



PRESS RELEASE

September 2021

Low Becks Farm: sale completes

The purchase of Low Becks Farm by The Ernest Cook Trust is now complete, securing its future as a resource for land-based education for students in Cumbria.

The Ernest Cook Trust stepped in with an offer to buy Low Becks – part of the now closed Newton Rigg agricultural college - to ensure it would remain a learning resource as well as an upland sheep farm.

The Ernest Cook Trust, based in Gloucestershire, is a UK-wide educational charity, creating outdoor experiences for children, young people and their families. A landowner in six counties, it runs education programmes on its own estates, as well as with partners' estates, and offers grants for outdoor learning activities.

Dr Victoria Edwards, OBE, Chief Executive of The Ernest Cook Trust said:

“We are delighted that our purchase of Low Becks Farm is now complete. This is a first for us, farming in our own right, as the rest of the Trust’s agricultural land is managed by our tenant farmers.

“We now have some important work to do in scoping the potential of the farm to serve as a learning resource while furthering our understanding of how to farm in a nature friendly way.

“In the meantime, the farm is already being used by students from Kendal College for Level One land based studies. It’s great to have young people back on the farm again.”

Additional information relating to this Press Release:

<https://ernestcooktrust.org.uk/news/2021/09/purchase-completed/>

Notes to Editors

For more information contact press officer Jo Smyth jo@wordworker.co.uk 07780 639287. Visit The Ernest Cook Trust website at <https://ernestcooktrust.org.uk/>

The Ernest Cook Trust, headquartered in Gloucestershire, is a UK educational charity that creates outdoor experiences for children, young people and their families, particularly those who are disadvantaged. The Trust nurtures a lifelong journey of learning, appreciation and respect for the countryside through the experiences and support it offers for young people and their communities.

Established in 1952, the Trust remains deeply rooted in its founder's love of the countryside and owns more than 22,500 acres of land in six English counties (Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Leicestershire, Dorset and Cumbria).

The Ernest Cook Trust carries out its educational work on and beyond its estates, through grant funding activities and through the partnerships and collaborations with like-minded organisations who share a passion for outdoor learning. It has Outdoor Learning Officers on its partners' land in Cumbria and Lancashire.

