

Supporting documentation for a purpose-built fodder store

On behalf of

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Introduction

This document is in full support for an application for a purpose-built fodder store at Green Gutter Farm, Bottomhouse, Leek. The applicant has an established beef cattle enterprise farmed over some 67.84 acres or thereabouts. The farming enterprise is centred around Green Gutter Farm. The client seeks to provide a purpose-built fodder storage area for the cattle on the farmstead.

Stocking Rates

The client currently farms 40 store cattle. The store cattle are farmed to supply the local butchers shop J. W. Ash in Leek. The client has recently secured more land and as such is looking to moderately increase stock numbers.

Land

The client farms around 67.84 acres or thereabouts, with all land being permanent pasture. The land is all grassland, utilised for mowing and grazing purposes. The land is tended by the client in hand with all activities except for the bailing of silage undertaken by the client.

Current Buildings

Green Gutter Farm currently has a range of agricultural buildings onsite, the current buildings are all utilised for the housing of cattle, housing of machinery, and as a general tool store. There are no current suitable fodder storage facilities onsite.

Unprotected fodder implications

The lack of dry fodder storage facilities onsite results in the fodder becoming wet and unsuitable for consumption by the cattle. Once moisture enters fodder it then begins to decay, resulting in the production of harmful bacteria. The bacteria can cause severe illness and even fatalities among cattle, hence hugely detrimental to the health and welfare of the cattle. Not to mention the huge financial implications of vet bills to sort sick cattle and the purchasing of additional fodder to cover the lost fodder is hugely expensive. This results in a huge financial strain on an enterprise. The availability of dry storage will mitigate the need to use silage wrap to store bales outside. This is a significant cost saving and also an environmental benefit.

Proposed Development

The proposed development will be of portal framed construction. The building will butt up to the existing building. The proposed building will be of portal frame construction, measuring 50ft x 20ft with a standard agricultural roof pitch. The building will follow the same pitch as the existing building. The proposed development will be 13ft to the eaves, sloping down to 7ft5 at the northern elevation. The building is in keeping with the surrounding buildings at Green Gutter Farm. The proposed building is a purpose-built fodder store allowing the client to keep all fodder dry for the cattle on the holding. The dry storage of fodder is essential to help maintain good animal health and welfare. The proposed development is 27m from the public highway, at the closest point. This location was chosen to minimise the expansion of the farmyard.

Conclusion

This document is in full support for the purpose-built fodder store at Green Gutter Farm, Bottomhouse, Leek. The addition of the fodder store will allow the client to maintain and improve animal health and welfare standards on the farm, through allowing the dry store of fodder for the cattle farmed by the client. The proposed development is in keeping with current buildings on site.