

**Media release:** For immediate release

**Date:** 16th May 2017

**Rare opportunity to bid for East Devon farm tenancy for the first time in 20 years**

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| **Video for online news** <https://youtu.be/7SghBfzIMbM> |

Tenders are being invited from entrepreneurial farmers interested in a once-in-a-generation opportunity to become a tenant farmer on the spectacular East Devon Jurassic Coast.

Stantyway Farm, is a 264 acre arable organic farm located just above the idyllic village of Otterton between Budleigh Salterton and Sidmouth. It was farmed by the same family for two generations until their retirement three years ago and, until now, it has been part of Clinton Devon Estates’ in-hand farming operation.

This is the first time in 20 years that the owners, Clinton Devon Estates, have let a farm on the open market. Stantyway Farm is one of 30 tenant farms on the 25,000 acre estate which encompasses farmland, forests and public open space as well as residential and commercial property across North and East Devon.

Estates Surveyor Clare James explains: “Stantyway presents an incredibly rare opportunity for a new farmer to farm on the estate. Most farms are passed down the generations and it’s not often that one becomes available. We hope to encourage entrepreneurial farmers in East Devon and beyond to bid for the chance to join us.

“We are very proud of the close and enduring relationships we have with our tenant farmers and, in many cases, we work with them to support their business aspirations, whether it’s in terms of investment or diversification goals.”

Stantyway Farm is in an idyllic coastal location which is widely renowned as a breeding habitat for the Cirl bunting. Although the farm has organic status, the land and property details state that there is no requirement for the incoming tenant to continue farming organically.

Clinton Devon Estates commits to high environmental standards and regards itself and its farmers as custodians of the natural environment.

Clare James explains: “Stantyway Farm is an excellent example that farming with high conservation standards can be achieved in a sustainable way, benefitting wildlife, the landscape and the local community.

With Brexit approaching, and the end of Britain’s promise to match the EU’s farming subsidies scheme set for 2020, Clinton Devon Estates hopes that its new tenant farmer will be “eco-conscious in their approach to farming, but of a resilient disposition”.

In total, UK farmers receive around £3bn a year in subsidies, including £700m for agri-environment schemes. What will replace these essential payments when Britain leaves the Bloc is subject to much speculation.

Clinton Devon Estates’ Head of Property and Land, Leigh Rix says: “We believe that the current basic payment subsidy which is based on farm size is likely to switch over to a conservation related subsidy which encompasses the sustainable soil and water management of the land as well as other public goods and services.

“Conservation and protecting our environment is incredibly important to the estate. You can’t farm successfully unless you maintain these scarce resources.

“In addition to this, our climate is changing and we’ve seen evidence of it again this spring, where we had two months of virtually no rain; so an innovative and resilient attitude in our farmers in the face of Brexit and climate change is going to be more important than ever”, added Mr Rix.

Stantyway Farm includes a recently refurbished four-bedroom detached farmhouse and a range of modern, well-kept farm buildings on an easily accessible yard. Harvesting is due this summer, after which it will be left as grassland and stubble for the new tenant in September.

**Two viewing days are being held in June and sealed tenders to rent the farm must be made by 12 noon on Monday 10th July. For further information please visit** [**www.clintondevon.com**](http://www.clintondevon.com)

**ENDS**

**Note to Editors:**

**Pictures attached show Leigh Rix, Head of Property and Land and Clare James, Estates Surveyor. They may be used in connection with this media release.**

For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact Annette Richman at KOR Communications on 01392 466733.

**About Clinton Devon Estates**

Clinton Devon Estatesis involved in farming, sustainable forestry and timber products**,** deer management and residential property. It has a portfolio of commercial property across the South West and provides one of the region’s best equipped equestrian event venues at Bicton. It also owns commons at Woodburywhich form the major part of the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest).

Clinton Devon Estateshas been awarded the prestigious Queen’s Award for Enterprise in the category of Sustainable Development in 2005, 2010, and 2015, reflecting its commitment to conservation management through Countryside Stewardship Schemes and privately funded Estate led environmental initiatives.

The East Devon Pebblebed Heaths are managed by the Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust, a charity set up by Clinton Devon Estates to promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of the Pebblebed Heaths and the Otter Estuary for the benefit of future generations.

The East Devon Pebblebed Heaths are located in an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and have both UK and European designations, including a Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

For more information please visit **www.clintondevon.com**