

## **Agricultural and Design Statement**

*Applicant : J & JJ Ward, Old House Farm, Birks Brow, Thornley, Longridge PR3 2TX*

This application for agricultural prior notification is to erect a general purpose agricultural building to provide storage for machinery, livestock equipment, inputs and produce. The building will have a mono-pitch roof with cantilever to front, portal frame and be sited adjacent to the existing storage building.

### **Agricultural Statement**

The existing family farming business comprises a herd of dairy cows, in calf heifers, bulling heifers, and young stock of various ages. In addition the holding supports a flock of sheep. This family business owns the farm and rents some more land locally. There is an existing business plan to retain more of the home bred calves and sheep. Providing a roof and structure to store the farm equipment and machinery required for the existing business will reduce the depreciation on machinery currently stored outdoors.

### **Design**

The storage building is to be of the same construction and materials as some of the existing buildings in the farmstead. The building will provide cover adjacent to the existing storage building. The proposed building will maintain a similar appearance on the north east elevation as the existing building adjacent. The chosen materials to be used are a steel frame and fibre cement roof sheeting (with clear plastic roof-lights). The walls propose concrete panel walls at the south west and north east with timber space boarding over. The building is open fronted to the existing yard and enclosed to the other three sides. The design of the proposed building has been sought so as to have regard for the policies of landscape, visual impact and the Area of Natural Beauty.

### **Transport & Access**

Access to the site is from the public highway using the existing farm access track. This application does not seek to alter the use of the entrance. There is an existing internal farm track adjacent to the existing building and proposed new building for access and turning.

### **Access around the Building**

Access to and around the building is to be from the existing farm yard area via. The existing storage building will be retained and will continue to service the holding. The existing internal farm track access route will be retained for access to all buildings.

### **Appearance**

The materials are going to be similar to the completed buildings in the existing farmstead. As described above there is minimal net visual impact from the existing situation. The building is open fronted to the existing yard and enclosed to the other three sides. The design of the proposed building has been sought so as to have regard for the policies of landscape, visual impact and Area of Natural Beauty.

## **Appraising the Context**

The completion of the proposed general purpose storage building will improve the provision of suitable storage for farm equipment, machinery and produce for the dairy cows, heifer replacements, young cattle and sheep. The improved storage will protect produce/inputs preventing deterioration/wastage and depreciation of farm machinery. The improved storage will dramatically reduce the risk of leaching which is currently the case when much of the farm machinery/inputs are stored in the open elements. The proposed storage building is justified above as reasonably required for agriculture and for the existing business on this agricultural unit.

Additional details - see form and plans.