



Farm and Estate Guide 2018 – 19



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Sparsholt College comprises of specialist further education college and University Centre Sparsholt, both of which are recognised locally, regionally, nationally and internationally for providing outstanding specialised further and higher education in land and environment, sports academies and sustainable technology with a focus on learner success and progression to land and environment professions.

Our Mission

To inspire learners to recognise and achieve their full potential.

Full-time and part-time course are provided in:

Agriculture

Agricultural Engineering

Animal Care and Management

Arboriculture and Forestry

Countryside, Conservation and Environmental Management

Engineering

Equine Studies and Horse Management

Fish Farming and Fishery Management

Horticulture

Motor Vehicle and Engineering

Public (Uniformed) Services

Sport and Outdoor Education

Veterinary Nursing

Zoo Biology

Foreword and Introduction

On Behalf of the Governors and all the staff, welcome to Sparsholt College Hampshire and University Centre Sparsholt.

Sparsholt has a national and international reputation for excellence in education and skills for the land and environment professions and the estate and farm at Sparsholt campus have developed in a way which focuses on high level technical and commercial endeavor, together with practical and technical skills opportunities.

Programmes offered at Sparsholt cover various levels, including MSc Degrees, BSc Honours Degrees, Foundation Degrees, NLBC/City & Guilds and some BTEC qualifications, NVQs and Apprenticeships as well as many 'pre-entry' and 'entry' level programmes.

Short CPD courses, tailor-made to the needs of industry, as well as some non-vocational adult education courses, are also provided.

The College has previously been awarded three Centre of Vocational Excellence (CoVE) in three main curriculum areas identified below:

- Game, Wildlife, Countryside management and Fishery Studies
- Animal Management and Veterinary Nursing
- Leadership and Management

During the last 15 years the College/University Centre has developed a national specialism in Zoo Animal Management/Zoo Biology in partnership with the BIAZA and EAZA (the British and Irish and also European Association of zoos).

The Farm and Estate resources are run as commercially led operations but the relatively small size and scale of the individual enterprises would be highly unusual in the commercial sector, where any single business would be more likely to be much more narrowly focused on one or two main course strands of enterprise. The College Farm and Estate resources, however, make a very significant contribution to supporting the curriculum deliver in terms of hands-on practical experience, applied project/thesis work, management routines and enterprise records and animal behaviour studies in a context of 'best practice' commercial settings. Consequently, the College Farm and Estate enterprises are very diverse but also very commercially led.



There has been considerable investment in the whole estate over recent years. The upgrading of farm facilities included silage clamps, young stock and beef housing and handling yards, together with dairy cow cubicles.

The College has excellent relationships with a range of local dairy businesses in the locality; including the Waitrose Dairy herd with its rotary milking parlour which provides an excellent contrast to the College system which itself is an ideal facility in which to learn the craft and techniques of milking.

The very high welfare pig unit with a breeding sow herd of 120 was opened by the Head of Farm Animal Welfare for the RSPCA which indicates the level of emphasis on welfare in this high production system.

The emphasis of the College on environment sustainability, and particularly renewable energy, is an important strategic ambition for the College and resonates with the skill requirements which we know the young people will be required to have in working in a diverse rural economy in the future. The technologies and related skills to be developed include wood fuels, bio-methane production from anaerobic digesters (AD) and others. In addition to providing skills for the rural economy of the future, the opportunities provided by these and increased photovoltaic rooftops will also significantly reduce the College's carbon footprint and, of course, our running costs.

The College obtained the ISO-14-001 environmental responsibility standard in 2014 and is re-accredited annually against a set of targets and measures. This relates to environment management of everything at the College and on its farm and estate. The emphasis of the standard focuses on:

- (a) Minimizing how organizational operations (processes etc) negatively affect the environment (ie cause adverse changes to air, water or land);
- (b) Compliance with laws, regulations and other environmentally oriented requirements, and
- (c) Continuous improvement in the above

This guide has been produce to provide details of some of our resources and facilities and also to present a clear picture of the commercial enterprise performance levels. I hope you find it informative and interesting reading.

Tim Jackson
Principal



The College Farm and Estate

In 1913 Hampshire County Council acquired land at Sparsholt where the College is now sited. More land was purchased in 1935, bringing the total area of the College Farm and Estate to 176 hectares (437 acres). As time has passed, the needs of the College have changed. To match changing needs the farmed area has increased by close co-operation between the College and local landowners. Land is rented using a variety of agreements and is mostly used to produce feed for the ever increasing numbers of livestock required to meet teaching needs.

The extra land also provides extra teaching opportunities for agricultural students, giving them more exposure to field scale operations.

Farm

The College Farm supports all of the livestock enterprises with a good range of appropriate buildings and facilities. Its land use reflects this with a range of grass and forage crops, which support a significant number of stock with home grown feed. The farm has a well-established conservation plan and sound environmental management, which is reflected in good agricultural practice.

	Hectares	Acres
Arable	24	59
Grazing	68	168
Conservation	16	40
Horse grazing	21	52
Lake area	3	7.5
Christmas trees	1	2.5
Animal Management grazing	4	8.6
Rented grazing	20	50
Forage Rye grazing	26.4	65
Silage/Hay	24	125
Maize	32	79
Lucerne	21	52
Total	260	708



Livestock (September 2017)

107	Holstein Cows – 95 in milk Autumn calving starting late August
17	In calf heifers
24	Heifer replacements
12	Beef Cross bred suckler cows
40	Beef steers and heifers
120	Breeding sows
1900	Pigs reared per year
310	Breeding sheep
41	Sika @ 20 hinds, 3 stags and 18 yearlings
65	Horses (of which 14 are owned by the College)

Arable Crops include:

Forage maize
Lucerne
Forage Rye
Winter/Spring Barley

Management Objectives of the College Farm

- ❖ Manage land-based enterprises and other activities in a commercial and environmentally sensitive manner so that the levels of performance of the units bear comparison with similar activities in the locality. It also provides a focal point of interest for the farming community.
- ❖ Produce up-to-date physical and financial data for staff and students in teaching and interpretation of recording, accounting and business management.
- ❖ Make available the College Farm enterprises and other land-based activities as examples of current good practice for observation and study by the wide range of visitors.
- ❖ Provide a range of facilities for practical skills, demonstrations, instruction and practice for students on land-based courses.
- ❖ Demonstrate practical livestock, crop husbandry and environmental management techniques using modern machinery and equipment, which together provide students with relevant information for enterprise studies and assignment work.
- ❖ Offer facilities to outside organisations wishing to appraise new ideas and techniques.
- ❖ Be farm assured for every enterprise.



Farm Staffing

Farm Manager

Gaham Boyt

Pig Person / Shepherd

John Garrett

Trainee Herd Manager

Shona Phillips

Cattle Person / Tractor Driver

Andrew Starbuck

Tractor Driver / Relief Pig Person and Shepherd

Tom Hasted

Farm Administrator (Part-time)

Helen Smith

Student Use of the College Farm

Involvement of students with the College Farm enterprises ensures that students benefit in the following ways:

❖ Active participation in routine livestock duties

Experience is gained in the commercial functions associated with care and management of livestock units. Students are placed with and supervised by well-trained farm staff. Quite apart from the basic husbandry that is learnt by students on agriculture and animal management courses, the applied aspects of employment are also built in, for example time-keeping, motivation, diligence and attention to detail. The farm units provide the routine duty practical rota, which includes tending stock in morning and afternoon sessions. Level 1 Diploma Agriculture students are programmed to the units on one full day per week. Level 2 Diploma and Level 3 Diploma and Extended Diploma students are programmed on approximately a six weekly rotation and allocated to a specific unit as follows:

Dairy Unit

4am – 8am 1.30pm – 5pm

Calves, Dairy Youngstock and Beef

6am – 8am 1.30pm – 5pm

Pigs

6am – 8am 1.30pm – 4.30pm

The final afternoon start times will vary according to the teaching timetable programme; the above times are an indication of desirable start times.



