



DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

RELATING TO THE PROPOSED SILAGE CLAMP

AT

FOREST FARM

ASHBOURNE ROAD

CALTON MOOR

ASHBOURNE

DE6 2BU

ON BEHALF OF

BIRCHWOOD PARK FARMS

Report produced by:-

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- This Statement has been produced to accompany a full planning application for a proposed silage clamp at Forest Farm. This clamp will replace the existing earth bank clamp which is located on the site of the proposed agricultural buildings (Phase I & II of this scheme).

2.0 AGRICULTURAL JUSTIFICATION

- Across the three holdings, Birchwood Park Farms farmed a total land holding of 675 acres (273.258 hectares) with over 530 head of cattle.
- The farm partnership has grown over a number of years, initially started in 1991 on a 90 acres dairy farm near Burton on Trent with a herd of approximately 60 cows. In 2000, the family moved to Birchwood Park Farm, allowing the herd size to increase to 140 head.
- In 2011, the land at Moor Lane, Stockwell Heath was purchased and more recently Forest Farm in 2016. Over this period, the applicants have restructured their business to facilitate growth. By using Moor Lane Farm to house beef and finishing cattle and by housing all dairy youngstock at Forest Farm, this has allowed the dairy herd at Birchwood Park Farm to increase from 140 to 270, almost double the initial herd size. Birchwood Park Farm can accommodate a dairy herd of 300 and therefore it is their intention to increase to that level over the next 12 months.
- Commencing on the 1st June 2019, Birchwood Park Farms has achieved organic status and has been in organic conversion for two years. Milk is sold to ARLA who supply McDonalds restaurants. The organic milk market is more stable than commercial milk prices.
- Organic dairy farms operate a lower stocking density than conventional units and therefore the applicants have built up a substantial landholding to meet the certification requirements. Furthermore, the environmental objectives achieved with the organic certification complement the applicant's business.

- Birchwood Park Farms operates across three main farm units. These units can be summarised as follows:

BIRCHWOOD PARK FARMS - FARM HOLDINGS

	Acres	Hectares
Birchwood Park Farm, Roston Dairy unit housing all the milking herd	354	143.262
Moor Lane Farm, Moor Lane, Stockwell Heath Finishing unit and Licensed TB Finishing Unit, Grassland and Arable	165	66.775
Forest Farm, Swinscoe, Ashbourne Dairy youngstock and dairy heifer unit, all grassland	126.22	51.081
Land at Darlbury Lees, Ashbourne Cattle grazing	30	12.141
TOTAL LAND FARMED	675	273.258

- All dairy youngstock are homebred, breeding their own herd replacements. Dairy youngstock and dry cows are kept at Forest Farm at Swinscoe.
- A replacement silage clamp is required as part of the phased improvements to the agricultural operations at Forest Farm.

3.0 SITING & DESIGN

- The proposed silage clamp has been sited adjacent to the existing yard area and next to the agricultural buildings proposed under Phase I and Phase II of this scheme. These buildings adjoin on the East elevation.
- The design and appearance of the building is a typical modern silage clamp.

4.0 ACCESS

- Access to the proposed silage clamp is gained through the existing yard area from the public highway.

5.0 VISUAL IMPACT

- The proposed silage clamp has been sited adjacent to the existing yard, buildings and farm complex. In the wider landscape, the site is well screened by the topography of the land. Much of the proposed silage clamp sits below the field level to the North and West.

6.0 CONCLUSION

- The proposed replacement silage clamp is required to serve an existing established expanding farm enterprise and allows the applicants to improve their farming operations at Forest Farm.
- The design and appearance is typical of an agricultural structure of this type, style and use.
- The silage clamp has been sited adjacent to the existing farm complex.