

**Planning Application for  
Slurry Storage Building**

AT

Planetree Farm  
Chipping Road  
Chaigley  
Clitheroe  
Lancashire  
BB7 3LT

**Planning Statement**  
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## **1 Introduction**

This report contains a Planning Statement to be read in context with the Planning Application for the construction and development of a Cattle Slurry Storage facility to be located at Planetree Farm, Chaigley.

## **2 Background**

Planetree Farm is operated by two brothers; Andrew and Stuart Bullock, it is a grassland unit extending to 40 hectares (98 acres). The entirety of which is owner occupied. The holding is equipped with modern farm buildings and supports just over 130 head of beef cattle. All cattle are purchased onto the holding at approximately 12-18 months old and reared to be sold through a fat market sale or directly to an abattoir at between 24 and 30 months old.

## **3 The Need for the Proposed Building**

There are several efficiencies and environmental benefits to be gained from this project.

**3.1** Cattle have been housed primarily on straw bedding and this has created a large volume of bulky manure to be spread back onto the farmland. The applicants wish to increase the area available for cubicle housing within the existing farm buildings and include slatted floors to allow for the drainage of cattle slurry directly into a dedicated storage facility. The slatted floor and dedicated storage facility will enable the business to reduce the volume of bulky manure to be spread back on the farmland whilst also reducing the volume of straw required to be purchased

**3.2** The applicants currently heap the bedding materials onto a dedicated storage hardcore pad where rainwater can leach the manure. The storage facility will allow for the slurry to be stored undercover, reducing the leaching effects of the weather and maintaining the concentrated nature of the fertiliser to be put back to the land.

**3.3** The applicants will be able to spread the slurry by umbilical means; this will reduce the running time of tractors going back and forth to fill the muck spreader / slurry tanker and reduce impaction of weight onto the land by not requiring the muck spreader / tanker.

**3.4** The farm holding is located within High Priority Water Catchment and Faecal Indicator Organisms Issues Areas, as designated by the Environment Agency and Natural England. Incentives are offered to farmers located within these areas to improve the water quality and adapt agricultural practices which will safeguard areas and meet Water Framework Directive targets. The roofing-over of the storage facility will negate the possibility of any effluent from reaching water courses through ground water seepage.

**3.5** The applicants will also be able to meet the Environment Agency's recommended storage capacity of 120 day and therefore allow the spreading of slurry at the most

appropriate times for the nitrates within the slurry to allow the greatest benefit to the land. The following table indicates the required volume of storage:

Type of Cattle	No of Stock units	Volume excreted per day (m3)	120 days storage	Total required (m3)
6-12 months old	40	0.020	120	96
12-24 months old	44	0.026	120	138
24-30 months old	46	0.032	120	177
				<b>411m3</b>

The store must be erected according to 'The Water Resources (Control of Pollution) (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations 2010 and according to the British Standard BS5502 1989 Buildings and Structures for agricultural

The proposed building/store will provide a practical and serviceable alternative to the existing storage on the farm holding and is well justified in its need

#### 4 Location

The location of the proposed building is dictated by its requirement to be directly adjacent to the existing cubicle building to allow for the flow of slurry into the store. It is directly to the North of the cubicle housing and will abut the existing building. This site will not be visible from the road and access will be utilising the existing farm access.

#### 5 Appearance

The building will be constructed of shuttered concrete lower walls to withstand the pressure of the volume of liquid being stored and timber spaced boarding upper walls to maintain in-keeping with the existing buildings. The roof structure will be FRC corrugated roof sheets with clear Perspex roof lights to allow for natural daylight to access the building. There will be no requirement for artificial light within the building.

#### 6 Scale

The site for the proposed store is lower than the ground floor of the existing cubicle building; it will be excavated by approximately 1m to allow for a depth of floor of 2.5 m below the height of the floor in the cubicle building to allow for channels to be created for the flow of the slurry.

The proposed store is 9.14 m in width, 27.43m in length and the depth of 2.5m will allow for a total capacity of approximately 620m3 which will cover the 120 days storage advised by the Environment Agency.

The above ground concrete lower wall will be 3.1m with timber spaced boarding to an eaves height of 6.71m. The roof will have an apex structure and a ridge height of 7.93m.

## **7 Use**

The storage building will be utilised solely for the storage of cattle slurry produced at Plane Tree Farm and will be spread directly onto the surrounding land owned and managed by the applicants.

## **8 Landscaping**

It is not envisaged that extensive landscaping is required for this development as the proposed building is located within the existing complex.

## **9 Access**

Access to the store will be gained via the existing farm access.

## **10 Crime Prevention**

It is not envisaged that there will be any areas of concern with regards to crime.

## **11 Consultations**

No prior consultations have been undertaken.

## **12 Summary**

The application has been given great thought and we believe the proposals are justified and appropriate. The store will aid in the better management of nutrients increasing efficiency in the farm, will aid in reducing any ground water pollution issues in and around the surrounding locality and will allow for several financial efficiencies to be made by the business.

The design is in-keeping with the existing farm complex and the visual impact of the building will be negligible.

We respectfully request this application be given a positive response.