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To whom it may my concern

**Re: Pembroke County Council planning permission appeal: Lammas Project**

- OCW fully endorses the aims of this project, which has environmental sustainability and the use of organic farming and permaculture systems at its heart.

- ***Poor land can be improved with organic techniques***

The following is an extract from a training resource developed by OCW for organic growers: '.....The protection of the long-term fertility of soils by maintaining organic matter levels, encouraging soil biological activity, and using mechanical intervention carefully. This approach is very much in tune with the saying "leave things better than when you find them" and the enhancement of long-term fertility should be the aim.'

This makes clear that poor soils *can* be improved by organic management techniques. These include the use of fertility building legumes as part of crop rotations, application of organic manures and composts and green manures. These techniques not only supply nutrients but support and enhance the biological activity of the soil which is essential to make the nutrients available to the crop. Careful and appropriate cultivation, in combination with the fertility building measures, can also help to improve soil structure

- ***Previous land usage and biodiversity status does not determine what future diversification/land use is possible***

There are a number of measures that can be taken to improve biodiversity. Examples include streamside corridors; beetle banks; hedgerows; various crops management techniques that encourage biodiversity. These are the basis of the some of the 'habitat' options for WAG Agri-environment scheme – many of which have specific of improving biodiversity in areas where biodiversity was previously low. The existing status of the land should not prevent the project meeting its aims.

- ***Yields on small scale intensive systems can be higher than on large scale mono-cultural, conventional farms.***

The use of small intensive vegetable plots can produce higher yields than larger scale operations. This is due to a number of factors including:

- Smaller areas are easier to monitor, enabling any problems to be detected, and managed earlier
- Application of manures and other inputs tends to more accurate



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- Systems such as raised bed systems, which are particularly common in (but not exclusive to) small scale systems, lead to better soil and growing conditions e.g. deeper soil and better drainage

'The Organic Gardeners Handbook' by Michael Littlewood contains yield information more appropriate to small scale organic horticultural systems.

Best regards

Tony Little  
Advisory Services Coordinator