These courses and student groups, programmed over three academic terms, are supervised by the farm staff.

❖ Livestock and fieldwork demonstrations under the supervision of academic and technician instructor staff

Aspects of animal welfare, routine veterinary tasks, weighing of stock and the use of farm machinery form the basis of linking practice with theory. The livestock units support programmes of practical instruction for animal management courses, as well as the agriculture programmes. In this context the pig unit, calf rearing unit and sheep flock provide valuable opportunities for ‘hands on’ experience in carefully supervised situations.

❖ Practical facilities linked to environmental management, countryside skills and woodland management

The estate provides the opportunity to demonstrate conservation and management practice, and provide both 'hands on' practice (eg fencing, strimming, hedge laying) and an abundance of investigative assignment opportunities. The ancient semi natural woodland, Ower Wood, and the College shelter belt and lake form the basis of environmental management teaching in the important context of a commercial agricultural setting.

❖ Data and information for lessons and assignments

Farming and managing the countryside and recording the information generated gives rise to invaluable material for both staff and students. The College farm operates an 'open book' approach to all aspects of its commercial farming and demonstration unit activities, providing a wealth of invaluable live data for both students and staff.

The Dairy Herd – Garstons Dairy Unit

Staff

Shona Phillips – Trainee Herd Manager
Andrew Starbuck – Cattle Person / Tractor Driver

Herd

Data as at the end of July 2017

Breed	Pedigree Holstein
Number	100 in herd
Yield	Target 10,000 litres at 4.09% butterfat and 3.32% protein
Milk from forage	2600 litres
Milking	Twice per day 4am and 1pm
Target Production	1 million litres
Housing	In cubicles with sand bedding and mattresses



Breeding

High merit pedigree cows bred to Holstein by DIY AI autumn calving
Hereford Sweeper bull
Heifers aim to calve at 2 years of age to sexed semen

Feeding

Forage: Maize and Lucerne and grass silage.

Straights: Rape seed meal, distillers wheat, minerals. Alkali treated home grown cereal.

Concentrates: Fed to yield through computer in the parlour. Blend in TMR.

Health

Compulsory testing for Tuberculosis (TB) and Brucellosis.

Foot trimming is done routinely. Veterinary visits each fortnight during the breeding season.

Blood tests on metabolic profiles planned before breeding season.

Dry cow transition from 6 weeks before calving.

Vaccinated for Leptospirosis, BVD, IBR.

Parlour

Fullwood Trigon 5 x 5 x5 with automatic cluster removal (ACR). Cluster back flush, auto ID.

Automatic feeding and milk recording. Parlour equipment replaced Spring 2011.

Milk Storage

Vacaar 8000 litre Ice Bank cooled bulk tank with 2 stage plate cooler.

Automatic wash cycle. Heat recovery unit.

Milk sales

Medina Dairies every other day.

Performance

Forecast £2,717 milk sale per cow

£1824 MOPF per cow

Milk value 23 pence per litre adjusted for seasonality, butterfat and milk quality

17.4p MOPF per litre

Records

CIS – Cattle Information Service

Employed consultant pays regular visits.

In the ever changing world of dairy farming, producers constantly have to adapt their production methods to survive. The College is not immune to commercial pressures and



fluctuating values for both milk prices and inputs. Also there is a nitrate legislation which has a substantial cost attached in order to comply.

To ensure the future of milk production at the College and therefore safeguard the unit as a teaching facility, we decided to stay in dairy and invest in the unit. £9,500 was invested and the herd changed to Autumn calving, which better matches teaching requirements.

Although smaller than the average herd, Sparsholt Holstein cows are consistently well placed on the Kite Consulting Twice per Day League Table for Southern England. The Sparsholt Holstein cows are one of two herds in the top 21 that are not on a super market 'cost of production' contract.

There has been a recent investment of £25,000 to upgrade the milking parlour environment and improve ventilation.

To further enhance the herd students and staff attend local country shows. The team is known as 'Sparsholt Holsteins' and is designed to teach an enhanced level of husbandry in a competitive environment alongside other commercial producers.



The Beef and Youngstock Unit

The main aim of the Beef Unit is to maximize the value of calves born by dairy cows. Beef animals of all ages are used to teach cattle handling to all students who require it.

Calves born will be either pure Holstein heifers, which are raised to weigh at least 350kg at service and 500kg at calving, or Holstein males and crossbred calves of both sexes.

As an Autumn calving herd, older calves will be fattened for market at 16-18 months of age. Later calves are reared as stores and sold to local cattle finishers in Spring.

A small suckler herd was started in 2017 from home bred stock.



The Pig Unit

Staff

John Garrett, Head of Pig Unit
Tom Hasted, Assistant Pig Person

Type of Unit

A purpose-built, indoor unit producing bacon pigs.

Size of Unit

120 breeding sows. At any one time there are approximately 1,100 pigs in the unit, at various stages of growth.



Production

Bacon pigs weighing approximately 100kg + live weight.

Breed

Large White nucleus and some F1 Crossbreds.

Breeding Stock Status

A nucleus of purebred Large White stock is maintained and cross breeding with Landrace strains produces F1 hybrids for excellent meat quality.

Boars

All boars are home-produced and selected mainly on the basis of speed of growth and leanness.

Artificial Insemination

As the herd is closed, AI allows new genetic material to be introduced to the herd. This facilitates further improvement and reduces the likelihood of in-breeding.

Quality Assurance

The unit is a member of RSPCA Freedom Food and Farm Assured British Pigs. This scheme involves routine monitoring by veterinary surgeons in order to maintain high standards of animal health and welfare.

A closed herd policy is operated in order to minimize disease risk.

Housing

The College is proud to have a purpose-built pig unit. The unit was carefully designed to give the pigs as much comfort and freedom as possible, within the confines of a commercial enterprise.



The pigs are housed in social groups wherever possible, on straw bedding. The sows with piglets have room to move around freely, whilst still giving the piglets protection from being accidentally squashed by their mother. The piglets also have a safe area where they can sleep under a heat lamp.

Piglets are weaned from the sow and enter the weaner house when they are 28 days old. They are fed ad lib, using an automated feeding system. They start on weaner pellets and have two different diets during their time in this house. The pens are cleaned out on a regular basis.

Pigs enter the finishing house when they weigh about 40kg, and leave at about 100kg. They are fed ad lib, using an automated feeding system, and the pens are cleaned out on a regular basis.

Recording

The unit subscribes to Agrosoft recording. In addition to the paper based system, an IT based herd management programme is used.

Marketing

Bacon pigs are marketed through AQM, a farmers marketing group. The majority of pigs are sent to Cranswick Country Foods.



