

## **Design & Access Statement**

Applicant: Mr Michael Bolton, Bank Top Farm, Sawley, Nr Clitheroe, Lancashire, BB7 4RS

To erect a building to roof over an existing manure store within the existing farmyard complex.

### **Agricultural Statement**

The existing family farming business comprises a flock of 380 breeding ewes. Up to 800 fat lambs are finished each year. The family business owns the 100-acre farm and rents up to 30 acres of grassland in Grindleton. There is an existing plan to retain more homebred replacements to expand the flock.

Providing a roof and structure to store the existing manure safely on the existing site has been recommended by Natural England's Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer. The improved manure store will be considered compliant with best practice for the holding and numbers of livestock housed during the winter months. It is important to roof the farm yard manure store to exclude rainwater, prevent excessive quantities of effluent being generated which would require yet further tanked storage

Sheep are housed for longer than the lambing period at Bank Top due to our low-lying land that floods and soon becomes wet. Sheep can be housed from early December until turnout after lambing. Lambing is from Mid-February – early May depending on the season.

### **Design**

The building is to be of the same construction and materials as the existing buildings on the site. The building will provide cover for the existing outdoor manure storage area. Chosen materials to be used are a steel frame and fibre cement roof sheeting (clear plastic roof lights) and timber space boarding cladding above the existing and proposed concrete panel walls.

### **Transport & Access**

Access to the site is from the existing farmyard. This application does not seek to alter the use of the farm entrance.

### **Access Around the building**

Access to and around the building is to from the existing farm yard area. The existing manure store when improved will continue to service the existing farm buildings on the holding.

### **Appearance**

The materials are going to be similar to the completed buildings in the existing farmstead. There is minimal net visual impact from the existing situation.

### **Appraising the Context**

The completion of the building will improve the management of manure from the sheep enterprise. Due to the wetter winters, sheep are housed for longer generating large volumes of farm yard manure. The improved storage of manure will retain nutrients safely to be spread on the adjoining land during the dryer growing season. The improved storage will dramatically reduce the risk of pollution.

Additional details – see covering letter, form and plans