

Hereford Community Farm CIC

Restoration & Repurposing Ashley Farm as a 'Green Care' Community Facility

Introduction

Established in 2007, **Hereford Community Farm CIC** is an established provider of inclusive land based therapeutic activities and skills training that utilises an enabling **Green Care Model** of delivery that facilitates people to make positive changes to improve their quality of life; *'Our vision is to provide innovative, caring and supportive life experiences, work opportunities and structured learning programmes for people of all ages and backgrounds who have specific difficulties and who would benefit from the therapeutic effects of working with animals, horticulture and the environment.'*



Community led in approach, HCF developed holistically with an ethos of **sustainability** and **environmental responsibility** at its core. Working collaboratively with people, communities, health, social care, education, statutory and public bodies HCF endeavours to provide 'wraparound support' whereby people are empowered and motivated to address challenges and raise aspirations. We believe that effective and workable solutions for positive change lie within the people and communities in which they live and that *'Together we are stronger'*.

Rationale for the Green Care Model at Ashley Farm

The Green Care Model is central to the HCF approach – nature based activity specifically designed for individuals with a defined need. Green Care includes Social and Therapeutic Horticulture, Animal Assisted Interventions, Social Farming, some Environmental Conservation activities and 'green exercise / walk and talk' programmes. The National Green Care Coalition was established in 2016 to promote the commissioning and use of Green Care Services and to advance recognition of its use as an effective option in Health & Social Care.

<https://www.greencarecoalition.org.uk/>

Support us to develop the new and exciting Ashley Farm site!

HCF is seeking support from interested parties, sponsors, funders, trades and businesses to bring the vision to reality.

If you think you can help or want to find out more, please get in touch. We'd love to hear from you. **Julie and John, Founding Directors.**

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Ashely Farm Site, Grafton

To build capacity and develop the breadth of the Green Care Model HCF is leading a proposal to **restore and repurpose a traditional Herefordshire farmstead of redundant agricultural buildings and 19 acres of land as a Community Asset Transfer.**

With a sustainably led architect and professional Advisory Team, HCF prepared a comprehensive planning application and programme for restorative land management with biodiversity net gain which was approved on 09/10/2023.

'Overall, this development has the foundations to be exemplar in terms of brownfield use, landscape led, energy production, sustainable, with beneficial community outcomes.' **Landscape Officer comments**



Ashley Farm, Grafton

Ashely Farm is in Grafton, 2 miles south of Hereford. Whilst the postcode for the Grafton site is on the edge of the village, the northern boundary of the site is adjacent to Newton Farm and easily accessible by foot or bicycle off the Shaw Cycle Path and part of the site is within the Redhill ward. **This creates a unique interface for bringing urban and rural communities together.**

Heritage and Environmental and Biodiversity Reports

The reports have been done so that HCF can really utilise the site in a way that reflects its previous use and takes it forward into the future. **It's important that future visitors to the farm come along and can see its heritage and that we've retained that.** The [Heritage Statement](#) charts the history of Grafton and the farmstead from 1577.



There are plans to reinstate the traditional orchard comprising of heritage varieties of fruit trees. By using zero chemicals, this will allow the invertebrate population to thrive. Two ponds that are shown on historic maps will also be reinstated to support freshwater habitat. By acting on these plans and adopting additional recommendations in the [Ecological Assessment](#), the site will **promote biodiversity, address the climate emergency and reintroduce some species of wildlife.**



Links

Website: www.herefordcommunityfarm.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HerefordCommunityFarm

Planning application and reports www.tinyurl.com/HCFPlanningApp

Video about HCF (including Ashley Farm):

<http://www.tinyurl.com/HCFVideo>

Architect Plans



A design for repurposing of the cattle shed to provide a reception/community hub with a meeting room and facilities.



Visualisation of how the completed project may look with multi use community facilities.