

Dartington

The Future of Dartington's Land

A review, a vision and how you can help make it happen

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"The farm and estate should once again be used primarily for supporting education, experimentation and enterprise. We have consulted extensively to create a plan; now we need the partners to help realise it" -
Vaughan Lindsay,
Dartington Chief Executive

"We believe that Dartington will be able to attract interest from farm tenants with expertise in mixed farming; people who are able to manage the types of livestock, crop and agroforestry being recommended."

Dr. Jon Rae, Head of School at Schumacher College

Keeping you involved

To keep informed of progress with the Land Use Review including consultation meetings and any tender opportunities please email land@dartington.org and we will keep in touch over the coming months.



Making it happen

Some projects have already begun including forest schools, agroforestry trials, community orchards and allotments. Schumacher College is using estate land for natural building and sustainable horticulture courses. Work is scheduled to start on the campsite before 2014. The other projects will come on stream after this date.



Image: Lou Rainbow

Find out more

Ask a question or find an answer:
<http://tinyurl.com/84kqqux>
Or contact John Channon
john.channon@dartington.org / 01803 847028



Image: Alice Carfrae

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"We were asked to address the key question: Is it possible to use Dartington's land in more innovative ways to support its primary purpose and extend opportunities for education, experimentation and enterprise?"

John Channon, Land Use Manager and project officer for the land use review steering group

Introduction by Vaughan Lindsay

Chief Executive, The Dartington Hall Trust

"Established in 1925 and located on an estate in south Devon, Dartington has a rich history of land-based research. From the 1920s onwards Dartington founder Leonard Elmhirst pioneered agricultural experimentation and new practice.

Dartington is now at a turning point: the estate's tenant farmer retires in 2014, offering an historic opportunity to shape the future of its land. At the same time, British agriculture is facing huge challenges and change.

Over the next two decades Dartington, along with farmers across the UK and the world, will be grappling with climate change, carbon-reduction targets and renewable energy incentives. There will be pressure to produce more food and improve its nutritional quality. Increased fuel and fertiliser costs and concerns over loss of biodiversity and wildlife will add to the pressure."

So what role can Dartington play?



Image: Alice Carfrae

"We commissioned this review to find out if we could restore the Dartington 'experiment': to harness the estate, informed by Leonard Elmhirst's vision, as a place which will have influence across the UK and the globe in agriculture and rural regeneration."

"I believe these recommendations show how we can bring this vision to life. Now we need the partners to make it happen."



Image: Alice Carfrae

The Review

Dartington's trustees appointed a land use review steering group in May 2010, asking it to plan a more environmentally, socially and financially sustainable future for the estate.

Whilst the review covers the entire 1,200 acre estate, the focus is on the 880 acres which form its core.

The review was guided by five principles:

Future land uses should support Dartington's primary purpose and programmes.

The integrity and beauty of the estate must be retained.

Any plan should be informed by current, past and potential future land uses.

Any new approach needs to be economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.

The process and transition should be used as an opportunity to engage staff, the local community, key stakeholders and potential partners.



Image: Alice Carfrae

Headline Principles

Dartington Should...

Adopt a mixed approach to low-carbon farming and land use through one larger farm tenancy. This could be a mixed farm with a low-carbon dairy unit of between 150 and 180 cows combined with a range of smaller enterprises.

Collaborate with the new farm tenant and the other land-based enterprises such as agroforestry, orchards, woodland enterprises, horticulture, community-supported agriculture and schools links projects.

Explore new models in rural regeneration, social entrepreneurship, training and education.

Work more widely with research teams and extend partnerships.

How to get involved

The Dartington Hall Trust is seeking a range of partners to help realise the recommendations in this review. Any individual or organisation with a viable sustainable business plan can apply for a tenancy. Please contact John Channon on john.channon@dartington.org | 01803 847028 for more information.

See overleaf for the land use plan in more detail.

Download the full review at www.dartington.org/landusereview

