Ecological Land Cooperative
For a living, working countryside

Practical Solutions to Planning Problems
Our Mission

What?

We want to see a living, working countryside where land is valued as a way to enhance the good of community, countryside and the natural world.

How?

- Creating affordable, small-scale, ecologically managed farms
- Undertaking research
- Campaigning for policy change
- Writing guides and providing training
The planning system is one of the key obstacles to achieving our goals.

How do we address this?

How can we / are we making things better?
Working with what we’ve got

Promoting agricultural change within the current planning framework.

Policy ambiguity can present opportunity.
Our Model:

- Removes planning burden from smallholders.
- Reduces risk for LPA.
- Provides positive case studies.
Successes so far...

- **Greenham Reach**
  Our first cluster of 3 smallholdings granted permanent permission June 2019.

- **Arlington**
  Temporary planning permission granted for our second site in August 2018 by delegated decision.
Training, Guides and Research

CPD workshops for planning officers.

What are planners’ concerns/difficulties?

Research - “Planning barriers faced by small scale horticulturalists”.
Long Term Change

More agroecological smallholdings
- increased number of success stories.
- increased awareness.
- increased acceptance of the viability and importance of agroecology.
Specific LID planning policy in local plans.

Changes at a national level.
1. Define essential need in NPPF.
2. Training courses for planning officers.
3. Make agricultural ties more secure.
4. PD rights for small holdings (under 5ha).
5. Agriculture + horticulture in GB para. 141.
6. Encourage local food production in policy.
7. OPD for England?
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THANK YOU

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