



Tapnell Farm Park Conservation Strategy

TFP Conservation objectives:

- We endeavour to be actively involved in the conservation of our native flora and fauna as well as that outside of the UK.
- We aim to promote and support local charities and organisations who are already actively involved in local conservation projects
- We aim to educate our visitors about the importance of supporting local and overseas conservation projects as well as living a 'greener' life.

1. Existing in-situ conservation on TFP

1.1 Recycling waste in the Café

Since the Café was opened in 2016, the staff have gone to great lengths to ensure that non-recyclable waste is reduced as much as possible and produce that can be recycled. For example all plates and cutlery are wooden and therefore recycle as well as, plastic, cardboard, cans and paper. Food packaging is bio-degradable.

3 bins are provided clearly marked and coloured accordingly as General, Dry/mixed recycling and Food only. This enables visitors to responsibly dispose of their waste, which is then collected by a local refuse company 2 x weekly. In 2018 we plan to roll out the same recycling facilities through the farm park rather than just in the café.

New in 2019

In order to sustain an eco-friendly environment it was decided that ALL food packaging, cutlery, cups and plates used will be bio-degradable and therefore are all disposed of in black bins.

1.2 Promotion of local conservation charities and organisations

Tapnell Farm Park is lucky to be able to work as a platform for local conservation charities and rehabilitation centres across the Isle of Wight.

Therefore throughout our first season of opening in 2016, we have invited a number of local conservation charities and organisations to promote and educate visitors about the valued work they do. In order to increase awareness and engagement with the visitors these invitations have been organised to run alongside well-known 'dates in the diary' for example Halloween and bonfire night.

Our guests to TFP included the following;

I.O.W Bat Hospital (Autumn 2019)-The Isle of Wight bat hospital is a non-profit voluntary organisation run by a very dedicated couple who provide a refuge in which injured, sick or trapped bats are collected and returned to health and where possible released back into the wild.



During their visit to TFP they set up an information table and brought along three of the rescued bats and show them off twice during their visit. Visitors of all ages got to see the bats for themselves and hear about their stories. Graham and his volunteers were at the Farm Park all day sharing stories and teaching our visitors about bats and the local population on the Isle of Wight.

Save Our Hedgehogs (November 2019) - This is an Isle of Wight based Hedgehog rescue centre. Their aim is to primarily care, rescue and re-habilitate injured Hedgehogs and educate the public about the decline of UK hedgehogs whilst campaigning to get more protection for the Hedgehog.

The main purpose for this particular visit was to promote awareness of Hedgehogs around Bonfire and firework night- highlighting the importance of checking bonfires before being ignited.

1.2 Replacement Swallow Nests

Work on the farm park started in January 2016. Between January and July the barn that was once home to the dairy herd and used as a working Dairy Farm transformed into an operational Farm Park. This meant that certain areas that were once accessible to local wildlife have now been shut off with no entrance. The animal keepers have noticed at least two Swallow nests that have been made inaccessible to the Swallows when they return in early spring.

One nest is located up high in the eaves of the milking parlour and the other in an area that is now a store cupboard. To make up for the loss of the nests we plan to replace them with artificial Swallow nests in the hope that they will return for the summer. After researching the Swallow's nesting habits we have purchased two 'Swallow nests' from the RSPB, which we plan with careful consideration to locate in the eaves of the Animal barn.



This will be closely monitored by our Animal Keepers over the duration of the breeding season and if proved successful will become a permanent nesting site for the Swallows to return each year. We will monitor them using surveys created by keepers, see attached file.

Update- Due to the unsuccessful nesting in our artificial swallow nests we are planning on relocating them and continuing with the nest surveys for 2020.



2.0 Working with Local Charities and Rehabilitation Centres

Due to the success of previous we aim to continue to invite local conservation charities and organisations to the Farm Park. The Farm Park will gain no profit from these organisations during their visit and any to be made will be done so by the charity or organisation themselves.

So far we have the following confirmed to return;

- **November 2019 Save our Hedgehogs-** returned to raise awareness about hedgehogs around Bonfire night.



- **October 2019** – The IOW Bat hospital returned for our Halloween event to teach visitors about the bats native to the Isle of Wight and to explain the importance of Bat Rehabilitation.



- **October 2019** – The National Trust and Wildlife Trust visited the farm park with educational information boards, leaflets and a representative to inform and educate our visitors of the importance of the conservation work that they do.

Conservation for 2020

- **Continuation of swallow nest surveys**- follow last years efforts and improve where needed i.e. location of artificial nests.
- **Conservation garden**- In the future we are planning to create a conservation garden to attract native flora and fauna. We hope to work closely with the Isle of Wight and Hampshire Wildlife Trust in order to create an educational and interactive wildlife garden for our visitors to enjoy.
- **Bee conservation**- As our part of our efforts to serve our native flora and fauna we hope to work alongside an apiary keeper and possibly keep our own bees.

2020 Conservation work at Tapnell Farm

- Swallow nest surveys continued throughout the spring/ summer. Numbers continue to stabilise with a new nest observed in one of the animal sheds.
 - Keepers continue to use the swallow recording form in order to collect information with regards to each nest found on site
 - Signage is in progress in order to inform our visitors of the conservation work undergoing on site and encourage ways in which they can record and monitor local bird species observed in their garden.
- Conservation garden update- Plans are still underway to create a conservation garden on site. We had a successful meeting with The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust who gave us some recommendations on the types of plants and shrubs to plant in the area in order to attract wildlife to the area. We were also advised that on Tapnell Farm Land we have a rare plant that particularly thrives on chalkland!



- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust visit on 24th- 25th October.

DUE TO THE CURRENT COVID 19 PANDEMIC WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO INVITE ANY GUEST CONSERVATION CHARITIES TO THE FARM PARK.

Plans for 2021.....

- WEBCAMS for Barn Owl in straw barn, active bee hive and swallow nests
- Continue to plan conservation garden
- Continue with Swallow nest surveys
- Continue with supporting local conservation charities with promoting their work
- Finalise and display necessary signage to encourage visitors to record and monitor local bird wildlife species
- Work is underway to create a 'Tapnell Trail' available for accommodation guests. This will take them around the perimeter of Tapnell Farm and give them information about the different types of flora and fauna they are likely to find along the way.