

Following Farmer Andrew to the crops (LWCS)



Farming in Protected Landscapes
Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Educational farm visits for disadvantaged children with The Country Trust

The project provides inspiring, hands-on day visits to Claxby Grange, Market Rasen for 312 children from disadvantaged communities across Greater Lincolnshire

- **Brief background:**



The Country Trust is a small, dynamic national education charity dedicated to bringing alive the working countryside for children least able to access it.

Since 1978 The Country Trust has been making it possible for hundreds of volunteer farmers and landowners to welcome thousands of disadvantaged young children from all backgrounds and faiths onto their farms to share their passion for food, farming and the countryside.

- **Background about the project:**

During a farm walk the children explore the crops Farmer Andrew grows and how they become the food we eat, including the wheat that makes our bread, oilseed rape, sugarbeet and carrots, or how crops such as miscanthus can help to produce energy

The Country Trust is bringing together an already successful series of educational farm walks with opportunities for schools in disadvantaged areas including North East Lincolnshire and the Lincolnshire Wolds.

This supports the children to develop curiosity, create connections and build confidence through these day visits to a working farm underpinned by using the resources in the 'Farm in a Bag'.

Bug hunt(LWCS)



What the project delivers:

- The Country Trust will organise and support six Farm Discovery visits in 2022 and six in 2023 for children from primary schools in Greater Lincolnshire with a higher-than-average percentage of children eligible for Free School Meals
- On a pre-visit, teachers will borrow the 'Farm in a Bag' resource that includes a video introduction and sensory activities and return it on the day of the visit, ready for other schools to use

- **Facts on funding the project:**

Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) Grant awarded: £9,645, at an intervention rate of 100%. The project delivers for the FiPL themes of Nature, People and Place.

Key Outcomes for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB:

- More people and wider audiences enjoy, understand and value our natural and cultural heritage.
- People of all ages and backgrounds have increased opportunity to learn about and be inspired by our natural and cultural heritage.
- Support innovative diversification projects that work with local communities and businesses to create, inspire and support sustainable farming and farm buildings



Learning about farm machinery (LWCS)

Depending on the focus of the visit they may look closely at how a plant grows, what soil is, or get caught up in mental maths as they calculate how many seeds each wheat plant produces, how many loaves can be made from a square metre of wheat etc.

Keys to success:

- A successful series of educational walks had already been established at Claxby Grange
- The farmer is passionate about his stewardship of the natural environment and is a wonderful ambassador for what individuals can do to take positive environmental action, and makes video diaries of his farming life to enable children to stay in touch with the farming year.
- The farm has a purpose-built farm classroom
- The Country Trust's expertise in working with disadvantaged children, and their track record of working with farmers and land managers in the area, gave the opportunity for children to learn, have fun and be physically active in a beautiful landscape
- The Country Trust organises all aspects of the visit, including connecting with communities that the farmers would not otherwise be able to reach, and supporting the activities on the day. The farmer is not under any pressure to be an organiser or an educator and can focus on being the farmer and sharing his expertise

Biodiversity and habitats and the crucial role they play in growing good food well are often a feature of the visits as there is a large fishing lake and woodland area on the farm



Looking at crops – explaining about oilseed rape (LWCS)