

Supporting Statement

Catchment Sensitive Farming – Concrete Yard Project

Background

The application is made on behalf of Peter Simpson, Calder Farm, Bolton-by-Bowland. This statement should be read together with the application form and supporting plans and documents.

Mr Simpson and his wife farms 30 ha of permanent grassland supporting beef cattle and sheep. The farm buildings are located at Forest Becks Brow and provide housing for cattle and lambing sheep.

The enclosed yard area is a hardcore surface and does not allow efficient cleaning. Machinery and animals travel across the yard to access the adjacent pasture and consequently there is a risk that surface water from this area will contaminate watercourses.

The farm lies in a Catchment Sensitive Farming priority area for water quality. Under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme grant support is given to farmers to improve outdoor (uncovered) yard drainage to reduce runoff by making cleaning easier and reduces the risk of water and air pollution.

Proposed Development

The proposed works include concreting an area to the west of the existing farm buildings which will allow stock and machinery to access the grassland parcel and be cleaned efficiently.

The area extends to 615m² and will be concreted to the specification layed down by the Rural Payments Agency.

The concreting will allow the area to be kept clean and reduce the potential risk of diffuse pollution.

Conclusion

The proposed works are supported by government to improve the environment. The works will not impact the surrounding area and character of the area. Neighbour amenity is unaffected. An existing native species hedgerow screens the yard from public view. The special qualities of the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty will be unaffected. There is no impact on neighbour amenity.