



Clinton Devon Estates' winning ways continue with Beacon award

Clinton Devon Estates, one of the most prestigious landed estates in the South West comprising over 25,000 acres, has continued its winning ways in becoming the latest high profile business to be awarded Beacon status.

Joining the exalted ranks of other success stories in the South West such as: **Aardman Animation, Mulberry and Dorset Cereals**, Clinton Devon Estates is perhaps one of the oldest business heavyweights in the region to become a **Beacon Company**.

The 500 year old estates business which encompasses farming, forestry operations, residential and commercial property development and management, land energy production and a number of smaller businesses is no newcomer when it comes to receiving important accolades. In fact, the estates' many achievements include: the Investor in People standard, one of the Sunday Times Top 100 Companies to work for and the Coutts & Co Business & Innovation Award, and holder of the highly esteemed **Queen's Award for Enterprise** for its contribution to sustainable development to name but a few.

Sue Baker, project director for Beacon South West, explained Clinton Devon Estates' success: "Demonstrating solid financial foundations with an eye to the future strategic development of the business without compromising its strong commitment to sustainability, Clinton Devon Estates is a shining example of a family-owned business which has evolved over the years and responded to changing market conditions to become a dynamic, commercially-driven organisation. Moving from a family-based enterprise to more of a business entity focused on maximising revenues and boosting the bottom line, is not an easy task, but the estate has taken on the challenge and has emerged stronger and more commercially successful as a result."

John Varley, estates director at Clinton Devon Estates, said: "Standing still is just not an option for businesses today and we have changed and developed our business over the years in order to continue our growth strategy and maintain competitiveness. With this in mind, commercial estate management now represents a quarter of our business and with high-profile tenants such

as B&Q and Devon County Council; we continue to grow our business year on year. Central to our business ethos though has been staying true to our core values – balancing our commitment to local communities and the built and natural environment with commercial goals while maintaining a responsible approach to the stewardship of all our woodland, farmland and heathland as well as our obligations as an employer.

“Beacon companies represent the best businesses in the region and it is both a privilege and a compliment to sit alongside other Beacon firms. We welcome the opportunity to forge partnerships with local businesses, communities and public bodies within the region as well as benchmark our progress to date and learn from other successful organisations.”

Clinton Devon Estates will be joining another successful Devon-based company around the Beacon boardroom table. The international fruit ingredients supplier Cobell Ltd, which has its headquarters on Marsh Barton, Exeter, was awarded Beacon status last year.

Cobell’s managing director David Pearce said: “The opportunity to meet with other south west business leaders to discuss challenges, issues, innovation and good practice has already been immensely rewarding and inspiring.

“We welcome Clinton Devon Estates to our regional boardroom and look forward to learning from their incredible 500 years of experience and from the strategies and innovations which have won them a number of coveted awards,”

Beacon South West is a leading business initiative supported by the South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA) bringing together the region’s most pioneering and rapidly expanding organisations. A professional environment for good practice, fresh ideas and innovation, Beacon SW works with businesses that are as ambitious as they are contemporary - in both their performance and thinking. Beacon businesses are ambassadors for outstanding achievement, raising the region’s profile overall and, in return; all Beacon businesses receive the full professional support of their peers gaining access to new ideas and strategies.

To find out more about **Beacon South West**, please visit www.beaconsw.org

For more information on **Clinton Devon Estates** please visit www.clintondevon.com

-ENDS-

For further information, please contact:

Jess Lyons or Caroline Charles, Bray Leino Tel: 0117 906 4504

Email: jlyons@brayleino.co.uk

Date of issue:

Note to editors:

Beacon South West brings together some of the South West's most forward thinking and ambitious companies to promote success and spearhead the growth of the region. A key business initiative of the South West of England Regional Development Agency, Beacon South West is an award given to those companies who can demonstrate outstanding achievement across a range of criteria, including significant improvements in productivity and performance, profitability, work culture and innovation. Beacon South West members play an important role in cultivating enterprise excellence in the region. <http://www.beaconsw.org>