Herd Performance Based on Agrosoft Pigplan 2018

Breeding Herd

	Sparsholt	Pigplan Average
Sow Performance		
% Successful Services	88	82.98
Farrowing Index (4 weeks weaning)	2.20	2.28
Piglets reared/sow/year (4 weeks weaning)	21.1	22.2
Quantity of sow & boar feed/sow & gilt/year (tonnes)	1.326	1.421

Litter Performance

Average number of piglets born alive	11.8	12.39
Average number of piglets born dead	1.3	1.03
Average number of piglets reared/litter	9.8	10.82

Pig Performance

% Mortality of pigs born alive	16	12.68
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Rearing and Feeding Herd

Average Daily LWG (g)	812	697
Average food consumption/pig/day	1.93	1.53
Average FCR	2.46	2.33
Mortality %	2.1	4.8

Bacon Pigs

Average days of bacon	152
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Future Plans for the Pig Unit

A terminal sire is used to produce slaughter generation pigs. At present a Hampshire cross from Klasse AI (artificial insemination) is used, this combines the Hampshire and large white breed. Selected for fast growth, good feed conversion, lean quality meat and high health status.

The Sheep Unit

Staff

John Garrett (also Head of Pig Unit)
Tom Hasted Assistant Shepherd

Objectives

The objectives of the College sheep enterprise are as follows:

- ❖ To be used extensively for education and training purposes. The College flock is lambed early so that agricultural students who are going out on work experience in April/May has experienced lambing.
- ❖ To demonstrate good husbandry and management practice.
- ❖ To contribute towards the farms profitability.

Breeding Policy

The purpose of the breeding flock is to produce prime butchers lamb. To achieve this, top quality Texel rams are homebred.

Breeding Stock

For the 2018/19 year the College breeding flock comprises of the following animals:

Ewes

Suffolk X (mule)	298
Texel	12
Total	310

Rams

Texel Rams	8
Teaser Rams (Balwen welsh mountain)	2



Lambs

By lambing early (January), the College is able to provide maximum opportunities for students to learn and experience lambing at the College ahead of the usual lambing season when students are able to reinforce their skills in the commercial sector during weekends and holiday periods. The other advantage to an early lambing is that the lambs 'finish' early and can achieve early higher prices. Approximately 20 are carried over for the autumn for student use and to tidy up the main College grazing areas through eating any excess grass growth.



Lamb Sales 2018 Season						
	No sold	Average weight	Total weight	Average price/kg	Average value	Total value
Totals	406	18.54	7531.05	539.39	100.00	40601.43



Soil Types

Soils with similar characteristics and derived from similar parent materials are grouped together as a soil series.

Four main soil series have been identified at Sparsholt. These are Andover Series, Wallop Series, Winchester Series and Charity Series.

Andover Series

The profile is essentially shallow, brown, flinty loam over chalk and typically it is associated with sloping ground. Usually it is under arable cultivation with a considerable local variation in soil depth.

The shallow Andover soils have a characteristically striped appearance under cultivation due to chalk being brought to the surface. The lower end of slopes have deeper phases grading into the Charity Series.

Productive capacity is limited by their depth and water holding capacity, although they are fairly drought resistant since roots can penetrate the soft moist chalk. They may set very hard in a dry summer, hindering autumn cultivations, especially after a grazed ley. They are usually deficient in potash.

Wallop Series

Shallow layer of clay-with-flints overlaying chalk. It occurs typically on convex slopes at the edge of the Winchester Series and also in isolated patches on elevated land surrounded by Andover Series.



Profile shows brown or greyish brown clay loam to clay, very flinty overlying reddish brown flinty clay resting directly on chalk.

Transitional between Winchester and Andover Series in character and potential production. Freely drained.

Winchester Series

The profile shows brown flinty clay loam to clay, over flinty clay ranging from reddish brown to yellowish brown which will indicate drainage characteristics of the series.

The thickness of the clay, the drainage characteristics and the lower base status (lower pH value) distinguish this from the Wallop Series. Liming may be necessary on the deeper profiles.

Heavier to cultivate than the Andover Series but considered a good wheat soil.

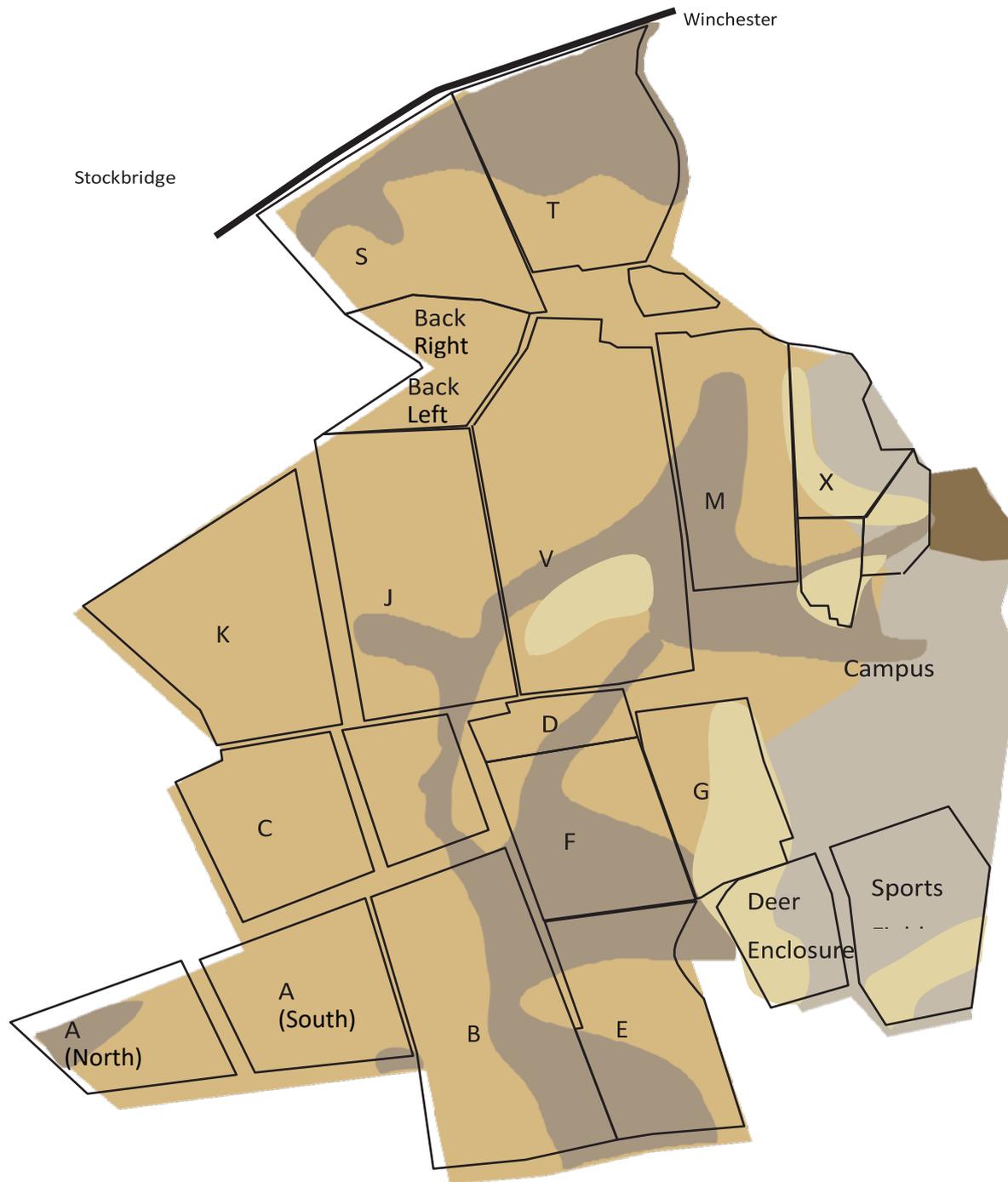
Charity Series

Colluvial material derived from the chalk and clay flints resting on disturbed chalk or brown flinty clay mixed with chalk.

