

GWD/0808  
05 August 2016

Lauren Simpson  
Ecological Land Cooperative  
Unit F7  
The Waterside Centre  
North Street  
Lewes  
BN7 2PE

Dear Lauren


### **Ecological Land Cooperative**

I write in support of your plans to expand the number of residential smallholdings for ecological land users for which, I understand, you are at the stage of applying for planning permission. Please feel free to submit this letter in support of any application for planning.

As you are aware, the Tenant Farmers Association (TFA) is the only organisation dedicated to representing the interests of tenant farmers and others who do not own the land that they farm. With astronomical land values, new entrants to the agricultural industry need a steady supply of openings such as those provided by your co-operative. However, there is significant unfulfilled new entrant demand for agricultural tenancies. It is always the case that there are many more individuals seeking opportunities to farm than there are opportunities available in the marketplace and the TFA seeks to support those offering sustainable opportunities for new entrants, such as the Ecological Land Cooperative (ELC).

The recent report from the Princes Countryside Fund on family farming highlighted the importance of small, family farms to the economy, communities and environment of rural areas and expressed concerns about their long-term decline. The opportunities ELC would be able to provide through this new initiative would make an important contribution to assisting the process of stemming that decline.

Yours sincerely



**George Dunn BA MSc FRAgS  
Chief Executive**