

PLANNING SUPPORTING STATEMENT

Client: J Bourne

**Site Address:
Brook Farm
Douse Lane
Bradnop
Leek
ST13 7NQ**

**Proposal: Portal Frame Fodder and
Machinery Store**

Prepared by

Graham Watkins & Co

57 Derby Street, Leek, ST13 6HU

Tel: 01538 373308

Email: enquiries@grahamwatkins.co.uk



Contents

.....	0
1.0 INTRODUCTION	2
2.0 FARM BUSINESS ENTERPRISE	2
3.0 LAND.....	2
4.0 PROPOSED BUILDING DESIGN	2
5.0 CURRENT BUILDINGS.....	2
6.0 DRY STORAGE OF FODDER	3
7.0 PROTECTION OF FARM MACHINERY	3
8.0 SECURITY	3
9.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS	3
10.0 SUMMARY	4

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document is in full support for the proposed extension to an existing building at Bent head house, there are currently a range of agricultural buildings onsite utilised by the applicant for agricultural purposes. The proposed building will be used to store fodder, straw and excess machinery.

2.0 FARM BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

The applicant currently has 30 weanlings which have just come off the milk ration onto a rearing ration, the applicant plans to increase these numbers to 50 over the next year, purchasing as bucket calves and rearing until 15-18 months.

The applicant farms 40 breeding ewes lambing at 180% and is looking to increase these to 100 over the next year.

3.0 LAND

The applicant farms over 16 acres or thereabouts of permeant grassland. The applicants undertake all husbandry in hand. It is noted that rented land will become readily available due the ageing demographic of farming which provides a surplus of rented land. This will allow the farm business to further grow and expand.

4.0 PROPOSED BUILDING DESIGN

The proposed extension will measure 40ft x 45ft will have block walls to two meters in height with corrugated green tin sheets to the eaves, the roof will be constructed of fibre cement sheeting.

5.0 CURRENT BUILDINGS

There are two other agricultural buildings onsite which are used for the storing of livestock and machinery, however there is no dedicated fodder store which is essential to the daily operations of the farm business. The proposed building will act as a fodder and straw bedding store as well as excess machinery store when required by the farm business.

6.0 DRY STORAGE OF FODDER

The dry storage of fodder will help preserve and prevent fodder from becoming mouldy. Damp and mouldy fodder can cause serious health implications for livestock. The mould spores are harmful to livestock and can cause respiratory and health issues which are detrimental to the health and welfare of livestock. The proposed fodder and implement store will help the applicant to dry store fodder and improve the health and welfare of the livestock.

7.0 PROTECTION OF FARM MACHINERY

The protection of farm machinery is vital. The machinery used on the farm is expensive and costly to fix if broken if broken down both in terms of time and money.

The modern farm machinery is used daily on the farm to feed the livestock and tend to the land. Any breakdowns will leave livestock unfed and land un-tended which is causes issues for the health and welfare of the livestock under the care of the applicants.

8.0 SECURITY

The lack of security is of concern to the applicant. The proposed machinery storage building will provide secure lockable doors to store the applicant's equipment and help prevent theft of the vital machinery that is used at least twice daily to feed livestock. The NFU report into rural crime highlights the cost to be in the region of £41,500,000 in 2025 which are the latest reported figures for the cost of tractors stolen, highlighting the severity of rural crime and the impact this has upon the rural community.

9.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The applicants have considered the wider environment, and the proposed building will reduce the need to use plastic black bale wrap which is harmful to the environment. The applicants will also be using agricultural machinery less by storing fodder onsite this in turn will help the environment and work towards the NET ZERO 2050 target set by the government.

10.0 SUMMARY

- The proposed building is reasonably required by the farm business
- The proposed building is in-keeping with existing buildings onsite
- The proposed building will be solely used for agricultural purposes.
- The proposed building will help the longevity of farm machinery
- The proposed building will allow the vital dry storage of fodder.