

The Artful Farm

Artist in Residence 2019

Introduction

Depden Care Farm is run by Millennium Farm Trust, a registered charity established in 1996 which offers outdoor work activities and opportunities to learn skills in animal husbandry, horticulture and agriculture.

Based in Depden, just outside Bury St Edmunds, Depden Care Farm has lots of farm animals to look after and work with including pigs, sheep, goats, donkeys, horses, numerous poultry and Arthur the dog. We also grow crops in our fields, raised beds and in our polytunnel. Produce is sold to raise funds.

DCF provides a safe and supportive learning and working environment. The focus is on supporting recovery and building the resilience of people with mental health problems, learning disabilities or acquired brain injury, as an addition to treating or managing their symptoms.

Adults with learning disabilities and/or additional needs, people recovering from depression or mental health issues and adults with acquired brain injuries can all benefit from working at Depden Care Farm. The programmes they take part in help build confidence, develop working skills and make new and stronger friendships.

Participants at the farm develop a variety of skills. As well as learning about animals and plants, people contribute to the continued growth of the farm by taking part in team projects such as fence building creating animal enclosures and all the general repairs required when running a successful farm. They can also learn about conservation, farm machinery and woodwork.

Depden Care Farm also provides an outside contracting service which enables people to broaden their experience working in other places and on other projects such as ditching, garden clearance, fencing and hedging.

Over the last three years, the Trust has embarked on a major programme of development for the farm including new buildings, water supply, paths and gardens. This has enabled the trust to broaden the range of opportunities available for participants and has increased the accessibility of the site to those with mobility challenges. The Artful Farm project is part of that development programme. This is the first time that the Trust has used the arts in this way and it will support future working and provide a model for the future development of the Trust's work.

Millennium Farm Trust is grateful for the support of St Edmundsbury Borough Council Community Chest for providing the funds for this project.

Aim of Residency

The Artful Farm aims are:

1. To provide opportunities which develop the artist's practice and enables participants, visitors and others to see the farm in new ways, exploring its impact on their own wellbeing and the community that works here and supports it.
2. To work with staff and volunteers to develop the arts skills of participants.
3. To provide another avenue for participants to express themselves and help inform their time with us.
4. To provide a legacy at the farm to help connect participants to their past experience, their part in its development and develop a sense of pride in their space.
5. To produce artworks for exhibition to help raise the profile of the farm as place of sanctuary, learning and growth.

Role of the Artist

The work or project created by the artist and by workshop participants will be inspired by the farm and explore our response to its impact on our wellbeing. The appointed artist will:

- Develop their own practice and build their own response(s) to the farm and the people that work here.
- Inspire and motivate participants to explore their farm and its impact on their wellbeing and enable them to articulate their response to it in new ways.
- Be authentic and provide connections through art between participants, the farm and its plants and animals. Provide hands on opportunities for participants to use the arts confidently and creatively.

The Artful Farm provides a unique opportunity for partners to work together and enable local people, including those with additional needs to explore their response to the farm in new ways, to socialise and meet new people in a supportive and creative environment.

The programme will operate for 30 days over April, May and June 2019 and is being developed by Depden Care Farm in partnership with Suffolk Open Studios and local special schools in St Edmundsbury.

Workshops

The artist is expected to undertake a programme of involvement with participants in the farm's programmes, staff, farm supporters and volunteers and local special school pupils. The exact form and nature of the activity will be agreed in discussion with the appointed artist as part of the contract.

Artworks

The appointed artist will be expected to deliver projects both through their own practice and working with workshop participants.

The nature and materials used will be for the appointed artist to determine, but they should be sympathetic to the farm's environment. At least some of the interventions should be permanent or semi-permanent in nature.

Projects could comprise a single or multiple physical objects, a performance / event or series of events.

Opportunities could include:

Pavings and pathways

Outdoor furniture

Gateways and entrances

Our sensory garden – sculpture, screens, plant supports, mosaics

Interpretation and trail and path markers

The orchard, vegetable and fruit gardens

HQ both inside and outside

Car parking

Road signage

Hard and soft landscaping

Our new outside outdoors kitchen is planned for development in spring/early summer 2019

Our new pig sty is planned for development during summer autumn.

Art pieces will be exhibited at the farm as part of Suffolk Open Studies in June 2019.

The artist should also give consideration to documenting the process and project interpretation.

Site

Depden Care Farm is situated on the A143 between Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill IP29 4BU. The smallholding is just 6 Acres and comprises, formal gardens, vegetable gardens, a raised bed Sensory Garden, large polytunnel, orchard, animal pens and paddocks. Paths between different areas of the farm are varied from hard tarmac to gravel, bark chippings and grass. We keep the farm tidy and it is well planted with ornamental trees and bulbs in order to provide the best possible therapeutic environment conducive to learning. Our HQ is a converted cow byre and enables us to meet and have refreshments in the dry. Our polytunnel and new workshop provide inside spaces to work when the weather is very wet.

Technical Requirements

Technical and physical considerations will need to be considered in the development of the work(s). These will include:

Context	The work should compliment the character and scale of the site, be appropriate and sensitive to the needs of the people that use the farm.
Access	In all elements of the project, attention should be paid to ensuring that the site remains accessible.
Maintenance	Attention should be paid to developing an approach that requires minimum maintenance and is robust enough to withstand the impact of voluntary and involuntary disruption.
Safety	Consideration of public safety will be an important element of the project, work design and installation.
Sustainability	Consideration should be given to the lifespan of the project and the use of sustainable materials.

Process and Timetable

The process and timescales for the project is as follows:

Project launch	w/c 14 th January
Deadline for applications	15 th February
Shortlisting	w/c 18 th February
Interviews	w/c 24 th February
Appoint Artist	4 th March
Develop and agree proposal	March
Project delivery	April – June
Suffolk Open Studios Exhibition	June 22-23 and/or June 29-30

Fees and budget

The budget for this project is £5,000. This includes artist's fee, travel and all materials and installation costs. There is an additional budget for project marketing, documentation and photography.

Submission

The artist will be selected by limited competition. Artists interested in being considered should send the following:

- up to 10 images documenting previous work accompanied by an image list,
- curriculum vitae and
- letter of introduction saying why the project interests you, highlighting any experience you feel is relevant and what your general approach to the project might be.

These can sent electronically or via Drop box to tim@depden.com. Hard copies can be posted to Tim Freathy, Depden Care Farm, Rookery Farm, Depden, Bury St Edmunds. IP29 4BU

Further information

Further information can be obtained from:
Tim Freathy.
Depden Care Farm, Rookery Farm, Depden,
Bury St Edmunds. IP29 4BU
Tel. 01284 851013

Credits

Millennium Farm Trust is grateful for financial support of St Edmundsbury Borough Council Community Chest to enable this project to be delivered. The help and advice of David Wright, Commission Projects has been very helpful in developing this project. The support of Suffolk Open Studios is also very gratefully acknowledged.