

# RIVER DART CHARTER at Dartington

Water is a living entity that we all share and benefit from. While the banks and river bed of the River Dart are owned, the health of living water is a common pool resource entrusted to us all. The movement of water through its cycle of rain, rivers, seas and clouds is essential for the maintenance of all life.

We the people who live, work and play here, name ourselves as stewards of the water in our catchment. We therefore uphold the rights and responsibilities of the River Dart from Staverton Weir to Totnes Weir:

- To be alive and to thrive so that it can give life and enjoyment to all.
- To be clean and unpolluted so that it can enable biodiversity to flourish.
- To flow freely from source to sea so that it can be a vital part of a healthy eco-system.

In this place of Dartington we especially value and name as our shared assets:

- The river's role as a wildlife corridor for otters, birds, especially kingfishers, and fish.
- Healthy water in sufficient quantity.
- Trees along the banks, particularly the oaks that give the Dart its name, and the stability of their roots.
- A cherished river that enhances our mental and physical wellbeing, provides tranquility, beauty and memories—now and for future generations.
- Respectful, agreed access along this sacred length of the river, from Staverton Weir to Totnes Weir, where we enjoy the water, both in, on and beside it.

Two River Keepers will represent the River Dart from Staverton Weir to Totnes Weir on behalf of the community: the Dartington Hall Trust's Conservation Warden and a volunteer from the community. Both are tasked with representing the Charter/River at the Estate Environment and Conservation Group.

To report an incident in this stretch of the river the Environment Agency should be contacted on their 24-hour incident hotline, 0800 80 70 60.

If the wellbeing of water in this place is infringed, or our assets harmed, or there is conflict around use of the water the Estate Environment and Conservation Group will be a place of resolution.

This River Dart Charter at Dartington is held by The Dartington Hall Trust. It was brought into being by Dartington's Estate Team, The Bioregional Learning Centre, members of the local community and visitors to the Dartington Hall Estate. Over 1,200 people contributed to its creation.

Putting the River Dart first means considering these needs:

Nature's water cycle  
Home for aquatic animals  
Plantlife and trees  
Wildlife

as well as our water-related needs and desires, such as:

Agriculture  
Bathing  
Boating  
Car washing  
Cleaning  
Cooking  
Diluting  
Drinking water  
Farming  
Firefighting  
Fishing  
Gardening  
Growing food  
Health & wellbeing  
Heating  
Hydroelectricity  
Ice making  
Industrial cooling  
Irrigation  
Kayaking  
Machinery operation  
Medical/dental  
Power washing  
Pressure cutting  
Purification  
Recreation  
Rinsing  
Showering  
Street cleaning  
Swimming  
Toilet Flushing  
Transport  
Washing



Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

