

July 2023

Lauriston Farm Business Plan/Strategy Addendum 2023-2027

This addendum is linked to EAC original proposal/[Business Plan](#) (Oct 2020).

EAC started managing the land at Lauriston Farm in December 2021 and after observing the land, interacting with the local community on a more involved basis and some delays in the infrastructure building; the strategy and Business Plan have been reviewed and updated accordingly.

Our ethos, vision and approach to holistic and integrated land management remain the same.

Update on work: Dec 2021- July 2023

- The main food production area and the community growing area have been deer fenced.
- Old stock fencing has been replaced and additional gates put in around the North and middle fields
- 20 community growing plots established, all taken on by local households groups/organisations
- Community Orchard group created and initial planting completed - 39 fruit trees
- Market garden under cultivation - 2022 trial growing year, the produce sold at farm stall and through local food organisation
- CSA Veg Box scheme launched in July 2023 - also selling through weekly farm veg stall and supplying Edinburgh community Food with veg
- Agricultural shed built
- Four agroforestry tree strips planted - mix of fruit and nut trees
- Approx 11, 600 trees planted across the farm (inc 1km of native hedgerow)
- 15m wide wildflower strip created
- Amphibian pond network created
- Approx 900 volunteers have been involved at the farm in 2022/23 so far
- Approx 1900 people have attended the farm during workshops, field events, open days and inaugural Harvest festival in 2022
- Worked with local youth groups and other organisations in 2022 summer programme of events

July 2023

- Seed, grain and protein trials have begun
- Baseline soil tests, bird surveys and biodiversity monitoring begun

The site design has been reviewed due to landscape and land use observations -

[2023 Updated site plan](#)

After looking at how the land was used prior to moving on and to mitigate against resistance to large areas all at once being no longer publicly accessible due to food production, we have reviewed the amount of land that will have been brought into use for food production by 2027:

By 2027 at least 95% of the area deer fenced (25% of the farmland) will be used for food production and at least 40% of the farmland by 2037.

Food Production

Market Garden Aims:

Year 1 (2023)	Year 2 (2024)	Year 3 (2025)	Year 4 (2026)	Year 5 (2027)
Build infrastructure and bringing land into vegetable cultivation Growing produce for 50 CSA shares 20 week season from July to November Develop wholesale relationships Total of 2h in cultivation	Planting perennials and fruits Growing produce for 100 CSA Shares 3 regular wholesale relationships in place 23 week season from June until November Total of 2.5h in cultivation	Add fruit & perennials to CSA offer Growing produce for 150 CSA Shares 6 regular wholesale relationships in place 26 week season from June until Dec Total of 3h in cultivation	Expand fruit and perennial production Growing produce for 200 CSA Shares 9 regular wholesale relationships in places 29 week season from April until Dec Total of 3.5h in cultivation	Growing produce for 300 CSA Shares 9 regular wholesale relationships in place 32 week season from April until Dec Total of 5h in cultivation

July 2023

Field and Alley Crop Aims

Year 1 (2023)	Year 2 (2024)	Year 3 (2025)	Year 4 (2026)	Year 5 (2027)
Planting rows of mixed fruit, nut and fibre trees for alley creation in south west field	Development and establishment of alley crop rotation, starting with grains, pulses and herbal leys	Processing and marketing of grains and pulses for sale alongside CSA <i>(if additional funding secured)</i>	Expansion of wheat/proteins growing in alleys	Extension of grains & pulses retail
Identifying and procuring arable sowing, harvesting and processing equipment	Planned grazing of middle field to enable pasture cropping experiments	Fruit from trees to start being added to CSA scheme or other retail	Milling wheat for wholesale to Local bakeries - retail alongside CSA	Trials of other crops
Trial plots for wheat/grains and /pulses started	Continued trials of grains and pulses -	At least 1 ha in cultivation	2ha in cultivation	3ha in cultivation
Partnerships established with other local and national organisations working in grains and pulses.	Scaling up model developed			
	At least 0.5ha in cultivation			

