



Dartington is Changing: The Shops

Welcome.

Our strategy to revitalise the Dartington estate is inspired by Dorothy and Leonard Elmhirst who set up the Dartington Experiment in 1925. Rural employment and regeneration are at the heart of our plans with a focus on Devon artisan food, drink, arts and crafts.

In recent years, we have hosted a number of events and conversations with the community about what you would like to see at The Shops at Dartington. The concept we have begun to develop, with its focus on local produce, producers and makers, reflects those conversations.

We are interested in your response to our ideas so far, and keen to hear more from you about how our shops can contribute to a sustainable and resilient local economy.

What YOU Said

At a range of events over the last few years (Open Space, Open House, The Food Fair and more), you have told us to:

- do even more to support local craftspeople, artisans, makers and growers, by showcasing and selling more of their products
- raise awareness of the range and quality of locally produced goods
- be more integrated with the rest of the estate with improved walking and cycling routes and better reflecting the estate's ethos and values.
- be more accessible
- offer more experiences rather than simply shopping, including music, food, art and craft activities to complement the retail offer
- have better children's play areas and more attractions for families
- think creatively about transport, movement and parking – particularly how The Shops connects to the villages and its schools
- consider our impact on the environment and be proactive in relation to important agendas like reducing reliance on single-use plastics

These comments are hugely helpful – but what else would you like us to think about – as we develop our plans?

Inspiration For The Content Of The Shops



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How It Will Look

The buildings that are here now have been developed over decades with little planning. Many are lovely, including some of the more historic buildings, but they are in need of significant maintenance and we see an opportunity to improve our visitors' experience considerably. If we secure funding to build new buildings and expand the existing footprint of the shops, then we will have an opportunity to develop a more cohesive building design across the site, exploring a range of different building materials and designs that complement and improve the overall physical experience.

We would like to plan the landscape better – creating more public gathering places where our visitors can rest, eat, drink and socialize. We'd like to improve our children's play areas significantly.

We have been thinking about how we might use materials to adapt existing buildings and create new spaces that reflect the rural village nature of the Shops at Dartington.

Investment in the landscape around the buildings will allow us to bring the full range of expertise from across the Estate's Land and Gardens team to an area of our operation that could be significantly more beautiful.

Materials Palette



BLACK



WHITE



COLOUR



TERRACOTTA



TIMBER



PLANTS

A Resilient Local Economy

The history of retail at Shinners Bridge goes back to 1930.

A retail shop was opened, as part of Rex Gardner's craft studio, selling glass, pottery, furniture, books, wooden objects and textiles, many of them made in Devon or by departments of Dartington Hall Limited. The craft-based shop was soon accompanied by a restaurant and tea room based at Shinners Bridge Farmhouse.

The Cider Press Centre opened in 1977 and was so successful that it soon outgrew its original home (in what is now the Fashion and Beauty Gallery). Over the next 40 years it was joined by other retailers selling goods produced on or near the Estate. There are now 14 shops and cafes, housed either in old farm buildings or in purpose-built retail units.

The Shops at Dartington have traditionally provided a route to market for small, local producers as well as providing employment for the community. They are the first port of call for many of our visitors, accounting for 44% of all visits to Dartington and a significant contribution to our overall income. They provide jobs for 75 people and contribute an estimated £2.2m per year to the wider local economy.

We believe that by making the changes we are proposing, the Shops can be an even more important contributor to a resilient local economy.



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Getting Around

We know we need to make it easier to get to The Shops and access other parts of the estate and village. There are some elements under our direct control and some that are part of a wider conversation with the parish about connected transport, movement and parking solutions.

We would like to:

- Relocate existing parking to help improve access and movement across the estate
- Consider how our car parks are used by our own visitors as well as the role they perform in supporting wider community needs e.g. short-term parking for parents of local schoolchildren
- Improve and provide more efficient car parking capacity
- Improve pedestrian access and movement around The Shops and its surrounding area
- Understand how our proposals for The Shops could incorporate solutions to long-term transport-based parish problems e.g. poorly located bus stops
- Deliver alternative means of transport across the estate and further afield, e.g. more electric charging points, cycle hire and making more of our existing network of footpaths, cycle routes and bridleways