

The Planning Inspectorate
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14th November 2012.

Dear Sir or Madam:

Re: Appeals APP/Y1138/A/12/2181807, APP/Y1138/A/12/2181808 and
APP/Y1138/A/12/2181821 (Greenham Reach)

The Kindling Trust is a not-for-profit organisation with the aim of supporting, promoting and practicing sustainable production, activism and living. We are supported by a number of funders in the field of sustainable food production including the Local Food Fund, the Big Dig and the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation.

Our work to date includes:

- Co-founding the Greater Manchester Land Army which provides local organic growers with volunteers and trainees;
- Co-founding Manchester Veg People which is a local and organic food producers co-operative selling into Manchester and reaching an estimated 38,000 people including through the University of Manchester;
- Establishing a food heritage project in which those with first-hand experience of local food production can offer knowledge, potential archive material or share oral history testimonies; and
- The co-ordination of a series of Feeding Manchester events, looking at practical and strategic ways to increase access to sustainable food in Greater Manchester.

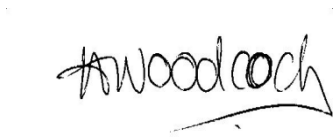
We would like to make the following remarks with regard to the planning applications submitted by the Ecological Land Co-operative (ELC):

- Access to affordable small farms remains one of the top barriers for attracting new entrants (and consequently to increasing sustainable local food production);
- By incorporating accommodation, as the ELC have done, growers' overheads are radically reduced with implications for their livelihood and their long-term viability;
- From our work with organic growers we are left in no doubt that those that are able to live on or very near to their land have a greater chance of success. Indeed we have witnessed horticultural enterprises without residential accommodation go out of business, unable to be on-site late at night to attend emergencies and to deter thieves;
- With the UK being the largest net importer of food & drink among the EU states and with 95% of fruit & 50% of vegetables eaten in the UK being imported this proposal dovetails and compliments the aspirations of the Report of the UK Government's Fruit and Veg Task Force (August 2010); and
- Ecological agriculture, by virtue of its labour intensity, creates more employment than other methods. For example, if half the available land around Greater Manchester was given over to producing just 10% of our City's annual fruit & vegetables needs in organic or other ecological production systems, 20,000 jobs would be created.

The Northwest's local food movement has taken great inspiration from the projects and work going on in South West of England, with regard to sustainable food production, support for rural enterprises and promotion of local food.

If the Ecological Land Co-operative were granted planning permission at appeal we would be interested in working with them. We have many years of experience in assessing opportunities to increase sustainable fruit and vegetables in Greater Manchester and together with our partners could identify sites that would be appropriate for new local food producers. We could provide any new producers with support in developing their business, distribution, securing customers, marketing, finding trainees and providing volunteers. If Greenham Reach is allowed to develop, the ELC would have developed a model (fund-raising through community shares, protecting the sites for affordability and sustainable agriculture, designing infrastructure and residences to maximise sustainability) which could make a significant contribution to helping Manchester increase sustainable local food production at the same time as providing examples of exceptionally sustainable development.

We hope you find our submission of interest and please do not hesitate to contact us if you require further information.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Woodcock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

On behalf of The Kindling Trust.

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