Profile shows at least 375mm of brown loam, often flinty resting on disturbed chalk or brown flinty clay mixed with chalk.

Freely drained, soil depth favours a satisfactory moisture regime for crop growth on the Andover Series.





- Andover
- Charity
- Winchester
- Wallop
- Batcombe

Field Cropping

Sparsholt College Home Farm has a cropping profile which provides for the needs of the livestock enterprises. Further land off site provides additional forage supplies, arable cropping for income generation and enhanced fieldwork opportunities for students.

Crops include two-year grass leys for growing bulk hay and haylage crops, forage maize, lucerne and forage rye. The forage maize crop is used for feeding the dairy cattle and beef finishers. Where possible the College has linked up with commercial forage crop seed producers to provide demonstration days for farmers and growers.

Future Cropping

The future cropping of land both at the main College and Old Manor Farm, may change depending on the cropping year that an Anaerobic Digestion (AD) Plant is built at the College farm. This facility has obtained planning approval but is currently delayed pending the confirmation of the biomethane gas RHI (Renewable Heat Incentive) tariff for this facility.

The College will be able to grow crops and grass that can be used to produce biomethane gas which would then be pumped into the national gas grid and used to heat the College. In the long run it is hoped that such a plant would not only provide fuel for heating, but fuel for specially converted tractors. This will make the whole process sustainable, enhance teaching in renewable energy and provide a further range of AD plant operation practical work and field work opportunities for students.

Maize

Early maturing varieties suit the calving pattern of the dairy herd. Maize planting commences towards the end of April on land which has received farm yard manure application from the College dairy unit. The maize seed is usually coated with a standard seedling fungicide and Frit Fly treatment. Weed control is affected primarily through the use of residual herbicide with follow-up of tank mix products to eliminate nightshade weeds which escape and would be highly toxic to cattle. A residual herbicide is not used where a catch crop of grass follows maize. Harvesting of maize normally commences in mid-September depending upon the varieties grown and the season. Growing maize also creates field work opportunities for students. Muck spreading, ploughing, cultivation and drilling are all undertaken and at a time in the year when students are capable of more challenging tasks.



Grassland

The College farm has a far higher percentage of grassland than would be normal for this area of Hampshire. This is due to the number and variety of livestock enterprises required to support the educational programmes. The grassland can be classified into three broad types: long term, short term and permanent pasture.

The short term ley, generally two years, is based upon Italian and Hybrid ryegrass. The utilization of these leys is predominantly for early grazing by sheep and the dairy herd. These leys, given adequate rainfall, are capable of bulk silage yields of up to 12.5 tonnes of dry matter per hectare.

Long term leys are located closer to the dairy unit and form the basis of the spring/summer grazing area for the dairy herd, with any excess being eaten by sheep. The composition of these leys includes a wide variety of perennial ryegrass which provide a steady level of grass production throughout the season and clover which helps to maintain palatability, feed value and fixes nitrogen. The permanent pasture is used for sheep and horse grazing.



The College herd has a paddock grazing system. Paddocks which get ahead of the cows are closed and cut for silage. The College takes great care to plan a programme of grass fertilizing which pays due regard to the existing fertility indices in the soil, together with residue supplied by organic manures from the variety of livestock enterprises on the estate. The application of organic manure is scheduled according to the waste management plan. Programmes of fertility are also carefully matched to the species and health of the sward, in order that yield and quality are optimized with due regard to the potential hazards of excess fertilisers in the environment.

Lucerne

Lucerne is grown to provide quality forage for feeding to our dairy herd. Lucerne is high in protein (18-22%), drought tolerant and is cheap to grow. It requires no nitrogen fertilizer and only needs seeding once every 4 years.

- Countryside Stewardship/set-a-side/conservation
- Horse (including M & X when needed)
- Animal Management paddocks



Home Farm Cropping Programme – Summer 2018-19 (Subject to Change)

HOME FARM

Field Name	Cropping – Crop type	Size ha
(Land owned by the College)		
A north	Forage Rye	4
	Undersown with Italian Ryegrass	
A south	3rd year 4-6 year ley	7
B1	3rd year 2-3 year ley	13.4
C	Forage Rye	8
	Undersown with Italian Ryegrass	
D	Permanent pasture	2
E1	2nd year 2-3 year ley	7
E3	Christmas tree/arboretum	1.5
E4	ELS flowers and conservation area	1
F	3rd year 2-3 year ley	6.9
G	Permanent pasture	5
I	Permanent pasture/conservation	2.4
J1	5 th year of 4-6 year ley – dairy grazing	6
	Re-seed to be confirmed	
J2	Sheep grazing	6
K1	Spring reseed. Rescue pollen mix	1.67
K2	Spring reseed – Model Farm Area	12
K3	Conservation headland/game rearing	1
	Maize Spring	
M	Equine grazing	5
PP	Equine grazing	1
Back right	Equine grazing	2
Back left	Equine grazing	2
S	6 th year 4-6 year ley – dairy grazing	9
	Reseed Spring. Early ley	
T	5th year of 4-6 year ley – dairy grazing	8
V	Equine grazing	6
X	Equine grazing	5
		122.87

ADDITIONAL LAND

(Annual rented ground)

Little Buckholt	Permanent pasture	20
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(Land on rolling full business tenancy)

Glebe – Winterslow	Over wintered stubble	3.6
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followed by Red Clover/IRG Mix

Glebe Square – Winterslow	Over wintered stubble	3.4
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Followed by Red Clover/IRG Mix

Downs 1 – Winterslow	HLS grass	0.8
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Downs 2 – Winterslow	3 rd year Lucerne	6.5
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Downs 3 – Winterslow	3 rd year Lucerne	5
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Genesis – Winterslow	Lucerne and clover	} Spring	3
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Wild bird food mix	} Barley	3.5
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Curlew plot	} after HLS	2
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Maize (Game plot)	} period	1
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Maize	} ends	19
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Barn Field	Spring barley	20
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Hatchets 5 – Winterslow	Grass 2nd year	10
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Timothy Grass	18
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Conservation mix	2
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136.3

Total Area **260**

Additional Land

Little Buckholt Farm

This 20 hectare farm is approximately 13 miles from the College and is owned by a member of the College staff. Previously a dairy farm, it is well fenced with adequate water troughs for each field. The College has an arrangement with the owner to rent the land and pay a small stock checking fee. This enables the College to reduce its stocking rates during the summer months, knowing that the stock are properly looked after. Any excess grass is cut for hay.

Farming Land at Winterslow

In 2012 the College acquired the tenancy on 100 hectares of arable land at Winterslow, near Salsbury. The need for extra fieldwork opportunities had been identified and this block of land allows us to provide extra field scale tractor driving, as well as generating data for students to use.

The land has been farmed on a low input, low output system and the soil was consequently in a rundown state. In the spring of 2012 the land was signed over to the College on an initial 3 year full business tenancy (FBT). It took 2 members of staff 30 days to plough, cultivate and sow approximately 96 ha of spring barley. That spring was one of the driest on record and a percentage of the crop failed on the very heavy ground. At harvest approximately 73 ha was harvested giving a total of 325 tonnes or 4.39 t/ha.

During the winter of 2012-13 students cultivated the farm using heavy equipment to try and rectify the soil structure problems that were present. Approximately 1,500 tonnes of farmyard manure was transported from the College farm and spread annually to improve fertility.

All the land was again sown to spring barley. After another dry spring, harvest took place in early September as the season was very late. 93 ha were sown (3 ha having been sown to



Lucerne for feeding to College dairy herd). 92 ha were harvested giving a yield of approximately 550 tonnes or 6 t/ha.

