

## CASE STUDY

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For more details about this project:

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Last year, Sussex Saddlebacks won the West Sussex Social Enterprise Innovation Award promoted by the Social Enterprise Network in West Sussex. The £5,000 award made all the difference in terms of enabling the idea to become a reality and the project has gone from strength to strength since its official start in March 2007.

The proposal is developing a small scale pigkeeping project that involves people with learning disabilities in the day-to-day running of the project, as well as in the social opportunities that arise from the activity. All those concerned are at the moment volunteers.

The key objectives are to:

- promote the continuance of a rare breed
- rear animals humanely
- involve people with some form of disability in the activity
- create opportunities for the development of skills, interests and friendships which may lead to employment opportunities

**Achievements of the project so far are:**

- registration of 4 pigs as pedigree: 1 boar and 3 sows. They have been registered individually but the herd has also been

registered with the National Pig Association as the Blackthorn Herd Sussex Saddlebacks

- the team cleared a lot of land to ensure the animals have large areas in which to roam

There has been a great deal of interest from people wanting to get involved in the project. At the moment, people with a learning disability are a key part of the feeding rota. At the Walberton site, the organisation that supports the people with a learning disability owns a pig that will be used to provide meat for the organisation's clients. At Aldingbourne, a person with a learning disability owns one of the pedigree sows. The target group has also been involved in work days to build up the infrastructure to home the pigs.

**Latest events for the project include:**

- a 4th paddock was created in September
- mating took place in October
- new piglets will arrive in Feb/March
- 11 pigs slaughtered in October; the meat was described by the local butcher as "perfect".



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