



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



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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.

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Policy Change

Specific LID planning policy in local plans.

Changes at a national level.



Planning Policy Briefing Paper



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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