With the drop in value of arable crops it was decided to grow restorative crops which would either go for forage for dairy cows or as fuel for a local anaerobic digester.

The restorative crops will improve soil structure and fertility. It will also allow the college to return to arable cropping if returns improve.

In 2015 the farm was entered into the Higher Level Scheme (HLS). The farm needs to have approximately 7% of its farmable area in conservation to meet both HLS requirements and to meet proposed changes to the single farm payment. Difficult to farm field corners were removed from cropping and planted with plants designed to feed birds and insects.

Some of the options considered are:-

- EF1 management of field corners – this was chosen to protect 3 different types of orchid growing in one area.
- EE3 6 metre buffer strips on cultivated land – this is a development of the 3 metre strips put in the first year. 3 metre strips were planted to keep the farming activity and the public separate. Certain areas have worked so well that rare plants have been found and therefore the strips which require it will be doubled in width to protect these rare plants.
- EB2 hedgerow management one side of hedge – most of the boundaries only have one side of the hedge available to us. To improve them as best we can, we will only cut them once every 3 years to allow them to thicken, giving better nesting sites.

EF6 over wintered stubble – these areas designed to produce food for seed eating birds over winter.

The previous options were required to meet the “Entry Level” (lowest) scheme. To further enhance the farm, the following extra options are taken to lift it to the higher level.

HB12 management of high value hedges one side – these hedges are identified as those producing a large amount of winter food or being significant nesting sites, especially for tree sparrows and dormice.

EF4 nectar flower mix – planted in strips or field corners to produce food for insects and some birds.

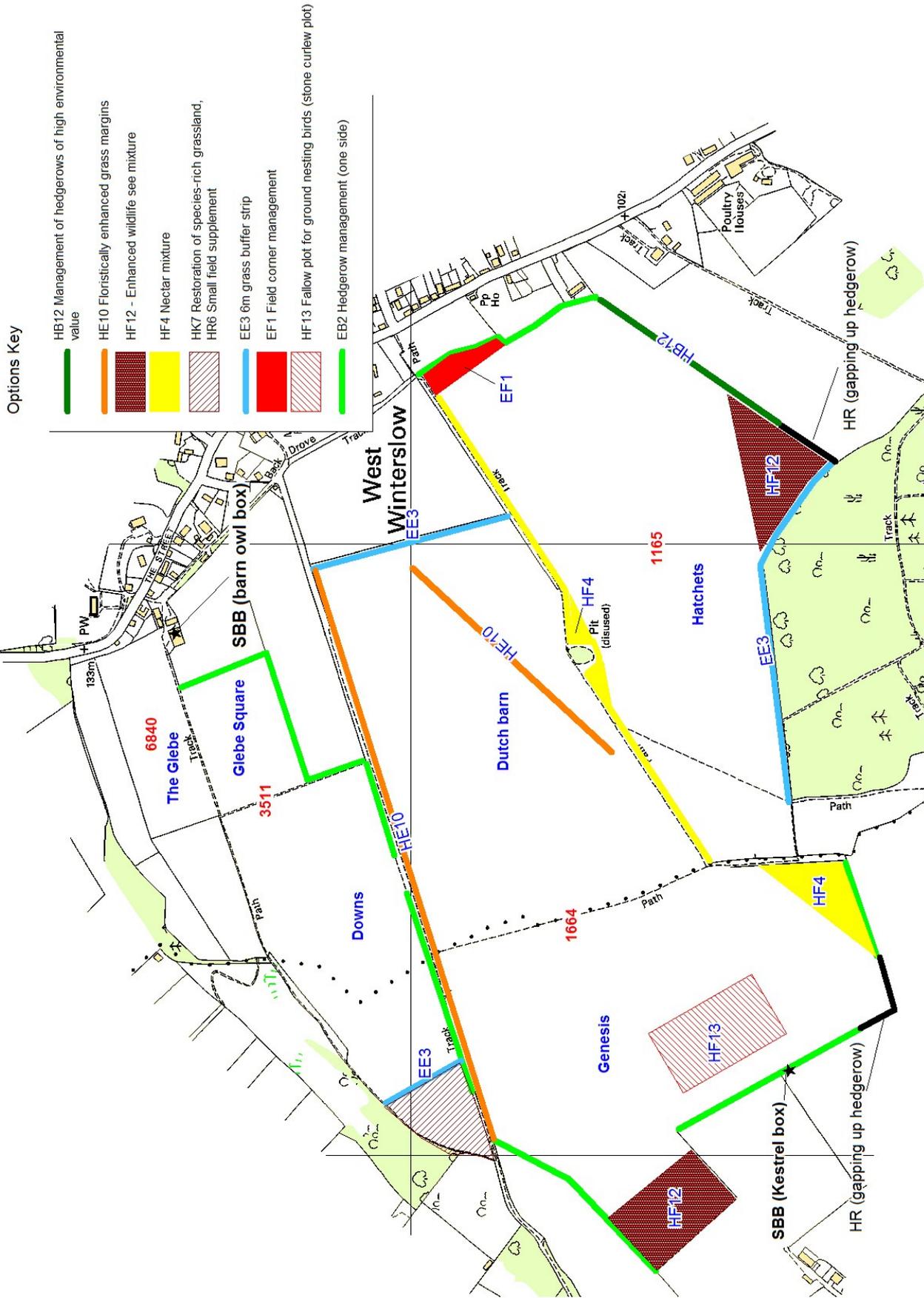
HK7 restoration of species rich, semi-natural grassland – the area with the orchids will be expanded to allow a bigger area for ground nesting birds. The soil in this part of the field is very thin, and would not support good yields from cereals.

HE10 floristically enhanced grass buffer strips – areas planted to keep farming and the public separate. The farm has 3 footpaths. These areas are proving very good for butterflies.

HF12 enhanced wild bird seed mix – these areas are designed for producing seed for birds over winter.



Old Manor Farm- Winterslow HLS Plan



Countryside and Conservation

The landscape of Sparsholt is typical of the countryside in mid/north Hampshire, rolling chalk hills dissected by hedgerows, shelter-belts and occasional woodlands sited on the hilltops where the soils are heavy with clay. The word 'Sparsholt' derives from 'spar' meaning straight timbers (spears or spars) and 'holt' meaning managed woodland. Indeed, many of the original field boundaries on the farm were constructed from hurdles made of hazel cut from Ower Wood and other nearby woodlands. Today such inter-dependence between the farm and the countryside is not so clearly defined.

Remnants of this early landscape can still be found on the Estate, and this forms the basis of nature conservation of the College. The Ower Wood is primarily managed as an important wildlife and educational resource, where hazel coppice and timber production are now a secondary objective. Many of the old and diverse boundary hedges also survive and today form important wildlife corridors on the Estate. Each of these features are managed sensitively to maintain and increase their conservation value.

Over the years, countryside features have been created to enhance the wildlife on the farm. A tree and shrub shelter-belt on the western boundary was designed and created by students in 1988, incorporating an area of restored chalk grassland. An additional chalk grassland area was created by Conservation and Wildlife students in 2013 to increase the available habitat for wildlife and for teaching purposes. The network of hedges has also been enhanced with new shrub and tree planting and the existing hedgerows are being managed.

A Farm Conservation Plan has been produced with the aim of improving the ecological interests on the Estate and to sensitively manage this important natural resource for future generations of students and staff we work in and enjoy.



