



## **Maternity Cover Post – Brief on the farm**

The Woodlands Farm Trust is at 331 Shooters Hill, Welling, Greenwich, DA16 3RP with the majority of the farm (85%) in the Royal Borough of Greenwich, the remainder in London Borough of Bexley. The farm is a 36 ha holding, making it the largest city and community farm in the UK. This size enables us to demonstrate commercial farming, not only educating and connecting our visitors to agricultural production, but also with the seasonality of farming, such as lambing and shearing and getting peoples in tune with the rhythm of the countryside.

We have 70 ewes and their lambs, Manx Loaghtans, Dorset Downs, Lleyms and cross-breeds, 8 cattle, 3 pigs and 25 mixed poultry. The whole farm is in Natural England's Environmental Stewardship Scheme (ES), 14.5 ha are within the Higher Level Scheme (HLS). Both the ES and the HLS recognises and builds on the principle of conservation and biodiversity which are the principles the Trust has worked on over the years.

The Farm is managed and run by a very small team: our Project Manager, with a part-time Volunteer Organiser assisting, an Education Officer, a Saturday Young Farmers' Leader plus a cleaner. Our trustees and volunteers play an active role in running the whole enterprise. We need now to recruit someone to cover the Education Officer's maternity leave, which starts in November 2019.

The Education Officer, with her keen team of volunteers, manages a valuable provision of education, enrichment and enjoyment for many. A total of over five thousand children from schools and community groups visited the farm during our last operating year. The majority are primary schools, but we offer activities for the older age range, including orienteering. We have a range of activities including farm tours, minibeast safaris, pond dipping as well as planting activities and cookery. There are also nearly a thousand children enjoying our holiday activities each year. This included the new additional of the Stick Man Trail to the activities offered by the farm. Woodlands Farm was chosen by Social Farms and Gardens to be one of the sites to host the Stick Man trail. There is weekly Toddler Club, popular with regular parents and children attending with numbers up to 30 children per session.

### **Mission Statement**

Woodlands Farm is a fragment of London's old countryside that offers a unique opportunity to conserve heritage landscape and to promote biodiversity.

The objectives of the farm are to:

1. Build a truly sustainable future through sensitive farming, using native stock and to work towards a sustainable, harmonious practice, minimising the impact of activities on the environment both local and global.
2. Maintain the farm as a community resource, giving volunteers and the community access to and use of the farm, and importantly providing of education facilities for the use of the community and educational establishments.
3. Conserve and improve the biodiversity of the entire farm.
4. Create a sustainable operating and financial structure for the future.