

## **Occombe Farm – Frequently Asked Questions**

### **About the Closure of Occombe Farm and Liquidation of Torbay Coast & Countryside Trust**

#### **1. When will Occombe Farm close?**

Occombe Farm, including the Farm Café, Farm Park & Play, and the working farm, is now closed, as of 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025, in line with the process of liquidation for Torbay Coast & Countryside Trust.

#### **2. Why is Occombe Farm closing?**

Occombe Farm is operated by Torbay Coast & Countryside Trust, which will imminently go into voluntary liquidation. Despite our best efforts to adapt and diversify, the Trust's financial position has become unsustainable due to the combined effects of COVID, rising energy and wage costs, inflation, and changing visitor habits. The difficult decision to close Occombe reflects the broader closure of the Trust itself.

#### **3. What does liquidation mean for the Trust?**

Liquidation means that the Trust is being formally wound up and its assets sold to repay creditors as far as possible. Day-to-day operations, including at Occombe Farm, will continue only for as long as is necessary to manage this process.

#### **4. What will happen to the staff and volunteers?**

Sadly, liquidation and the closure of Occombe Farm will result in redundancies. We are working closely with our team to provide support and guidance during this very difficult time. We are deeply grateful for the dedication and care our staff and volunteers have given to Occombe and the wider Trust over many years.

#### **5. Will Occombe Farm Café and Farm Park & Play remain open until closure?**

Yes, we plan to keep the Café and Farm Park & Play open until the end of October 2025, if possible. We will aim to honour as many existing bookings and events as we can, but please note this may change as the liquidation progresses.

#### **6. What will happen to the farm itself?**

The liquidators will decide how the land and assets are managed or disposed of as part of the winding-up process.

#### **7. What will happen to the Café and Farm Park & Play buildings?**

The land and buildings at Occombe will be managed by the appointed liquidators.

#### **8. Will education sessions and events continue this year?**

We will do our best to deliver sessions and events that are already planned, but this will depend on operational capacity during the liquidation. Anyone with an existing booking will be contacted directly if changes are required.

#### **9. How can the community help during this time?**

We know that many people care deeply about Occombe and the Trust's work. While we cannot accept new memberships or donations during liquidation, your messages of support mean a great deal to our team and volunteers.

#### **10. Why isn't Occombe being sold as a going concern?**

Because the Trust has entered liquidation, the process is managed by appointed liquidators who must act in the best interests of creditors. This limits the ability to negotiate a sale as a "going

concern.” However, the liquidators will seek to achieve the best possible outcome for the site and for Torbay’s community.