The Future of Dartington’s Land
A review, a vision and how you can help make it happen

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 practices.

Dartington now at a turning point: the estate’s latest farmer retired in 2016, offering an historic opportunity to shape the future of its land. At the same time, modern agriculture is facing huge challenges and change.

"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?"

Dr. Jon Rae, Head of School at Schumacher College

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

The Review

Dartington’s trustees appointed a land use review steering group in May 2010 seeking 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 680 acres which from its core.

"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 sought the partners to help realise it." - Vaughan Lindsay, Dartington Chief Executive

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.

The Dartington Hall Trust, The Elmhurst Centre, Dartington Hall, Totnes, TQ9 6EL

The review was guided by five principles:

- Future land use should support Dartington’s primary purpose and opportunities.
- The integrity and beauty of the estate must be retained.
- Any approach needs to be environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.
- The process and transition should create an opportunity to engage staff, the local community, key stakeholders and potential partners.

The Headline Principles

Dartington should:

- Adopt a mixed approach to low-carbon farming and land use through use, larger farms, the creation, collaborative with the new farms and the other land-based enterprises such as agroforestry, horticulture, community-supported agriculture and schools’ farm projects.
- Support new models in social enterprises, social entrepreneurship, training, and education.
- Work more widely with research, venues and external partners.

Find out more

Ask a question or find an answer: http://www.dartington.org | 01803 847028 for more information.

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