

Lilliput Farm is a certified Demeter and Pasture for Life producer. We have converted the agricultural buildings of Toghill Barns (P19/1191/ F) to a farm kitchen/café, overlooking our fields grazed by native bred cattle and sheep from which we will supply the meat for the farm kitchen.

We need to grow our own Demeter/Organic vegetables for the farm kitchen on the holding to ensure maximum quality, freshness and seasonal choice., while reducing food transport. We will be using our own cattle manure and will be composting our food waste from the farm kitchen thus increasing our sustainability.

Polytunnels are essential for the stable production of vegetables and salad crops throughout the year in this area and will be critical to our success. They will also be used to bring on seedlings to plant in the surrounding beds. Just as the farm kitchen with its surrounding grazing and livestock will have educational value with regard to sustainable food production, so the organic vegetable production on the allotment site and in the polytunnels will be open to the public to enhance such education.

The soil on the allotment site is Midford Sand, as opposed to Rubbly Limestone in the field adjacent to Toghill Barns (see Land Quality attachment). This is ideally suited to vegetable production, and the land previously formed part of that allocated by the Local Authority for Pennsylvania allotments. In contrast, the soil adjacent to Toghill Barns is a few inches thick overlying stone, and is entirely unsuitable.

Conservation:-

Polytunnels are essentially a temporary structure, which can be placed and removed without any alteration or permanent effects on the site. No levelling nor landscaping will be done. No hard paths nor hardstanding will be constructed. The polytunnels will not be visible from any public footpaths nor roads. There will be no encroachment nor interference with the hedge along the North eastern boundary.

Ecology:- No agricultural buildings which might serve as bat roosts are affected. The polytunnels are a sufficient distance from the adjacent hedgerow to pose no interference to nesting birds or other wildlife. Construction will not interfere with the hedgerow. No lighting will be installed. Rainwater will be harvested and used on-site.

Oliver Stanley
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