

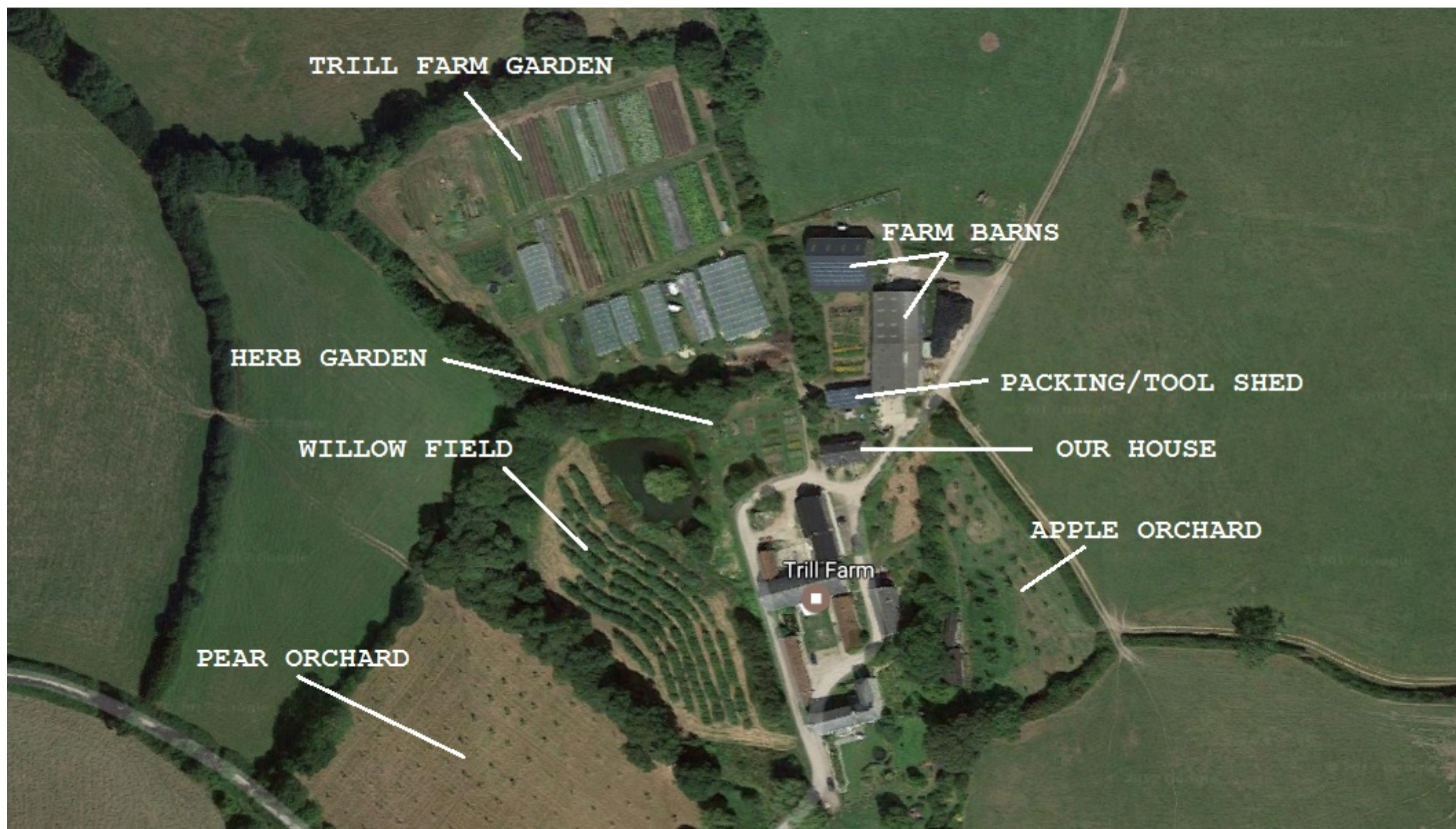
A One Hectare Livelihood

Ashley Wheeler from Trill Farm Garden



TRILL FARM GARDEN

- Part of a larger organic farm
 - Share tools, machinery
 - Manure
 - Share employees/volunteers
 - Part of a community
 - Joint marketing
 - Share costs of services



TRILL FARM GARDEN

HERB GARDEN

WILLOW FIELD

PEAR ORCHARD

FARM BARNs

PACKING/TOOL SHED

OUR HOUSE

APPLE ORCHARD

Trill Farm

TRILL FARM GARDEN

- Some infrastructure already there
 - Twin span tunnel
 - Borehole
 - Machinery
 - Shed
 - Fencing
- Less investment, but higher rent



TRILL FARM GARDEN

- Slowly built up infrastructure and tools etc.
 - Second hand tools
 - Free/cheap polytunnels
 - High proportion of labour is manual, so little investment required
 - Simple old tractor – cheap parts and easy to fix







TRILL FARM GARDEN

- Location – market
 - Close to tourist towns for direct sales
 - Sell to restaurants – price is halfway between retail and wholesale, but bulk orders & little need for marketing
 - Minimise delivery time
 - Can harvest & deliver on same day – premium produce compared to wholesalers
 - Stall in the summer – tourists & locals



TRILL FARM GARDEN

- Growing on marginal land
 - Heavy clay soil – poorly drained
 - Focus on summer crops, which coincides with peak tourism
 - Protected cropping
 - Most jobs carried out by hand – easier to get on the land and less compaction



TRILL FARM GARDEN

- Small growing area lends itself to crops that suit manual labour rather than mechanisation
 - Grow high value crops
 - Grow crops that are obviously better when fresh
 - Grow a wider range of leaves that are not necessarily suited to mechanised production, leading to more interesting product.
 - Less machinery means lower costs (investment and maintenance)
 - Higher manual labour – supporting community.



TRILL FARM GARDEN

- Less mechanisation means more labour
 - Supporting new entrants through informal traineeship
 - Supporting local landworkers and building up a team of growers who can cover me if needed
 - Good for mental health – feels less of a burden with more people around
 - Negative is that it requires long hours during summer.



TRILL FARM GARDEN

- Diverse range of crops – resilient system
 - Not over-reliant on one crop – 9 year rotation, including green manures
 - Seed saving – environmental benefits as well as keeping the skill alive
 - Not over reliant on one customer – many restaurant customers, and now trying to sell more retail through OFN
 - Diversity within crops too – especially salad





LandBase is the new centre for land based skills, based in Dorset. We will provide experience led, affordable, long and short-term courses for motivated landworkers, both current and aspiring.

landbase.org.uk



The Landworkers' Alliance is an organisation of farmers, growers and land-based workers. We work to overcome the obstacles facing us by campaigning for policies to support the infrastructure and markets central to our members livelihoods, building alliances and encouraging solidarity.

landworkersalliance.org.uk

**TRILL FARM
GARDEN**

ashley@trillfarm.co.uk

www.trillfarmgarden.weebly.com