

Supporting Documentation for a Purpose-Built Fodder and Machinery Store

On behalf of
Mr J Bourne

**Brook Farm
Douse Lane
Bradnop
ST13 7NQ**

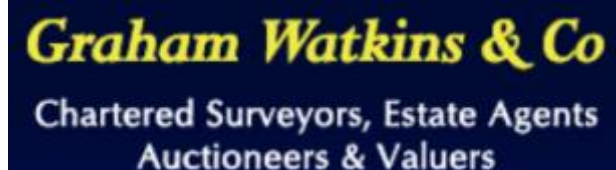
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INTRODUCTION

This document is in full support for a purpose-built agricultural building at Brook Farm, Douse Lane, Bradnop, ST13 7NQ. The applicant Mr J Bourne has recently purchased the property and plans to establish a farm business enterprise at the farmstead. The applicant intends to farm a mixed cattle and sheep enterprise comprising of 35 Store Cattle and 100 breeding ewes lambing at 180%. The applicant farms 20 acres or thereabouts of permanent grassland. The applicant seeks to erect a purpose-built fodder and machinery store which will help preserve the longevity of the vital farm machinery as well providing a safe and secure storage area. The proposed building will incorporate a dry fodder storage area. The proposed building is replacing an existing building which is not suitable for the needs or requirements of the proposed farm business enterprise.

LIVESTOCK

The applicant plans to create a new farm business at Brook Farm. The applicants farm business enterprise will consist of 35 store cattle per year and 100 breeding ewes lambing at 180%. The applicant plans to buy young store cattle at around 6-8 months during the early autumn period and grow inside during the winter months until April, a proportion will be sold off during the spring as forward store cattle between 15-18 months and the remaining cattle further grazed until the autumn. The sheep enterprise will be grazed year-round and will utilise the cattle housing during the lambing period in May, once the cattle have been turned out or sold. The lambs will be sold as store/fat lambs over the winter period.

LAND

The applicant farms 20 acres or thereabouts of permanent grassland, which is owned by the applicant. The applicant undertakes all grassland management including stock proofing, cultivations, mowing and general land management in hand.

CURRENT BUILDINGS

The applicant currently has two buildings onsite. A 60ft x 45ft former cubicle building which will be used to house the applicants store cattle and used as a purpose-built lambing area. There is a 90ft x 45ft open fronted portal frame hay barn, this will be utilised for the storage of straw used to bed the cattle during the winter months. There is no current provision for the storage of farm machinery or a purpose-built fodder store onsite. The applicant is conscious of the environmental issues that are currently affecting the planet and as such the dry storage of hay and silage bales eliminates the need to use single use black bale wrap, as well as protecting the fodder from mould and damp.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The proposed development is of portal frame construction; the proposed development will be replacing a current building on site, the current building is no longer fit for purpose for the needs of the proposed farm business enterprise due to its size, design, and construction. The proposed building is 60ft in length by 50ft in width with and has an eaves height of 14ft. The

proposed walls will use concrete panels to 1.75 meters in height, with corrugated green metal cladding thereafter to the eaves. The roof will be constructed of cement fibre boarding with 20% sky lights to allow as much natural light to enter the building as possible, reducing the need to artificially light the building.

The proposed development will be solely utilised for the purposes of agriculture. The proposed building will be used for the storage of fodder, the dry indoor storage of fodder reduces the need to use single use black silage bale wrap, as well as ensuring the fodder is kept dry for the cattle to eat during the winter months. The proposed building will have a dedicated machinery store. The machinery store will allow the vital dry, safe, and secure storage of machinery which is vital to the daily operations of a farm business enterprise.

PROTECTION OF FODDER

The dry storage of fodder for cattle and sheep feed is essential. Unprotected fodder is susceptible moisture entering the fodder, the moisture causes fodder to decay in turn causing mould spores to build up within the fodder. Mould spores are toxic to the health of sheep and cattle, this causes respiratory and digestive issues among the livestock, often requiring the help of a trained veterinarian and can even be fatal. The cost of replacement fodder is expensive, costs have risen to produce hay and silage fodder tenfold, hence the price of replacement fodder has risen significantly. The dry storage of fodder is the most cost-effective method of fodder storage, reducing the number of bales lost to decay, as well as promoting the best possible health and welfare standards of the livestock.

DRY STORAGE OF MACHINERY

The dry storage of machinery is essential. The applicant has a range of agricultural farm machinery including, telehandlers, tractors, grassland equipment and trailers. The applicant uses the farm machinery and equipment on a daily basis to feed the livestock, farm the land and general farm maintenance. Many of the applicant's machinery and equipment has electrical and mechanical components, subject to the harsh weather the mechanical components and electricals become defective and cause a breakdown. Breakdowns for a farm business are hugely detrimental both in terms of time and a financial cost to the farm business, which are often run on tight financial margins. A breakdown of critical machinery can leave cattle unable to be fed and land unable to be harvested, which is hugely detrimental to the health welfare of the livestock farmed. Preserving the longevity of the expensive farm machinery is vital to the success and future of a farm business enterprise.

RURAL CRIME

The NFU's Rural crime report from 2021 highlights the severity of rural crime within the UK. Despite a drop in rural crime numbers last year, stock thefts cost £2.3 million to the UK economy. Rural crime in general cost £43.3 Million to the UK economy, highlighting the severity of rural crime. The theft of livestock and machinery has a significant impact on the day to day running of a farm business, as well as a financial burden on an enterprise are often run on tight financial margins. The proposed building will ensure all machinery is kept out of sight of the public; the applicants farm business is based off a quiet country lane making it

attractive to thieves, the addition of the proposed building will allow for the essential secure out of site storage of the vital farm machinery.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The dry storage of fodder means there is no longer the need to use single use plastic black bale wrap. The single use black bale wrap is produced from plastic, which is not biodegradable and is produced from fossil fuels. The government has set a target of 'net zero' by 2050, the elimination of single black bale wrap usage from the farm business enterprise is in an aim to reduce the farms carbon footprint and preserve the environment for future generations to come.

CONCLUSION

The applicant plans create a farm business enterprise based at Brook Farm, Douse Lane, Bradnop, Leek. The farmstead has a range of current agricultural buildings which are suitable for the needs and requirements of the farm business enterprise. The applicant is seeking to erect a purpose building fodder and machinery store replacing an existing outdated, unfit an ill-designed building for the needs and requirements of the applicant's farm business enterprise. The proposed building is designed to allow maximum efficiency when accessing and egressing the building with a dedicated secure machinery storage area, designed to help prevent the theft of the vital farm machinery, which as highlighted in this report has become prevalent among the rural farming community. The proposed building aims to protect the longevity of the vital farm machinery the applicant operates, helping to reduce breakdowns causing significant unwanted financial costs. The proposed building's dry fodder storage area aims to reduce the number of bales lost to damp and decay, as well as eradicate the use of single use black plastic bale wrap which is harmful to the environment. This document is in full support for the essential proposed portal frame fodder and machinery store, which will provide a sustainable future for the applicant's farm business enterprise based as Brook Farm, Bradnop.