Countryside Stewardship Scheme

The College submitted a successful application for the Countryside Stewardship Scheme in May 2001 through the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG). The agreement, which lasts ten years, started in October 2001 and ended in October 2011. Plans are being drafted to join the 'Entry Level Scheme' (ELS).

The key elements are:-

- Hedgerow restoration and planting
- Wildflower and bird food strips
- Tree planting

Tree Planting

In the Sika deer paddock two small clumps of trees and a number of individual trees have been planted. They are all local native species and in keeping with the character of the area. Additions to the original plan were added in April 2003, these are:-

- Wildlife Seed Mixtures
- Pollen and Nectar Mixture

Wildlife Seed Mixture

The aim is to provide sources of seed and cover for birds and mammals. This option involves the sowing of a wild bird seed mixture (cereal, kale and quinoa) which should provide a succession of food sources for wild birds, plus cover for brown hares. A colony of tree sparrows has been located on one boundary; some extra planting will take place to encourage them to stay.



Hedgerow Restoration

The hedges on the farm support a range of farmland wildlife including National Biodiversity Action Plan species such as song thrush, linnet, yellow hammer, grey partridge and other species including white throat and dunnock.

The planned hedgerow restoration and creation addresses the whole farm with the aim to create a continuous thick shrubby growth along hedged boundaries. The hedges are being restored through a range of techniques including gapping up, hedge coppicing and planting.

Arable Margins

A network of 6m grass margins has been established around the farm, creating a stable habitat along field boundaries that will buffer hedges and woodlands from farm operations.

In the establishment year the margins were cut on a regular basis to promote the creation of a dense sward and reduce annual weeds. In subsequent years half of the 6m margins will be cut annually after 15th July and the other half along the edge of the hedge will be cut every second or third year to allow a tussocky margin to develop. The creation of this two-stage habitat with the more open less tussocky area will provide an excellent hunting ground for barn owls (*tyto alba*) and the thicker area along the hedge is ideal for ground nesting birds such as the grey partridge (*perdix perdix*).

Pollen and Nectar Mixture

The second option is to provide a succession of summer flowering plants that will provide and pollen and nectar sources for invertebrates such as hoverflies and bumble bees, as well as cover for game birds and hares.

Game and Wildlife Centre

The Game and Wildlife Centre was opened in 2011 and consists of:

- Incubation rearing pens
- Large workshop area
- Brief and demo room
- Butchery area

We rear pheasants and partridges in the spring and summer and quail in the autumn and winter months. The quail are reared as part of student projects and then processed and sold for the table. The indoor rearing pens are also utilised for conducting game rearing investigations such as quail weight gain and other studies.



The other main part of the Game and Wildlife centre is the game larder, chiller and meat preparation room. These facilities are used by students to process deer from the College's Sika Deer herd and local estates. The carcasses can be stored in the chiller before being cut and butchered into venison in the preparation room. The new centre also has sausage and burger making machines, along with vacuum packing equipment. The College butchery resource now helps to support the butchery apprentices who come to College every Monday to complete their written work and also to learn how to cut up and prepare for sale beef, lamb and pork.

During the rearing season the game unit aims to produce approximately 3,500 pheasants and 750 french partridges. The poults of all species are sold to local estates. Levels of production for the season along with critical performance indicators for each species are shown in the table below.

Red leg partridge eggs and pheasant eggs are supplied by a local company. The College has a 12,000 capacity incubator and a 4,000 capacity hatcher. All the eggs are 'set' in the incubators for the first 21 days of the incubation period. After 21 days they are all removed from the incubators and 'candled' to check for the presence of a well-developed chick. Any that do not contain a chick are considered infertile and are discarded. The fertile eggs are transferred to the hatchers for the final 3 days of the incubation period. The chicks are either sold as day olds



or are then moved to the rearing field into a brooder hut (with gas heater), after a while the birds are then allowed into a night shelter and then finally into a grass run. This system enables the birds to acclimatise to the external environment in preparation for their eventual release into the wild. The students can gain experience of rearing in a traditional manner with the original Sparsholt game farms smaller wooden huts and modern way of rearing in the insulated large Sedgemoor huts.

Sparsholt College Game Production for the 2017 Season		
Egg Production and Incubation	Pheasants	French Partridge
Total eggs set	7,854	2038
Total eggs transferred	6,938	1946
% fertile eggs	88.3%	95.4%
Total hatch	4945	1475
% hatchability of fertile eggs	71.2%	75.7%
Rearing	Pheasants	French Partridge
Total day olds	3828	1475
Total poults	3556	1350
% mortality	7.6%	8.5%
Deer 41 Sika @ 20 hinds, 3 stags and 18 yearlings		

The Deer Herd – Deer Pen

Rod Greenwood
John Talbot

Data

As at the end of June 2017

Herd

Breed: Sika

The calving season is from late May onwards.

Health

Testing worm count via College labs.



Sika Deer Herd

Calving takes place from the last week of May until the first week of September.

Additionally, we have two mature stags, and we always keep one young stag running on to take over when we have to cull the mature stag, and 15-18 yearlings from which to select suitable future breeding stock.

The College culls once a year to maintain the herd size in balance with the resources and space available to them and to remove any old animals. All venison generated is sold as joints and sausages to staff and Bytes, one of our food outlets. This also enables students to be trained and provides full cost short courses in gralloching (removing the deer's internal organs). Cover for the deer is deliberately left in the pen to allow refuge for young calves in their first few weeks of life.

Animal Management Centre

The animal Management Centre (AMC) is a contemporary unit built for the purpose of teaching students practical animal management skills across a wide range of animal species. The majority of students vary between further and higher education programmes but, in addition, there are a number of part time courses offered to professionals already working within the animal management industry who wish to further their personal development. The College is a member of the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA) and holds a zoo license, animals boarding license and a pet shop license.



The AMC has a team of experienced and dedicated animal professionals that assist in the delivery of the curriculum and oversee the day to day welfare of all animals. In addition, many of the staff at the AMC are members of relevant professional bodies such as the Association of British Wild Animal Keepers (ABWAK) to ensure they are up-to-date with all of the latest applied research informing the best management practices with animals. The animal collection reflects the diverse range of species and husbandry requirements encountered within the animal management industry. This enables students to gain extensive practical skills in husbandry techniques as required by future employers.



The Veterinary Nursing Centre replicates a fully equipped veterinary practice, providing an excellent resource to support the training of Veterinary Nurses.

In line with the growing conservation role of zoos, the AMC holds an increasing number of threatened wildlife species for which managed breeding programmes are a key part of global efforts to safeguard their future survival. These include important breeding groups of black lemur, golden mantilla frogs and electric blue geckoes, the latter two species being categorized as Critically Endangered by IUCN. The AMC participates in European Endangered Species Programmes (EEPs) that have been set up to manage these captive populations internationally.



There is also a varied collection of domestic hoofstock including donkeys, alpacas, goats and dwarf zebu, demonstrating a range of husbandry and handling needs. The bird collection features representatives of commonly kept pet and domestic forms but also typical zoo species such as cranes, pheasants, turacos, kookaburras, parrots and owls. Training birds for husbandry purposes but also free-flying is a particular area of expertise.

Sparsholt College has strong connections with wildlife and conservation organisations and in particular, zoological collections throughout the UK and Europe. An increasing number of students wish to further their careers in these fields and the Animal Management Centre will continue to develop the exotic animal collection to best facilitate student learning within this sector of the animal management industry.

The AMC has recently undergone extensive development to provide new handling and teaching rooms for small exotic and companion mammals, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates.

