

## South Penquite Organic Farm case study

Farm owner	Dominic and Cathy Fairman.
Farm manager	Dominic and Cathy Fairman.
Address	South Penquite Farm, Blisland, Bodmin, Cornwall, PL30 4LH.
Phone /email	01208 850491 / thefarm@bodminmoor.co.uk
Grid Ref	OS Map No. 109 Ref: 108750.
Size	80 hectares.
Tenancy	
Date when farm competed organic conversion	May 2001.
History	Bronze age hut circles reveal that this land has been farmed for over 4000 years. Cornish stone banks and hedges are evidence of later farming systems.

### Physical features

General description	South Penquite is a working hill farm situated high on Bodmin Moor.
Soil types	
Altitude	220 metres.
Rainfall	In excess of 150 cm per year.

### Land use

Crops	Grass.
Crops used in rotation	Not applicable
Set a side	None.
Stewardship	10 hectares of the farm are in the stewardship scheme.

### Animals

Cows	'Galloway' cows (20) are crossed with a shorthorn bull to produce a crossbreed known as a 'Bluegrey' (30).
Sheep	400 sheep. The breed is 'Cheviot'.

Labour	1 farmer. The main job is manging the cows and sheep.
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Machinery	1 Tractor – 4WD 70 brake horse power.
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## Markets for farm produce

Cows	Cattle are sold to a nearby farm in St Austell to be fattened before being sold for meat.
Sheep	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lamb to local abattoir/butcher</li> <li>2. Lamb sold to Harvey Nichols.</li> <li>3. Lamb sales from farm.</li> </ol>

## Diversification

Alternative sources of income	Camping available in the summer.
<b>Other features / attractions</b>	Light game fishing available through Westcountry Rivers Trust.
Field studies centre	A new field studies centre can be used by schools and educational groups wanting to learn about conservation, organic farming and the local environment.

## Environmental benefits

Habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ancient woodland of national wildlife importance.</li> <li>• River designated as a Special Area of Conservation.</li> <li>• Moorland.</li> <li>• Flower rich grassland.</li> </ul>
Wildlife	Otter and bullhead fish in the river.

## Significant changes arising from organic conversion

Animals	300 less ewes.
Labour	No change.
Types of crops grown	No change.
Change in balance of land use (arable v. animal)	No change.
Income from produce / profitability of farm	Similar.
Noticeable changes in wildlife	Increased butterfly presence and birds (especially birds of prey).

Other – eg personal outlook on farming,	Reducing livestock has saved labour and significantly reduced health and welfare problems, allowing more time for education, field studies and marketing.
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