

*This section consists of templates that allow farmers to add their own details. A completed template has been provided in Section 4 as a guide to the type of information you may want to provide. Section 3 Bank of Resources contains additional information sheets, these can be copied and pasted into the templates, which can then be personalised. Some headings will not be appropriate for all farms and should be deleted.*

***All information in Italics is for the farmer to insert.***

**Farm  
information**

**SECTION 2**

**About the farm**

# About the farm

**Welcome  
To  
The Grange**

**[www.redpollbeef.eu](http://www.redpollbeef.eu)**



## **Farm information**

### **Contact details**

Farm Name: *The Grange*

Farm Address: *Warrington Road,  
Mickle Trafford, Chester CH2 4EB.*

Contact person: *Huw Rowlands*

Tel no: *01244 300655*

Mobile no: *07950 963526*

Fax: *01244 300710*

Email:

[huw.rowlands145@btinternet.com](mailto:huw.rowlands145@btinternet.com)

Website:

[www.redpollbeef.eu](http://www.redpollbeef.eu)

Grid reference: *SJ 4570 7569*

## **Booking a visit**

*In the first instance please telephone Huw on 01244 300655 or 07950 963526.*

*Visits are free but you will need to pay for transport. You can organise your own, or we can do this for you through our associated company, First Private Hire.*

## **Cancellation arrangements**

*If you are unable to carry out your visit, please let us know as soon as*

### **About the farm**

*possible so that we can make alternative arrangements.*

## **How to get here**

*We are four miles north east of Chester on the A56, 4 miles from Junction 14 on the M56, and 2 miles from Junction 12 on the M53 and the end of the A55. A half-hourly bus service passes the farm (except on Sundays). Operated by Arriva, the service numbers are 21 and X30. The nearest railway stations are Chester, Helsby and Ellesmere Port.*

## **On arrival**

*Coach and car parking is available at the Nags Head. The meeting point is the Nags Head, from where it is a short walk to gain access to the farm and to Trafford Water Mill. Refreshments and lunch can be provided at the Nags Head for a fee. Please ask for menu details or download them from our website. You can also find all the information about the Nag's Head at [www.changnoi.co.uk](http://www.changnoi.co.uk).*

## **What you can do on the farm**

### **A typical visit:**

*We provide a guided farm walk which takes in poplar tree plantations, woodland, ponds and the banks of the River Gowy. You can view our low input spring barley, and see different methods of grassland management. Our rare breed Red Poll cattle can be seen grazing the fields and our Connemara Ponies can be seen in their paddocks. The content of visits can be tailored to suit the requirements of the national curriculum and to fit separate areas of study for all age groups, and we welcome visitors of any age.*

### **Activities we can provide on the farm:**

*We can provide a guided tour and will talk about any aspects of our farming activities of interest to visitors. We can also arrange a guided tour of the Grade II Listed Trafford Water Mill by prior arrangement. This building, which adjoins the farm, is soon to be the subject of an extensive restoration programme. Refreshments and lunches can be provided( for a fee) at the Nags Head, and we recommend that you try one of their delicious Thai dishes made from our Red Poll Beef. (Please refer to the enclosed menu.)*

### **Areas available for your own fieldwork:**

*Access can be granted to most parts of the farm under supervision. This includes the River Gowy, brooks, ponds, grassland, woodland, poplar tree plantations and arable land. You will be able to see hedge and ditch restoration work and walk our permissive footpaths which form approximately a 3 mile circuit around the entire farm. As a classroom we currently use the lower room at the Nags Head, where toilets and hand washing facilities are also situated.*

### **About the farm**

## **Facilities**

A covered area suitable as meeting point, for packed lunches or for wet weather activities is available at the Nags Head.

Picnic areas can be arranged on the banks of the River Gowy. Listen to the water roar over the sluice while you eat your lunch. Or you might prefer to sit in the garden at the Nags Head.

Toilets and hand washing facilities can be found at the Nags Head or in the farm house.

