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Design & Access Statement

Proposal: Proposed agricultural polytunnel for a lambing sheep
Site Reference: SW & J Edwards, Millstones Farm, Bottomhouse, Leek, ST13 7NZ

Holding Number
37/053/0010

Character appraisal
This holding is located south east of Leek in a rural area. The land and buildings are being used for fundamental agricultural processes. This holding extends to 217 acres. This farmland is currently used to rear cattle and sheep and to produce fodder. The field boundaries in this area comprise of hedgerows and stonewalls.

Amount of development
The applicant wishes to erect a steel framed polytunnel agricultural building. The floor area created by this development will be 167.23m².

This proposal will assist the farm to be economically viable and aid in the welfare of the sheep whilst handling.

Use of proposed building
As a result of the applicants expanding business he requires this building to lamb sheep in.

The applicant currently farms approximately 400 sheep plus followers and 100 suckler cows plus followers, there is not sufficient enough room in the existing buildings to house the stock levels and storing the fodder and implements required to manage the holding.

This building would assist the applicant in following current government advice on bio security and animal welfare whilst they are under TB restrictions.

Defra regulations state that animals are not meant to poach the ground therefore housing for animals is essential.

FABBL requirements state that the space allowance for loose-housed sheep on a solid floor during pregnancy is a minimum of 1.2m² - 1.4m² and 2.0m² - 2.2m² after lambing with lambs at foot up to six weeks of age.

Deep litter bedding will be used on the solid floor; this bedding will then be spread back on the applicants land.

Where possible, pregnant ewes should be kept in groups of less than 50 to allow for better individual recognition and attention at lambing time.

Siting
As shown on drawing No. 1300-001 this building is located between the existing buiildings on the south west side of the holding. This is for ease of the farming process.

We feel this building has been positioned in the most practical location.

Scale
The applicant wishes to erect a steel framed agricultural building 18.288m long x 9.144m wide x 3.353m high.

We feel the scale and appearance of this building is appropriate for the site.

Landscaping
The applicant is happy to carry out any landscaping scheme specified by yourselves in order to protect the amenities of the site and the area.

Any trees planted will be fenced from livestock and will be protected by either spiral-type rabbit guards with canes or Netlon mesh-type guards including canes.

A circle of 1 metre around the base of each tree shall be kept weed free for a period of at least 2 years.

Any trees that die, become seriously damaged or diseased will be replaced by trees of similar size, unless there is reason to believe that the original species chosen was unsuitable for the site, in which case an alternative appropriate species will be used.

All planting would be carried out in the first planting season following the construction of the building.

Trees will be provided in accordance with BS 3936 and planting to be in accordance with BS 4428.

Appearance
As indicated on drawing No. 1300-001 this building be covered with a 720 gauge/180 micron Thermal Anti Drip polythene cover, clear to 1.000m above ground level and green polythene below to floor level.

Each gable elevation will incorporate a hinged door.

The polytunnel and frame will be supplied by Premier Polytunnels.

Access
Access to the building will be from existing vehicular roadways to and around the holding. The applicant does not seek to increase the number of roadways.

Access can be gained to this holding from A523 Ashbourne Road.

There will be no impact on the access to the site and vehicle impact to the surrounding area will be unaltered.