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**What is happening to the farm at Bore Place?**

From the end of July 2025, our dairy cows will be leaving Bore Place. The herd belongs to Dan Burdett and Birchpiece Farm, and with our partnership coming to a close, they have made the decision to sell the cows. As a result, Bore Place will pause its dairy operations for at least 12 months.

During this time, we’ll continue to support neighbouring farmers by providing grazing for their livestock—so you may still see cows on the land from time to time. This pause allows us to reflect and reset, developing a new long-term land use strategy that aligns with our mission to support nature recovery, sustainable food production and community wellbeing.

**Why is the partnership with Birchpiece Farm ending?**

Like many farms, ours has faced challenges in recent years—rising feed and energy costs, difficult weather conditions, and a suppressed organic milk price. Alongside these external pressures, the Commonwork Trust’s Board is also re-evaluating how farming at Bore Place can best deliver on our environmental and charitable goals. Dan, who runs Birchpiece Farm, has decided to focus his efforts at his family farm in Sussex. We are hugely grateful to Dan and Jeremy Burdett and the wider team for their dedication, expertise, and lasting contribution to biodiversity and land stewardship at Bore Place.

**What does this mean for the Farm Gate?**

Milk will no longer be available at the Farm Gate from summer 2025, but we hope to bring it back in future. In the meantime, the Farm Gate will remain open and stocked with delicious local produce, including:

Blackwoods Cheese, Happy Belly ferments and yoghurts, Bore Place jams, chutneys, ferments, cakes and more, organic ice cream and seasonal extras.

And during the summer months, guests and local residents will be able to order a weekly veg bag that can be collected every Thursday.

We’ll continue to support and celebrate local food and the people who produce it.

**What about the producers who use Bore Place milk?**

Blackwoods Cheese has secured a new local milk supply. While this milk isn’t organic, it will ensure continuity for their operations. (Their cheese is currently not certified organic due to sourcing limitations on British rapeseed oil.)

Happy Belly are confident they will also secure an alternative supply and continue to trade through the Farm Gate. We’ll share updates as we have them.

**Will the Milking Parlour still be open to visitors?**

Yes! While milking will no longer take place, the Parlour will remain open with a refreshed focus. We’re adapting the space to tell the broader story of Bore Place—from our roots in dairy farming to our evolving approach to land management and regenerative agriculture. Visitors will learn more about soil health, biodiversity, and the role of indicator species.

**How does this affect the Bore Place Farm Cluster?**

The Farm Cluster remains active and engaged. Many of the farmers involved are navigating similar challenges, and there’s strong interest in exploring new approaches to land use and food production. We’re continuing to lead and support the Cluster as we trial ideas that could benefit the wider sector and our shared landscape.

**What about school visits and the Farm Tour?**

From autumn 2025, the Farm Tour will no longer be offered as part of our education visits. However, our Education Team has been hard at work designing new learning experiences focused on wildlife, food growing, and sustainability. We’re in touch with all schools to update them on these changes and offer alternatives or refunds if needed. We’re confident the new programme will be just as inspiring and enriching for young visitors.

**Will Bore Place feel different without cows?**

Yes—and no. Cows have long been part of the Bore Place story, and their absence will naturally feel like a shift. But much of what makes Bore Place special remains unchanged. Our walking trails, playground, and free public access are still here. We’ll continue to host events, welcome school groups, and work with our partners.

And the land itself? It’s getting a moment to rest, regenerate, and help shape our next chapter. We expect livestock to return in some form in the future—possibly even cows again—but this is a time for open thinking and bold ideas.

**How will the new land strategy be developed?**

This is a collaborative journey. The Commonwork Trust is leading a co-design process involving staff, volunteers, and key external partners. Together, we’re asking: What do we want this land to be in 5, 10, 50 years? How can we farm and steward it in ways that tackle the climate and nature crises while supporting human health and thriving communities?

**What’s the vision for the future of the farm?**

The exact vision will be shaped through the co-design process. But our direction is clear: we’re aiming for a model of land use that is regenerative, climate-resilient, and centred on biodiversity, food, and public benefit. Farming will continue to be part of our story—what that looks like, and who we do it with, is what this exciting next year is all about.