

Access from the Highway

The land at Higher House Farm is currently accessed through a set back gateway on the B6342 opposite to Eastham House Farm. The gateway contains some hard-core however the applicant plans to construct a concrete road from the B6342 to the proposed development which will sit within 10 metres of the existing gateway.

Agricultural Holding Information – Higher House Farm, Clitheroe Road, Great Mitton, BB7 9PH.

County Parish Holding (CPH) Number: 21/652/0144

The holding comprises 5.5 acres of grassland, the land been grazed by cattle and sheep over recent years. The holding is well drained, although due to the above national average 1294mm of rainfall the area experiences annually, the land becomes saturated during the winter months. The land is therefore unsuitable for sustaining cattle outdoors over winter, even if provided with supplementary feed.

As the holding currently has no machinery storage facilities, contractors have been used for maintenance of the land, making optimal stewardship of the land expensive and therefore unattainable. The grassland has been farmed in a low-input manor which will be maintained into the future, making the holding better suited to low-input, native breeds of cattle such as Belted Galloways.

Agricultural Information.

Current enterprise.

The land is currently farmed as a hobby; the operator owns two Belted Galloway yearling heifers which are grazing the land at Higher House Farm. The operator has arranged to travel to Dumfries to purchase an additional 3 Belted Galloway Yearling Heifers from the Cairnsmore and Clifton herds on the 6th July. Additionally, the operator has arranged the purchase of six British Blue X dairy heifers from a local farm although the animals cannot be moved until July.

Planned enterprise.

It is the operators plan to develop a new agricultural enterprise breeding top quality Pedigree Belted Galloways, starting to farm for financial gain. Combined with the construction of the proposed development, this will enable more effective and appropriate stewardship of the land. Despite this, the farm will not be the operators primary source of income.

The business will sell the cross bred heifers and use the proceeds to purchase six more pedigree Belted Galloway heifers. The five initial Belted Galloway Heifers will be put in calf in august 2019 to calve in late spring 2020. The hardy nature of Belted Galloway cattle

means some farms choose to out winter the cattle. In the case of this holding, out wintering the cattle would have a detrimental impact on the land.

The construction of the proposed agricultural building is essential in order to house of the operator's cattle over winter and into the early spring when they will calve. The building will also allow for the storage of a tractor and implements which will enable the operator to maintain the land in better condition, particularly reducing the amount of weeds on the holding.