Section One Kennels and Cattery



The dog kennel and grooming complex can house 21 dogs in state-of-the-art accommodation. Whilst dogs are not permanently housed at the centre, we do offer a dog boarding and a full grooming service all year round. During the term time there is a large network of staff at Sparsholt College who own dogs and bring them to the unit for students to gain practical skills in handling, training, grooming, health and husbandry.

The section also runs the dog agility courses and has a keen interest in canine training and behavior. The large, purpose-built cattery houses a range of recognized cat breeds who also have access to large exercise enclosure packed with behavioural enrichment.

Section Two Small Domestic and Exotic Mammals



The AMC houses 40 mammal species, comprising 318 specimens at the time of writing. These include exotic mammals such as; red panda, black lemurs, meerkats, skunk, wallabies, gundi and African hedgehogs. The companion section includes several breeds of rabbit and guinea pig, chinchillas, degus and ferrets. Recent developments have expanded our rodent section to enable us to house the common pet species and a wider variety of exotic rodents including; harvest mice, sand rats, Steppe Lemming, Jirds and Acacia rats.

Section Three Paddocks and Birds

Hoofstock include a range of species commonly kept in farm parks, zoos, sanctuaries, etc. The large bird collection features typical hobby species but also species of conservation importance, including red-crowned crane, Palawan peacock pheasant, Edward's pheasant and waldrapp ibis. The latter two species are IUCN listed as critically endangered.

Family	Species/Breeds	Specimens
Ratites	1	4
Ducks & geese	6	14
Chickens & pheasants	11	46
Crane	2	4
Ibis	1	2
Pigeons & doves	1	12
Parrot-like	5	17
Softbills	2	5
Finches	4	70
Totals	33	110

Miniature and standard donkeys
Dwarf zebu
Alpacas
Pygmy goats
Red-necked wallabies
Mara



Section Four Herps* and Invertebrates

Taxon	Species	Specimens
Crocodylia	1	1
Chelonia	5	27
Lizard	19	72
Snake	15	56
Newt & salamander	3	30
Frog & toad	16	100
Invertebrate	26	Many
Totals	85	300+



*Herps/herptiles are terms used to refer to both reptiles and amphibians

Equine Centre

The Equine Centre (EC) has renowned facilities which are BHS approved and endorsed by the 'Where to Train' guide which provide modern teaching facilities to equine students and the EC was graded 'Outstanding' by Ofsted in March 2014. Facilities include indoor and outdoor arenas, 65 stables and 14 stalls, an equine hot shower and infra-red solarium, a horsewalker and cross country course to include a large water complex.



Set in the beautiful Hampshire countryside, the Equine Centre at Sparsholt College was included within the London 2012's Pre-Olympic Games Training Camp Guide, and has hosted many prestigious events to include British Show Jumping Pony Premier's I 2015 and 2016, the BYRDS Home International in 2016, British Dressage regionals and Area Festivals, alongside regular affiliated and unaffiliated shows.

The EC team is made up of a range of industry experts with a variety of experience and qualifications within the equine industry.

The EC houses up to 76 horses, some of which are owned by the College with the majority on loan or livery.

The EC is able to offer the following opportunities for college students:-

- Riding coaching towards course requirements and BHS exams.
- Practical instruction in equine husbandry which is also utilised by students from other areas of learning.
- A range of stabling options for students wishing to bring their own horse to College.
- A commended environment for industry training and work experience (Ofsted 2012).
- A thriving commercial show centre accessible for all students.
- Commercial training offering 1:1 coaching and group lessons.



Riding is taught in groups with a maximum size of 10, with students' ability and experience taken into account to ensure safe and informative coaching.

The EC is now pleased to be able to offer stabling for external clients' horses not intended for student training along with offering riding lessons, practical tuition and much more to external members of the public. With a newly introduced pony livery offer, we are able to offer instruction to children as well as adults.



Fishery Studies Area



The fish industry knows that Sparsholt offers the best training for a career working with freshwater fisheries and fish farming, and exotic and ornamental fish. The college's outstanding fish facilities are used extensively by the students for practical training and project work and can be divided into three main areas:-

National Aquatics Training Centre

- The National Aquatics Centre is a purpose-built teaching facility, without equal in the UK. The purpose built fish households stocks of carp, catfish, tilapia, barramundi and a massive range of ornamental species in high-tech tanks and aquaria.
- The building also features a large indoor koi pool, research areas and industry standard holding systems, many sponsored by industrial contacts.
- Marine habitats have been recreated to replicate a range of ecological systems, whilst the recent addition of conservation species provides a broad spectrum of experience.



Salmonid Rearing and Trials Centre

- The £0.5 million salmonid rearing and trials centre completed in October 2012, provides a state-of-the-art facility for rearing cold water species. Supplied by borehole water, the site produces brown trout and rainbow trout for restocking and for the table. Students are involved in a series of research trials as part of their studies whilst gaining the practical skills required for future employment in the aquaculture industry.
- It also provides a site for a number of commercial trials on fish feed for the largest fish nutrition manufacturers in Britain.

The Sparsholt Fishery

- A beautiful one-hectare lake, fed by water from the fish hatchery, that holds stocks of carp, roach, rudd, bream, crucian carp, tench, chub, barbel and perch is used for practical fishery management training and on-site angling.
- Students fish this lake as part of their course or recreationally on a day or season ticket basis.

The area has excellent contacts with sport across much of England and with teaching delivered by expert staff you will get the opportunity to carry out fishery management with Linear Fisheries and Broadlands Lake as well as fisheries the length of our legendary local rivers Test and Itchen. If you read the fish magazines, you'll know many of the staff already!



Access to public aquaria and ornamental retail outlets – including Sealife Centres, Bristol Zoo and Maidenhead Aquatics – complements the Aquatics courses where students have the opportunity to be involved in practical projects.

Industry experience is a key element of all the courses and students can make use of the College's strong contacts giving unparalleled access to fish farms, fisheries, public aquaria and government organisations throughout the UK and Europe.

Horticulture, Grounds and sports Field

The Horticulture facilities cover some 15 hectares and consist of three main areas:-

- Ornamental grounds (both in the department and within the wider College grounds)
- Protective structures
- Sports and recreation areas



Ornamental Grounds and Protective Structures

In the department itself there is a range of outdoor planting and landscaped areas including the herbaceous border, acid border, alpine beds, hedge plots and ground cover border.

These areas present different groups of planting. A significant amount of the construction work and planting has involved student groups, who also have an input in the continual maintenance of the areas during term time.



Orchard and Vegetable Garden

Currently there is an established orchard with apple and pear trees. Other areas are given over to growing fruit and vegetable, with the aim of providing organic growing areas for these crops.

The BBC Gardeners' Question Time Garden

Since 2001 the College has maintained a garden featured in the Gardeners' Question Time Radio 4 programme. The garden is divided into sections providing a variety of planting such as shade tolerant plants, herbaceous plants, fruit and vegetables.

Nursery Stock Facilities

Here there are a number of poly-tunnels and propagation areas where nursery stock and bedding is grown for educational purposes and for sale at the College Countryside Day. It also contains an important collection of succulents and cactus, display plants that are used around the College during various events and a house plant collection. The propagation area comprises mist and fogging units. The glasshouses are controlled by a computer that maintains set environmental parameters such as temperature, ventilation and light.



Tropical House

In 2009 the Tropical House was totally refurbished by staff and students. It displays planting from the four tropical regions of the world utilising economically important plants.

Another element of horticulture covered by the department is hard landscaping. The department has facilities for students to learn and practice different landscaping projects.

