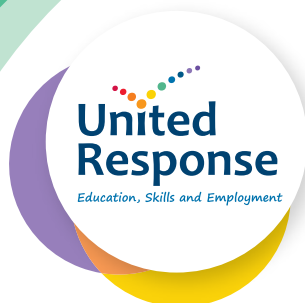




Lower Sharpham Barton Farm

ROC Skills & Wellbeing

Totnes



About Lower Sharpham Barton Farm

Set in the beautiful rolling hills overlooking the River Dart, our 80 acre farm offers a therapeutic space, providing a range of opportunities for people with learning disabilities and mental health needs to learn skills, connect with nature and make new friendships.

This ROC Skills & Wellbeing service near Totnes, is run by the national disability charity United Response.

People with a range of abilities attending the farm can gain skills and experience in:

- Animal husbandry
- Forestry
- Horticulture
- Metalwork
- Woodwork
- Nature conservation and rewilding
- Forest school
- Country crafts

We offer a range of employment pathways and supported internships in some of these subjects, to prepare our learners for the workplace.

We work in partnership with Ambios Ltd (www.ambios.net) which has a well-established history as a nature conservation-focused organisation in the UK and abroad. Ambios provide weekly nature conservation learning opportunities to the people who attend the farm.



Animal husbandry

This is looking after our animals. Duties range from grooming and exercising animals, checking they are in good health, preparing food and cleaning out accommodation and ensuring the maintenance of animal enclosures. The farm is certified organic, we use organic principles with our farming and animal care work.



“ I like the pigs, cows, chickens, sheep and guinea-pigs – I love animals and spending time with them.

Dan



Forestry

This is the craft of creating, managing, planting, using, conserving and repairing woodlands on our farm to ensure the environment benefits from our activities. In our tree nursery, we plant seeds that have been collected from woodland around the farm and grow the seedlings into trees. Timber is chopped, stored and used in the wood burners on site.



Horticulture

We cultivate a wide variety of fruit, vegetables and flowers in our beautiful 2 acre garden overlooking the River Dart. We have a large poly tunnel allowing us to grow produce all year round and a pond to encourage wildlife to the area. Food grown in the garden is cooked into soups and other tasty recipes and enjoyed by people working on the farm. Our ducks help to keep the slugs and snails away! This is a great opportunity to build confidence, develop practical gardening skills and learn about sustainability and seasonality.



Metalwork

People attending these sessions use their artistic skills to create their own designs, under the guidance of Bob our experienced metalwork teacher. They can be useful, practical items or decorative objects fashioned from various metals. We often use old horse shoes to make beautiful sculptures and models, many of which are sold to the public and in our retail outlets in Devon and Cornwall.



Woodwork

People attending these sessions make a wide variety of objects, depending on what interests them. We often build bat and bird boxes which are put up around the farm to encourage wildlife. We forage wood from the hedgerows to make walking sticks, recycle, re-use and repurpose wood to make decorative gifts, planters and fencing according to the needs of the farm.



I love making things and welding. I have made flowers and ducks.

Adam



Nature conservation and rewilding

The conservation group have been doing an important job working for nature on the farm. Rewilding takes it to the next level by thinking bigger, better and more joined up. Working alongside Ambios to support their 50 acre rewilding programme, participants are able to learn about protecting and preserving the environment and habitats for future generations. The area is monitored using a range of techniques such as camera traps and biodiversity surveys to track changes. This provides a fantastically rich learning opportunity for the people attending the farm.



Forest school

This is fire-building, cooking, bush-craft activities alongside problem-solving and self-discovery within the natural environment. We have two forest school spaces where our learners gain a deeper connection with nature.



Alex adores the farm and looks forward to it every week. We feel privileged, it makes a huge difference to our lives. It's a beautiful setting, opportunities to engage in great activities and well supported.

Parent

Our aim is to empower people to learn life skills as well as employability skills to increase their independence. The farm offers people the chance to immerse themselves in nature in a myriad of ways. We believe that the health-giving power of nature to improve both physical and mental wellbeing cannot be underestimated.



Doing wreaths, bird boxes and feeders makes me happy.

Chris

Contact information

We offer free taster days for anyone interested in being part of this inspirational farm.

For more information, please contact The Boatshed.

Telephone: **01803 868550**

Email: **skills.devon@unitedresponse.org.uk**

Farm location:

Lower Sharpham Barton Farm, Ashprington, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 7DX

ROC Skills & Wellbeing service location:

The Boatshed, Steamer Quay Road, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 5AL

ROC Skills & Wellbeing is part of the national charity United Response.

For more information about what we do, go to:

www.unitedresponse.org.uk

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