an income from cottage rents become available. Also much of the expensive machinery is no longer required. Many crops are grown on an extensive rotation including: wheat for milling; barley for malting; oats; rape; beans etc.
ENRICH YOUR CURRICULUM

There are hundreds of useful resources for all key stages including packs, posters, videos and websites produced by a wide range of organisations.

These can be found by using the Farming and Countryside Education online directory under the resources section of www.face-online.org.uk

MAKE THE CONNECTION

www.teachernet.gov.uk

National Curriculum Online will help you make the curriculum links between food production, healthy eating and sustainable development.

www.nc.uk.net

Growing schools encourages practical growing activities and supports the understanding of farming.

www.teachernet.gov.uk/growingschools

BRITISH FOOD FORTNIGHT

www.farmsforteachers.org.uk

Make the most of your visit
Access to Farms is a partnership of national organisations that promotes quality educational visits. Its joint database links to those who can give you advice.
LAMBING – Health and Safety Issues

The main risks involve zoonotic diseases (diseases which can be transmitted from animals to humans). The risks are very low, but it is important that everyone who visits the lambing area is aware of them. The principal risks are outlined below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Risk</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DISEASES CAUSING ABORTION e.g. enzootic abortion, Toxoplasmosis etc. The causal organisms of these diseases can cause abortion in humans.</td>
<td>No pregnant women to visit the lambing area or have contact with uterine fluid from a lambing ewe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various organisms which can cause DIGESTIVE UPSETS in humans e.g. Salmonella, Cryptosporidia.</td>
<td>Minimise contact with stock and maintain very high standards of personal hygiene. Preferably don't touch the stock. If contact does occur, then wash hands thoroughly as soon as possible afterwards, preferably using bactericidal soap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORF. This form of dermatitis can be caught by humans from contact with infected sheep.</td>
<td>Minimise physical contact with stock, particularly those showing clinical signs of the disease. High standards of personal hygiene, which would include washing hands thoroughly immediately after having contact with ewes and lambs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PRECAUTIONS – STUDENT VISITS

If you are planning to take a group of students to visit the lambing, then please talk to them beforehand in order to make them aware of the risks involved. When discussing the risks, please do not be alarmist, but explain that it is sensible to make everyone aware of these issues simply as a precaution.
East Hampshire AONB
Integrated Management Guidelines

Boundary of Farm Case Study
Boundary of Local Landscape Character Areas
Overlap of Local Landscape Character Areas
Landscape Types
Chalklands
Scarp S - Downland / Open
Open Chalk Uplands with Escarpments
Scarp S - Downland / Enclosed
Wooded Chalk Uplands with Escarpments
Scarp S Hangers
Wooded Chalk Escarpment
Open Arable
Open Arable Downs
Chalk and Clay / Enclosed
Enclosed Chalk and Clay Downs
Clay Plateau / Open
Open Farmland on Clay Plateau
River Valley
Valley Sides and Bottom
Lowland Mosaic
Hangers on Greensand
Hangers on Undulating Upper Greensand Escarpment
Open Farmland on Greensand
Open Farmland on Upper Greensand Escarpment
Mixed Farmland and Woodland
Mixed Farmland and Woodland on Upper Greensand Fringe, Gault Clay and Lower Greens
## Risk Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HAZARD or ACTIVITY ON THE SITE</th>
<th>RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE HAZARDS</th>
<th>Potential to cause harm</th>
<th>CONTROLS ALREADY IN PLACE AND ACTION REQUIRED BY VISITORS</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Running children</td>
<td>Slipping, tripping, falling</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Children must be adequately supervised and instructed not to run on the site.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wet grass</td>
<td>Slipping, falling, sprains</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Supervisors and children should be aware of the possibility of wet grass and take adequate precautions against slipping and falling.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uneven grass surfaces</td>
<td>Slipping, falling, sprains</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Supervisors and children should take care when walking on the grass and wear sensible footwear.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road and path edgings</td>
<td>Slipping, tripping, falling</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Supervisors and children should take care at road and path edges to avoid tripping and falling.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climbing on objects (children)</td>
<td>Slipping, tripping, falling</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Children must be adequately supervised and great care taken if climbing is involved.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animals</td>
<td>Infection, biting, crushing &amp; kicking</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>All animals on the site are properly controlled and supervised. Visitors should not touch the animals unless encouraged by their handlers. Supervisors should ensure children wash their hands after handling any animal. Ensure that children wash hands before lunch.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bees, wasps and insects</td>
<td>Stings</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>These are natural inhabitants of the countryside. Bees &amp; wasps pose no risk unless provoked. Warn children to keep away and keep calm.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attaching from coaches</td>
<td>Slipping, tripping, falling, injury from other vehicles</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Supervisors should adhere to instructions provided by event organisers to use designated coach attaching points in the coach park and on any access roads.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machinery</td>
<td>Trapping abrasion, injury</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Supervisors should ensure that they and children in their care do not touch any machinery, comply with any safety notices and observe the restriction of any barriers that may be in place. Farm staff informed that visitors are present.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemicals &amp; substances</td>
<td>Inhalation, skin contact, eye contact</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Visitors must not touch. Chemicals must be stored and handled according to guidelines.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infection</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Supervisors should be aware that there is always a risk from infection in any environment. The countryside and agricultural establishments are no exception. Supervisors should ensure that they and children in their care wash their hands after touching animals and before handling food and drink. It is advisable to cover any cuts and abrasions.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LPG/Percol</td>
<td>Fire, explosion</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>The use of LPG and petrol driven equipment is monitored and controlled by the farm. Do not touch.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical equipment</td>
<td>Fire, electrocution</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Electrical installations and appliances are tested and inspected at the required intervals by the Contractor supplying them. Visitors should not touch or interfere with electrical equipment.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Straying into prohibited areas</td>
<td>Unidentified hazards</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Supervisors should ensure that children are instructed not to go beyond the designated areas.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings</td>
<td>Unstable floors/walls/lying debris</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>The farm ensures the structural integrity of all buildings that children are allowed to enter.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>Falling in the water</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Children must be strictly supervised near the pond, children are briefed on how to behave near water.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Worst outcome - drowning</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>