Expected food production outputs by Year 5

- Providing 250 + individuals/families with nutritious, organic and affordable food through our CSA veg box share offered on a solidarity pricing model to ensure access to low income households and distributed via local hubs.
- 30% of food produced on farm being sold via retail or wholesale including chefs/restaurants, local cafes and shops, charities etc.
- Retail bags of grain and pulses available through CSA and other outlets *(if additional funding secured for grains and pulse growing)*
- Supplying a small bakery with wheat flour *(if additional funding secured for grains)*
- At least 120 alley crop fruit and nut trees planted and providing produce
- All deliveries provided by electric vehicles or cargo bikes
- 20 + acres converted into organic rotation food growing land

July 2023

Produce from the farm will predominantly be sold through our CSA scheme, which offers solidarity shares for those on low incomes to be able to join the scheme. Each year we expect 10-30% of what we produce to also be distributed direct through a weekly veg stall on the farm in the summer months, through local food organisations such Edinburgh Community Food and Fresh Start and to other wholesale customers

Biodiversity

Habitat creation and enhancement aims:

Year 1 (2023)	Year 2 (2024)	Year 3 (2025)	Year 4 (2026)	Year 5 (2027)
Continue to encourage responsible access across farm	Design and construction of a bat roost and bird hides (if additional funding secured)	Diversity of species continues to develop through natural colonisation	Tree management on an ongoing basis	Monitoring: Plants Freshwater invertebrates Amphibians
Introduction of a small number of native cattle to act as ecosystem engineers	Species rich grassland and tussocky grassland corridors created between fields, along boundary wall and fence and associated with hedgerows	Local herbaceous plant seed collection and growing on plug plants for use on the farm	Annual Breeding Bird Survey	Monitoring to identify plant species present and augment with plug planting as required
Encourage natural regeneration of existing woodland			Annual Butterfly Transect Survey	
Tree management on an ongoing basis	Tree management on an ongoing basis	Tree management on an ongoing basis	Annual Bumblebee Transect Survey	Tree management on an ongoing basis Annual Breeding Bird Survey
Annual Breeding Bird, Butterfly and Bumblebee Survey	Annual Breeding Bird, Butterfly and Bumblebee Survey	Annual Breeding Bird Survey	Ongoing webcam survey	Dung beetle survey
Soil carbon baseline	Earthworm survey	Annual Butterfly Transect Survey	Flora/Vegetation/Habitat survey	Annual Butterfly Transect Survey
Soil and earthworm surveys	Ongoing webcam survey	Annual Bumblebee Transect Survey		Annual Bumblebee Transect Survey
	Soil nutrient and soil compaction follow up surveys	Ongoing webcam survey		Repeat LiDAR soil carbon survey
	LiDAR soil carbon survey	Repeat bat survey		
	Thicken hedges around MG			
	Hedge along south			

July 2023

	edge of middle field			
--	----------------------	--	--	--

Expected habitat creation and enhancement outputs by year 5

- At least 7500 woodland Trees planted
- 4700 hedgerow trees planted
- 3 ha of diversified semi natural grassland
- 600 square m of open water plus surrounding wetland
- 0.8 + ha of mixed planted woodland created
- 7.65 ha of permanent and seasonal open water, wetland, naturalised grassland and regenerating woodland edge in north field

Community

Community growing, engagement and enterprise aims:

2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Temporary Community Engagement Space	Co-design of community hub space <i>(if additional funding secured)</i>	Community designed and built multifunctional space <i>(if additional funding secured)</i>		
At least 20 allotments in use by groups and organisations (estimated beneficiaries = 100)	At least 30 allotments in use by groups and organisations (estimated beneficiaries = 130)	At least 40 allotments in use (estimated beneficiaries = 160)	At least 50 allotments in use (estimated beneficiaries = 190)	At least 50 allotments in use (estimated beneficiaries = 190)
Community Kitchen established		Communal polytunnel in place	Establish community egg cooperative	
10+ Volunteer sessions across farm p/month	10+ Volunteer sessions across farm p/month	10+ Volunteer sessions across farm p/month	10+ Volunteer sessions across farm p/month	10+ Volunteer sessions across farm p/month
6 + shared community meals	10 + shared community meals	12 + shared community meals	12 + shared community meals	15 + shared community meals
4 community	6 community	6 community	6 community	6 community

