

# Riverside Farm Available for Rent!

A rare opportunity for someone to rent Riverside Farm has emerged in the River Chew catchment.

The farm is in a delightful rural valley with large fields, woodlands and has a beautiful river running alongside it.



## About Riverside Farm:

- The farm has a big farmyard with **several old buildings** that are not in good condition.
- There is a big natural **woodland area**.
- The farm has several large fields that in the past have been used for **grazing** sheep and cows or **growing crops**.
- The river running alongside the farm is home to a **variety of fish**, and has a weir.
- There are currently **no drinking troughs** for farm animals as they have previously drunk from the river.
- There are **no fences** or bushes by the river
- There is a **public footpath** along the bottom of the field and alongside the river, which is very muddy and eroded.

The owner of the land would like to rent to a farmer who will keep the farm running but also support the local environment.

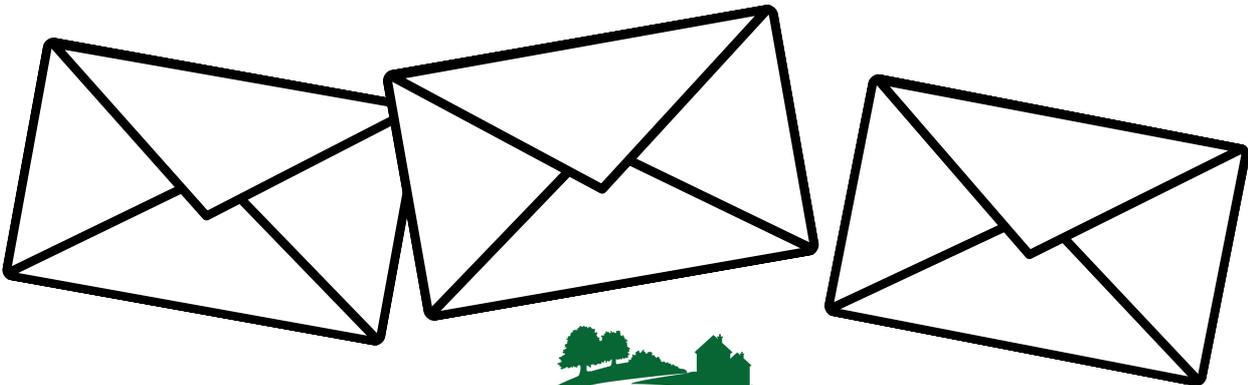
# Group Task

Your group has been asked to choose the most suitable farmer to rent the farm, as you have experience in farming and helping the environment.



You have been sent three application letters. Your task is to:

- 1. Read each application carefully** and highlight the things they are planning which you think are:
  - good for the river environment
  - bad for the river environment
- 2. Give feedback and suggestions for the future:**
  - All three farmers will need feedback on their applications.
  - Provide them with suggestions on how they could manage the farm better and improve the river.
- 3. Now make your choice:**
  - In your group, make a decision on which person you believe is the best fit for taking on the Riverside Farm.
  - Write down 2-3 reasons why your group has chosen this person instead of the other farmers.



# Farmer Bill

I believe that the local area needs more crop farms. If I am chosen to rent the Riverside Farm I plan on turning it into a large wheat and barley farm to keep up with food demands.

I would return a big profit as the fields are so large and I will make use of the space by planting crops right up to the edges of the fields alongside the river.

I would also like to straighten the river to expand the crop yield and make the fields even bigger! I may also choose to get rid of the weir to reduce the chances of flooding at the bottom of the fields.

Wheat and barley can grow in all seasons so the fields will be in constant use throughout the year.

I would also like to seek permission to get rid of the public footpath to make space for more crops as this will allow me to make more money annually.

I also plan to build an outbuilding near the riverbank to store fertilisers and pesticides so it is closer to the field entrances.

## Suggestions:

What do you think this applicant could do differently to help keep the river healthy while running the farm?

# Farmer Abdul

I am interested in renting Riverside Farm as it will be a great opportunity to live in the beautiful countryside and improve the surrounding environment.

I plan to develop several of the old farm buildings into holiday cottages as the Chew valley area is a popular scenic location. The area should be large enough, but I will need to build a car parking area nearby.

I would like to extend the woodland by planting more trees and a flower garden to attract more wildlife. The footpath will need to be improved, and I plan to add more footpaths for local people to use and enjoy.

I have previously owned land that has a river, which also had a weir. So I am aware that this is a migration barrier for fish, and I plan to get permission to remove this or add a fish pass to improve fish populations.

I also plan to have a few cows to graze on the fields, but these farm animals will be fenced off with a separate drinking area and away from the river.

## Suggestions:

What do you think this applicant could do differently to help keep the river healthy while running the farm?

# Farmer Jane

If I was given the opportunity to rent Riverside Farm I would farm sheep and cows on most of the land. In order to make money, I would have to keep as many animals as possible so I plan to cut down any trees or bushes that are preventing extra space.

It is ideal that a river runs along the bottom of the fields as this means the cows and sheep can drink directly from it, which reduces time and costs.

Any trees that I do cut down I will sell locally and burn some in a wood boiler to heat the farmhouse.

The sheep would spend the majority of the winter in the fields near the river, and some of the old buildings could be developed into farm buildings for lambing.

The footpath along the river may be in the way and isn't fenced off from the fields, so it may have to be moved or removed as I wouldn't want the farm animals to be disturbed.

## **Suggestions:**

What do you think this applicant could do differently to help keep the river healthy while running the farm?