



Mentrau Effaith Isel Lamas Cyf  
Lamma's Low Impact Initiatives Ltd

Rhif cof/ Reg no: 30222R  
Swyddfa cof/ Reg Office :  
Y Swyddfa.  
Tir y gafel.  
Glandwr.  
Pembrokeshire  
SA34 0YD

Alison Fish  
Planning  
Mid Devon District Council  
Phoenix House  
Phoenix Lane  
Tiverton  
Devon  
EX16 6PP



Our Reference: pw161

Re: Applications 11/02007/MFUL and 12/00045/MFUL and 12/00107/MFUL

24<sup>th</sup> January 2012

Dear Alison Fish,

I am writing to you concerning the above applications for eco-smallholdings.

Our organisation attained planning permission in August 2009 for 9 eco-smallholdings in North Pembrokeshire. The 67acre site (approximately 7 acres per household) is approximately 130 – 190 meters above sea level, receives approximately 1600mm of rain a year and has poor acidic soil. Our site was considered marginal and suitable only for hill farming/ grazing by conventional analysis.

Our application revolved around us proving viability for our land-based enterprises. We successfully achieved this.

We are now 2 years into a 5 year set-up period and the results of our land activities to date have been very positive. Most plots have productive gardens with orchards growing. Many of the land-based businesses are on their way to being established. The altitude, soil and rainfall have all proven to be challenges that can be overcome with careful design and good measure.

Whilst it is too early for us to offer independent definitive evidence as to the ability of human-scale farming based on permaculture principles ability to transform agricultural land considered as 'marginal' into diverse holdings (incorporating areas of horticulture and mixed pasture/ woodland ecosystems), all our evidence to date suggests this is entirely possible when working at a human scale and using a permaculture approach.



Mentrau Effaith Isel Lamas Cyf  
Lammas Low Impact Initiatives Ltd

Rhif cof/ Reg no: 30222R  
Swyddfa cof/ Reg Office :  
Y Swyddfa.  
Tir y gafel.  
Glandwr.  
Pembrokeshire  
SA34 0YD

I would stress, however, that there is a need for the residents to live on site in order to empower a human-scale approach. The ability to observe the land at all times under all conditions is imperative to building an in-depth understanding of the manner in which the ecosystems are working. As is the ability to affect the environment as and when needed. When a gale arises in the night and the fruit bushes need staking or when a rain deluge is in full flow at 7am on a Sunday morning you simply need to be there in order to observe and stake the trees/ clear the water swale/ ditch/ reservoir catchments as necessary. It is the attention to detail inherent in human-scale farming that gives it its cutting edge. Residence on site gives people the time needed to relate to and interact with their environments. Lammas is currently proving that the principles and objectives of the applications by ELC, are well founded and eminently achievable and we wholeheartedly urge you to support them.

With regards,

Paul Wimbush

Chairman

*On behalf of Lammas Low Impact Initiatives Ltd*