July 2023

Days,seasonal events and celebrations*	Days,seasonal events and celebrations	Days,seasonal events and celebrations	Days,seasonal events and celebrations	Days,seasonal events and celebrations
3 x 6 week Introduction to Food Growing Courses	3 courses in food growing	Develop certified training courses 3 courses in food growing	Pilot of first certified training course 3 courses in food growing	Deliver certified training courses
Workshops x 10 (building, seed saving, Fruit tree pruning , composting etc)	10 workshops	12 workshops	12 + workshops	15 + workshops
Relationships/part nership developed with local school/community and youth groups	Programmes developed with 3 community groups/local schools	Programmes developed with 3 community groups/local schools	Programmes developed with 5 community groups/local schools	Programmes developed with 5 community groups/local schools
Community Orchard group established 30 + trees planted in community orchard Orchard skills workshops x2	Training opportunities for orchard group volunteers Additional 10+ trees planted Orchard celebration events - Wassail	Ongoing orchard maintenance Additional 5-10 trees planted Apple Day and Wassail	Ongoing orchard maintenance Additional 5-10 trees planted Accredited training for orchard vols Apple Day and Wassail	Ongoing orchard maintenance Additional 5-10 trees planted Apple Day and Wassail
	Creation of Childerns woodland in partnership with local schools/youth groups Environmental , art, growing and outdoor education programme developed	Environmental, art, growing and outdoor education programme delivered	Environmental , art, growing and outdoor education programme delivered	Environment al, art, growing and outdoor education programme delivered

Expected Community Outputs by Year 5

July 2023

- At least 500 annual volunteers
- At least 1000 annual visitors to the farm for community events and visits
- Host/Deliver at least 15 workshops per year
- Collaboration with at least 5 local community organisations
- School and educational visits and activities
- Growing courses, farm training and internship opportunities offered
- Community Orchard established with community orchard leadership training incorporated
- 50 full allotment spaces are allocated and in use

Income stream development

We recognise the need for diincome stream development in order for the farm to be sustainable.

Feasibility studies will be carried out in late 2023/early 2024 for some possible farm enterprise - cut flowers, value added products, tree and plant nursery, willow growing, space hire, seed business, grains and proteins.

We will be developing our corporate volunteer days, educational visits and workshop/course programme as this is already providing us with some income and could become a significant part of what we offer on the farm.

We will also open up opportunities for other microenterprises to join the farm.

Financial Forecast Table 2023-2027

Whole farm financial forecast table

July 2023

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Food Production Income	11,500	20,000	35,000	49,000	63,000
Central Farm Income	7,000	12,000	30,000	35,000	45,000
Grants	410,500	350,000	300,000	250,000	250,000
Income Total	429,000	382,000	365,000	334,000	358,000
Capital Costs	99,000	55,000	19,000	16,000	13,000
Operational costs (inc Salaries)	262,000	301,000	304,000	314,000	317,000
Expenditure Total	361,000	356,000	323,000	320,000	330,000
Balance	68,000	26,000	42,000	14,000	28,000

(All figures are rounded up)

All the annual funding for 2023, as well as £250,000 of the funding for 2024 and £250,000 for 2025 has been secured. We are actively seeking multi year and project funding for the farm and this will be ongoing in line with our funding strategy and projections

The balance from each year will be used to build up reserves, cover any funding shortfalls in subsequent years and to invest back into increasing food production and development of farm activities.

If funding targets are not reached we will reduce budgets accordingly.