



3C) Lamma Eco- Village, Swansea

- Swansea
- Social Housing
- 30 homes



The Lamma Ecovillage is a collective of smallholdings and dwellings in North Pembrokeshire. Plots contain a house, greenhouses and farmland, and barns or workshops.

The village was developed in line with the Welsh Government's innovative 'One Planet Development' (OPD) policy and was part-funded by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), which paid for a Community Hub and learning centre.

The OPD policy makes it possible to build new homes in the open countryside in Wales so long as there is a demonstrable, measurable commitment to sustainable living. Residents must maintain a low carbon footprint and buildings should be carbon neutral in construction and use. The Lamma village accommodates an affordable and sustainable lifestyle, with residents growing food and generating energy onsite. Buildings are constructed of natural materials, and energy is obtained from renewable sources. Residents use hydropower, solar power and wind turbines. Heating is supplied by converting the spare electricity generated onsite into heat, or by burning timber, including waste timber, from woodland management projects. Water comes from a private spring and rainwater harvesting.

The site was carefully selected, with nearby woodland providing foraging opportunities, and creating natural shelter from the wind without overshadowing crop-fields. Biodiversity has been increased on the land with over 10,000 trees, shrubs and plants planted and the creation of 6 ponds. Land-based enterprises include fruit and vegetable production, livestock and bees, woodland crafts, and seed production.

The project was the first ecovillage in the UK to attain planning permission in 2009, with initial proposals for nine smallholdings. Under the conditions of 'One Planet Development', residents submit annual progress reports to the Council, monitoring traffic generation, land-based productivity and ecological footprint.

While the policy has come under certain local scrutiny, and some OPD schemes have been unsuccessful, the principle of encouraging continual site performance monitoring through post-occupancy evaluation enables continual learning, and Lamma is a successful example of this.



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ENVIRONMENT



INTERACTION



NEIGHBOURLINESS



AIR QUALITY



DISTINCTIVENESS