Landscape Construction Yard

This area is used for hard landscape practicals by students. It includes examples of hard landscaping and stocks a variety of materials used for landscaping projects.

Sports Field

The sports field just beyond the Rose, Flint, Sturgess and Steel student halls consists of two full size football pitches and a full size rugby pitch. The pitches are kept up to a high specification not only as a teaching resource for the Horticulture students but for use by the College Football Academy, Southampton Football Club Second Chance Programme and Arsenal Football Club summer soccer schools.

Arboriculture and Forestry Studies

The students from Forestry and Arboriculture use many areas of the farm estate. For example: tree hazard inspections and pest and disease analysis in Ower Wood as well as tree climbing, hedge planting and maintenance, hedge laying in the field areas, brush cutting around the estate and tractor driving.

Together with the sawmill, which is described below, we have a Christmas tree area on the farm and produce a range of differing types of trees for the Christmas tree market on a small scale.



Timber Processing Unit

The unit is capable of producing fencing materials, as well as a wide range of sawn hardwoods and softwoods using a 'Forester 900' band saw and peeling, pointing, planers and re-sawing facilities enables the production of quality end products.



The purpose of the unit is to provide a focus for the development of practical knowledge and skills associated with the forestry industry. Standing tress are purchased locally and students from all full and part time Forestry and Arboricultural courses are involved in felling right through to the milling of timber to a final product.

Sawn timbers, fencing materials, firewood, chips and bark are all available for purchase, in small quantities and subject to demand.

Premises Management

Buildings

The most historic buildings, Westley Farm Building and the Farm Office, were part of the original farm and are over 125 years old. They are built in the local vernacular of flint and brick walls under a natural slate roof covering. Both were restored in 1995 in an extensive upgrading programme.

Most College buildings were erected during the last century including the Main Administration Building and 25 staff houses.

The 1960s saw construction of the Education Block (now the ICT centre), Engineering Buildings and Chute Hostel. In the 1970s a complex of halls with en-suite facilities, a student services centre and the Westley Court Conference and Business Training Centre were built.

In 1993 a new library was added. The contemporary architecture and striking design resulted in the building receiving an award from the Royal Institute of British Architects.



Further residential accommodation to provide self-catering student flats was opened in July 1998, providing facilities for over 400 students to live on site.

In December 2000 the Sainsbury Building was opened. This building replaced a large number of temporary teaching classrooms and provides excellent high-quality classrooms, science laboratories and the Norman Lecture Theatre.



In 2002 the Equine Centre was massively expanded with new facilities including a large indoor riding arena and additional stabling. The Equine Centre has been further added to in later years with further stabling and additional riding surfaces being established in 2008.

In 2003/04 a number of significant buildings were constructed to support the wide range of practical facilities at the College. The multi-million pound investment included:-

- An indoor rifle range
- A new purpose designed National Aquatics Training Centre
- A new high welfare straw based pig unit
- New beef yard and cattle handling facilities

- Extended sports and leisure facilities
- Animal Management facilities

In 2012 the old Game Unit was demolished and a new £1.2m Game and Wildlife Unit with butchery teaching facilities was built and delivered ready for use in September 2012.

In 2013 the new Fish Hatchery was finished, the facilities offer an improved practical environment for the students to enjoy.

The new Small Animal Handling Centre has now been completed and is named the Interactive Centre.



In September 2013 a £3m Sports Centre was delivered for all students and staff.

In 2013/14, investment brought together the whole of the ALS and Functional Skills Teams. Re-modelling the old sports facilities area has provided a top class facility. In the Tony Dowling Centre, the Functional Skills Team now has classrooms with IT and a state-of-the-art kitchen.

During 2013/14, refurbishment of the Engineering building was delivered, with a second phase of a new workshop building being built in the middle of the campus. This building and refurbishment work is estimated at £2.2m and targets BREEAM excellence.

At the beginning of 2015, the Frank Parkinson Building was re-modelled and refurbished in order to provide a HE specific Study Centre.



A new wooden equine stable complex was completed in early September 2017.

Estates and Facilities Management

The Premises team at the College provides the management services for the College.

The team is managed by the Premises and Facilities Manager, who is supported by the Premises Office Manager, Helpdesk Administrator, Premises Supervisor, Maintenance Operatives (PMOs) and Premises Facilities Assistants (PFAs) who provide seven days a week cover under the direction of the Premises Supervisor.

Major maintenance and improvements are structured to a 10 year Planned Maintenance Programme (PMP) which tracks the needs of the College's strategic plan.

Much of the specification and procurement for major maintenance is provided by the premises staff but consultants are appointed to advise on specialist areas such as mechanical/electrical services and structural engineering.

Premises manage all the utility services and the extensive infrastructure on campus. Electricity is provided to four main distribution points at the College by tendered procurement from one of the regional electrical companies, water is supplied via metered supply and distributed through a ring main of old cast iron and new plastic pipework. LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) provides heating to about two-thirds of the College. The gas is stored in three 12 tonne 'Calor' tanks to the south of Field D.

The remainder of the buildings are heated by oil fired boilers served by individual tanks. The College has its own private sewage plant. It is situated in the north east corner of the deer enclosure.

A modern compact plant serves the student accommodation and is sited discreetly beside the deer enclosures. Treated effluent is regularly monitored and discharged into field drainage. A consent license is obtained from the Environment Agency for this.

The Premises team is also responsible for providing security services and for general cleaning services. These are provided in-house and by specialist contractors resulting in a very high standard of service. The CCTV system is of a high definition and covers all of the campus.

Environmental

The College implemented and achieved ISO-14001 to all department areas both operational and support, to introduce the EMS and the benefits to the College. This together with the total commitment and support from senior management enabled the EMS to be developed and accepted by all staff. As a result the EMS was developed and certified by the external auditors in 6 months.

Results:

- EMS developed and certified in 6 months
- Improved communications between departments
- Highlighted and shared existing good practice
- Ensured on-going legal compliance across all activities
- Sparsholt became the first agricultural college to achieve ISO 14001 across all activities

Future Plans

- Use of wind turbines to generate electricity
- Bio-digester to convert waste into energy
- PV energy

Sparsholt Business Training

In today's competitive world every business needs a well- trained, motivated workforce to maximize productivity and profitability and to achieve a competitive edge.

Sparsholt Business Training is the umbrella service incorporating all training for business and industry from Andover and Sparsholt Colleges. We offer a wide range of courses and apprenticeships covering a variety of industries that are delivered on site at each of our exceptional campuses as well as in the workplace. Sparsholt Business Training can create bespoke staff development programmes and training packages which can be tailored to meet company needs.

Many small and medium- sized businesses find they have similar training needs to others but don't have enough staff to warrant a specialist course. We provide an ideal option for individuals to join short one-day workshops and courses with people from different sectors and industries, you get to share ideas and best practice with colleagues and bring that back to the workplace.

Our friendly team are on hand to advise you on the best course and training that suits your requirements. Delivered by experienced trainers, you will get more out of your learning experience than just a qualification. For more information, call 0845 850 0916.

Sparsholt Conferences, Events and Weddings

Sparsholt Conferences and Events is the perfect venue for a variety of events from small team meetings to large conferences or weddings with wonderful views and fantastic flexible space.

- Purpose-built conference centre, Westley Court
- Set in 450 acres of breathtaking Hampshire countryside
- A range of catering options to fuel your day
- Onsite accommodation with 25 en-suite bedrooms during term time and up to 450 rooms outside of term time.

Maximum theatre capacity: 124

Find out more or book your tailor-made event

01962 79 7259

conferences@sparsholt.ac.uk

SPARSHOLT



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