

## LAND USE POLICY FIRES AT DARTINGTON

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### Introduction

The lighting of fires within the countryside has many inherent dangers and negative impacts. At certain times of year, even the smallest fires can get out of control and cause irretrievable damage to buildings, agricultural land woodlands and other valuable habitat, as well as being a significant danger to animal and human life. In addition, even when maintained in a controlled manner, any fire will burn the organic matter in the immediate vicinity and create barren patches. However, some burning activity is essential for maintaining the estate in order to dispose of organic material in an efficient and low impact way.

### Dartington Policy

- Only fires lit or authorised by members of the Property Department or the Grounds and Gardens Department are permitted.
- Fires for the purpose of disposing of domestic or commercial rubbish and garden waste are not permitted anywhere at anytime on the estate.
- Fires that are lit by the general public for recreational purposes or otherwise are not permitted anywhere, at any time on the estate.
- A 'Woodland Fire Plan' has been created; all staff and visitors should familiarise themselves with this document in case of a fire.

### Dartington Code of Practice

- Fires may occasionally be permitted for the disposal of brash arising from woodland or conservation work, lit under authority from the Property Department or the Estate Manager.
- Where permitted, fires should be located in open area away from trees, buildings, crops and other flammable material.
- Where possible, top soil is to be removed before fire is lit and replaced afterwards to minimise impact on ground flora
- Wind direction must be taken into account before lighting to avoid smoke drift to residential properties
- Risk assessments must be carried out prior to lighting.
- Fires must be attended at all times.
- Fires are not permitted to be unattended over night.
- Small debris and ash must be raked back onto the fire from the edges and burnt until the fire is put out, before being left.
- A sufficient supply of water and/or fire beaters shall be taken to the site by operators, for use in the event of needing to control the fire.

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- Petroleum, spirits, oils etc. shall not be used to ignite the fire.
- Any fire thought to have not been authorised must be reported immediately to the Dartington Hall Trust.

### Current Legislation

- Environmental Protection Act 1990

### Policy Review

Policy is to be reviewed every two years by the Estate Manager, unless new legislation is enforced, at which time an immediate review will be undertaken. Dartington reserves the right to modify and implement this policy at any time.

### Contacts

- Dartington Hall Trust Property Maintenance  
01803 847036
- Dartington Hall Trust Property Management  
01803 847024

### Copies of the Policy to be held by the following DHT departments:

- Property Maintenance
- Conservation
- Property Management
- Grounds and Gardens
- Security
- Tenant Farmer

### Cross reference to other Dartington documents

- Dartington Camping Policy
- Dartington Hall Estate Woodland Fire Plan

### References

Environmental Protection Act 1990

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/contents>

Bonfires – safety and the law

[http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/HomeAndCommunity/InYourHome/Escapingandrecoveringfromafire/DG\\_180786](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/HomeAndCommunity/InYourHome/Escapingandrecoveringfromafire/DG_180786)

Fire safety – barbecues, camping and the outdoors

[http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/HomeAndCommunity/InYourHome/Escapingandrecoveringfromafire/DG\\_180682](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/HomeAndCommunity/InYourHome/Escapingandrecoveringfromafire/DG_180682)