Maristow Website

Front page:

Maristow Estate

The Estate runs from the Northern edge of Plymouth to beyond Princetown, and from the Tavy Estuary to beyond Shaugh Prior.

Maristow surrounds Milton Combe, Bickleigh, Shaugh Prior, Walkhampton, and Meavy villages and used to also contain Roborough, Horrabridge, and Dousland. The vast majority of the properties have been sold and the inhabitants are largely unaware of the Estate’s existence.

The Estate is a predominantly traditional rural estate with most of the income coming from dairy farming, let farms and forestry. Income from field sports, golf, commercial and residential letting has grown materially over the last 30 years and now balances the traditional income providing protection from the volatility of those markets.

The Lopes family acquired the core of Maristow Estate in 1798 from the Heywoods and have since added parts of the Buckland, Sheepstor, and Warleigh estates as well as other acquisitions. The estate has also receded from time to times, particularly with the 1900 sale of around 6,000 acres to the City of Plymouth for Burrator reservoir.

Links to other pages

Dairy Farming![A person milking a cow

Description automatically generated]()

Maristow Home Farms runs a herd of 780 milking cows over around 2,500 acres. These are split into three herds, two spring calving (Bickham and Natts) and one autumn calving (Galleys). Milk is sold to Arla and Saputo for manufacturing given the high butter fat content.

The farm employs 10 people full time and is always keen to meet potential new additions to the team. 8 of the team live in estate accommodation.

Let Farms

Most of the Estate farmland is let under Agricultural Holdings Act tenancies where the tenants enjoy 2 successions giving long term security.

The estate also lets land under Farm Business Tenancies and short term grazing agreements and is open to applications for these holdings.

ForestryAerial view of a forest

Description automatically generated

A green hillside with trees

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

We calculate that around 25% of the low lying ground is currently forested but 5% or less of the uplands. We are attempting to get permission to plant extensively on those uplands with a target of reaching 65% tree cover. We anticipate that the Woodland Carbon Code will provide a suitable incentive structure to allow this to happen.

The Estate leases 700 acres to the Forestry Commission on a long term lease, the bulk of which is growing commercial species.

Maristow also has around 1,500 acres of in hand woodland and forestry, most of which is native broadleaves such as Oak and Beech. This is managed commercially in order to strike the right balance between mature and growing trees.

Field sports

Maristow and Bickleigh Shoot

Plym Valley Deer Society

Fishing

The estate lets most of its fishing to the Tavy, Walkham and Plym fishing club and retains one estate rod. Please contact the club to inquire about opportunities to join.

<https://twpfishing.net/tavy/>

The Plymouth and District Freshwater fishing club also obtains some of its water from the estate. Please contact them to learn more.

<https://www.pdfaa.org/beats>

Golf

The estate leases the golf course to the Yelverton Golf Club.

Yelverton is a delightful moorland course, designed in 1904 by Herbert Fowler, (who also worked on the design of holes at Walton Heath, The Berkshire, Burnham & Berrow, RAC, Royal North Devon and Saunton to name a few), and completed the second of two stages of his course design in 1923 when the 18 hole course was opened.

The course has outstanding views across Dartmoor and over Cornwall, and Herbert Fowler incorporated some of the old mine workings, and leats, as natural hazards to challenge golfers of all standards. The course has been host to many top quality competitions, including the EGU Men’s Senior Amateur Championships in 2006 and the Devon Mens and Ladies Amateur Championship in 2023.

<https://www.yelvertongolf.co.uk>

Residential letting

The estate lets out around 30 houses on residential tenancies. These range from 2 bedroom cottages to 8 bedroom farmhouses. We prioritise long term relationships with our tenants so opportunities to rent rarely come available.

All houses are fully modernised and kept in immaculate condition.

Please do contact us to inquire about opportunities.

Commercial letting

The estate has a small number of commercial premises but a large number of redundant farm buildings. We are always open to proposals to make productive use of these buildings but those interested need to be aware that they are largely accessed by narrow lanes, despite their close proximity to Plymouth.

Please do contact us to discuss your requirements.