Access for those with disabilities is limited because of the uneven and damp nature of the ground. However, if at all possible, we will endeavour to accommodate those with disabilities.

The meeting point if children get lost is the farm house at The Grange.

If there is an emergency, go to the farm house at The Grange, or to the Nags Head. Please go to whichever building is nearest. First aid equipment and telephones are available at both premises.

We carry an emergency first aid kit and antiseptic hand wipes on all farm tours.

## **About the farm**

# Farm profile

## History

*Eric Rowlands came to The Grange, then called Tyre Farm, in 1947, where he milked Ayrshire cows. The herd was converted to Friesians in the 1960's when a new milking parlour and dairy were installed. The farm was taken over by Eric's son, David, in the 1970's, and he now runs it with his son, Huw. Barley was grown from 1980 onwards, and the poplar tree plantations were started in 2003, in the same year that milk production ceased. The first Red Poll arrived that year, and the reduction of the dairy herd began in earnest. We now rear cattle for beef, much of which is sold locally and directly from the farm, and we have just entered the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme, where the environment takes high priority in our farming activities.*

## Soil:

*The soil is peat near the River Gow, and clay elsewhere.*

**Lan**

## dscape:

*The land is flat and low-lying, and typical of the Cheshire Plain.*

## Climate:

*It is classed as "cool, temperate, western margin."*

**Wh**

*David, Vanessa and Huw Rowlands run the farm. David is also a county councillor and Huw works for First Rail Support organising rail replacement buses.*

## o lives and works here:

## Involvement under e.g.CSS and any special designations, e.g. SSSIs:

*Most of the farm is in the new Higher Level Stewardship Scheme, but the poplar plantations are part of the Farm Woodland Premium Scheme. Nearby Plemstall Church dates back to the 12<sup>th</sup> Century.*

## About the farm

## **Encouraging wildlife**

*We take our environmental responsibilities seriously, and the entire farm is to be managed to promote wildlife under the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme. This includes planting wild bird feed and a wild flower meadow, leaving barley stubble over winter, leaving field margins uncut, and cutting hedges as late as possible and on a three year rotation. These activities provide a range of habitats and ensure that wildlife does not go hungry in winter. We work with Bay Malton Angling Club to look after the River Gowy, and trap and kill predatory mink on a regular basis. The cattle are used in part to manage grass sward length to encourage wetland birds, and the most recent survey revealed an abundance of snipe and woodcock on the wettest fields. As part of HLS we are recreating and maintaining an area of wetland to encourage these and other wading birds.*

## **Other enterprises**

*We sell our own beef, and also sell lamb and pork to order. Our beef is butchered locally, and hung for three weeks, giving it exceptional texture and taste. We have a small shooting syndicate on the farm. We are working with the Trafford Mill Trust to ensure the survival, restoration and development of the water mill as an educational resource, and anticipate that in conjunction with the trust, we will be able to offer a countryside visit which is second to none in terms of enjoyment and educational benefit.*

## **About the farm**

## **Using the land**

*Insert a map of the farm and land that including footpaths will be visited by groups – a clear sketch map is sufficient. If possible, prepare one map labelled and one map without labels for children to complete. An example is included in Section 4.*

## **Farm buildings**

*Insert a labelled plan of the farm buildings if possible. An example is included in Section 4. Alternatively, list the key buildings, e.g. farmhouse, grain store, covered yard.*

*Select the appropriate pages from the bank of resources and include them in your pack.*

## **A day in the life of the farmer**

*Insert and personalise details from Bank of Resources*

## **The farming year**

*Insert and personalise details from Bank of Resources*

## **Growing crops**

*Insert and personalise details from Bank of Resources. Include a list of other crops you grow.*

## **Keeping animals**

*Insert and personalise details from Bank of Resources. Include a list of other animals you keep.*

## **Farm Processes**

*Insert and personalise details from Bank of Resources*

## **About the farm**