

Carol Gardner

From: publicaccess@middevon.gov.uk
Sent: 06 January 2012 13:12
To: Development Control
Subject: Comments for Planning Application 11/02007/MFUL

Planning Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 1:08 PM on 06 Jan 2012 from Mrs Rachel Harries.

Application Summary

Address: Land at NGR 307117 120011 (Greenham Reach)
 Holcombe Rogus Devon

Proposal: Use of land for siting of a temporary agricultural worker's dwelling for a period of 5 years together with an agricultural barn with PV array, poultry hatchery/brooder, W.E.T. waste water treatment system, bore hole, and alterations to existing highway access and private ways as part of a scheme for new entrants to ecological agriculture

Case Officer: Mrs Alison Fish

[Click for further information](#)

**Customer Details**

Name: Mrs Rachel Harries

Email:

Address: Soil Association, South Plaza, Marlborough Street, Bristol
 BS1 3NX

Comments Details

Commenter Type: Member of Public

Stance: Customer made comments in support of the Planning Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments: The Soil Association is the UK's leading organic organisation - we promote solutions that meet the needs of people for healthy food, fuel and fibre while protecting the natural world. We are committed to ensuring that sustainable, seasonal, healthy food is accessible to everyone, especially those who will most benefit from the most nutritious diet. Our work is not limited to promoting 'organic' and we have an ongoing commitment to 'enabling change' - supporting others to deliver healthy, humane and sustainable food, farming and land use solutions. The Ecological Land Co-operative represents

part of a new movement of democratisation of land ownership, whereby land is being acquired by trusts and community groups through share offers, gifts and ethical investment to provide opportunities for sustainable food production, new entrants and good stewardship of the land and we are pleased to be able to support its work. Through the Soil Association's own Land Trust we hold farmland in trust to ensure that it is safeguarded for sustainable food production and continues to provide social, economic and environmental benefits. We promote public access to farms to connect people with the land and to educate them about food, farming and the countryside. We believe there is an urgent need to provide opportunities for new farmers, growers and communities to work on the land and aim to help them to develop sustainable businesses that are viable, survive and thrive. It is estimated that we need 52,000 new entrants in the land-based sector over the next decade (LANTRA). Current farming models demonstrate consistent moves towards specialisation, often industrialisation, increased farm size, fewer jobs and higher inputs. An alternative model seeks a more human scale which is diverse and equitable. More and better opportunities to develop essential farming, growing and land based skills and experiences are offered by small and diverse farming enterprises. However what we see is evidence of a progress loss of small family farms and with it a lack of opportunities for new entrants. The Soil Association works directly with new entrants to farming through our Organic Apprenticeship Scheme. For many the biggest obstacle is getting their first foothold on the farming ladder as a result of the prohibitive cost of land and rural housing. Funding for infrastructure such as agricultural buildings and renewable energy sources, offer further often insurmountable challenges. The Ecological Land Co-operative model to provide small holdings which include accommodation and infrastructure such as those in this proposal is a new and innovative solution and we welcome and support this approach. Not only will these small holdings help to support the livelihoods of their occupants but we believe that they will help to inspire and educate the wider public on the benefits of small scale sustainable farming. Rachel Harries Development Co-ordinator