

Design & Access Statement

Construction of a steel frame building to cover existing silage clamps (part retrospective).

Green Lane Farm
Rimington Lane
Downham
Clitheroe
BB7 4DW

On behalf of
James Lund

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This statement has been structured with reference to CABE best practice guidance; Design & Access Statements – how to write read and use them. CABE 2006. The document also includes an assessment of the development proposal in relation to national, regional and local planning policies.

1.0 Background

2.0 Context of Site

3.0 Design Principles and Concepts:

4.0 Access:

5.0 Planning Context

6.0 Conclusion

Plans & Drawings (Attached separately)

SECTION 1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1** This statement supports a planning application for the construction of a steel frame building to cover part of existing silage clamps at Green Lane Farm, Downham on behalf of James Lund. This document should be read in conjunction with the attached planning application forms, plans and supporting documents.

- 1.2** Green Lane Farm is a 64.75ha (160 acres) all grass unit tenanted by James Lund. The farm supports 100 head of dairy replacement youngstock and a flock of 250 breeding ewes. Producing lambs for the finishing market.

- 1.3** The farm infrastructure includes two large open silage clamps. As part of the governments objectives to reduce pollution in priority river catchments capital grant funding is available to assist farmers cover open silage clamps and reduce dirty water run-off to watercourses.

- 1.4** In 2023 an application was approved to cover a portion of the silage clamps (Application 3/2023/0104) with the intention to submit an application to cover the remaining area at a later date. In 2024 the applicant constructed the first three bays of the building. However, as the silage clamps were partially filled with silage to the rear of the clamps the bays were erected to the south west. This application is to cover the remaining bays, three of which have been erected and form the retrospective element of the application.

- 1.5** The application includes:
 - The construction of a steel frame building to cover the remaining area of open silage clamps at Green Lane Farm.

SECTION 2 CONTEXT OF SITE

Assessment

- 2.1 Green Lane Farm is located approximately 1 mile northeast of Chatburn and 500 metres north of Downham Village. The surrounding countryside is characterised by rolling open grassland with hedgerow boundaries and occasional field boundary trees. The area is within the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



- 2.2 The farm lies within a Countryside Stewardship Scheme Water Quality Priority Area which is classed as a high priority area for water quality within the Ribble catchment. The area is also a high priority for Faecal Indicator Organisms and Phosphate issues. As such an application has been made for capital funding to improve infrastructure and reduce the risk of diffuse pollution from dirty water run-off from open yard areas.
- 2.3 The farm buildings include a range of traditional stone barns, modern steel frame cubicle housing, a range of straw bedded loose boxes and two open silage clamps.
- 2.4 Working closely with the Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer an application for grant funding has been approved to cover the silage clamps.

- 2.5 The area sits in Flood Zone 1 with a low risk of flooding.
- 2.6 There are no protected habitats in the area.
- 2.7 The proposed development is to cover an existing silage clamp that is concrete floor. No habitat has been affected by the development. As such the application is not subject to BNG assessment (See attached BNG statement).

Proposed development

- 2.8 The proposed development involves the construction of a steel frame building over the remaining part of the silage clamps. The building that has already been erected has been fabricated at 2500mm wider than the existing western wall. Consequently this application will cover the remaining 462.5m² that is not currently authorised.

SECTION 3 DESIGN PRINCIPLES & CONCEPT

Design

- 3.1** The proposed building will be a single ridge structure over the existing clamps. The height of the building has been dictated by the need for large silage equipment to access the building safely.
- 3.2** Pre-stressed concrete panels will form an impermeable wall to a height of 3600mm. The building will extend 2500mm beyond the existing walls on the northwestern side of the building. The building will be clad with Yorkshire boarding that will extend below the concrete panel height to 1200mm above ground, minimising the area of stark concrete of the walls to reduce visual impact.
- 3.3** The building will be constructed to meet the Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations (SSAFO) legislation. Walls will be impermeable with an external effluent channel to the existing effluent tank.
- 3.4** Roofing will be Eternit Farmscape fibre cement profile sheets in slate grey. Rooflights will be GRP to avoid reflective glare.

Appearance

- 3.5** The building is positioned adjacent to a well established tree belt which will effectively screen the structure. Visual impact is minimal. The proposed building incorporates Yorkshire boarding and Eternit Farmscape roofing which will ensure the appearance of the building is appropriate to the farm setting.

Scale

- 3.6** The section of the building applied for will measure:

Partial width

Length 23.00m
Width: 2.50

Full width

Length 18.00m
Width 22.50m

Height to eaves: 8.75m
Height to ridge: 6.00m

(Note: The remaining area of the building is approved (Application 3/2023/0104))

SECTION 4 ACCESS

Access

- 4.1** Access to the building is directly off the farm yard.
- 4.2** Within the site there is adequate room for vehicles to turn. The proposed building will not result in any additional traffic movements.
- 4.3** Access for emergency vehicles is good.

SECTION 5 PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

Planning History

5.0 3/2023/0104 Construction of a steel frame building to cover part of existing silage clamps Approved 26/04/2025

3/2022/1067 Removal of existing building and replacement with a steel frame monopitch

National Planning Policy

5.1 National Planning Policy is contained within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Sustainability is central to the aims of the new guidance. The NPPF identifies that the three dimensions to sustainable development are: economic, social and environmental. These dimensions give rise to the need for the planning system to perform a number of roles:

- an economic role
- a social role
- an environmental role

Relevant policies within the Framework which are applicable to this application are:

Supporting a prosperous rural economy

83. Planning policies and decisions should enable:

- a) the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business in rural areas, both through conversion of existing buildings and well-designed new buildings;
- b) the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses;
- c) sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments which respect the character of the countryside; and
- d) the retention and development of accessible local services and community facilities, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.

This proposed scheme will support an existing agricultural business. The building will reduce the risk of diffuse pollution to a high priority catchment for water quality.

7. Requiring good design

56. The Government attaches great importance to the design of the built environment. Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, is indivisible from good planning, and should contribute positively to making places better for people.

61. Although visual appearance and the architecture of individual buildings are very important factors, securing high quality and inclusive design goes beyond aesthetic considerations. Therefore, planning policies and decisions should address the connections between people and places and the integration of new development into the natural, built and historic environment.

64. Permission should be refused for development of poor design that fails to take the opportunities available for improving the character and quality of an area and the way it functions.

Materials have been selected to allow functional management of the unit and enhance the aesthetic appearance of the site

Local Planning Policy
Core Strategy 2008 – 2028 A Local Plan for Ribble Valley

5.2

POLICY DMG1: GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

IN DETERMINING PLANNING APPLICATIONS, ALL DEVELOPMENT MUST:

DESIGN

1. BE OF A HIGH STANDARD OF BUILDING DESIGN WHICH CONSIDERS THE BUILDING IN CONTEXT OF THE PRINCIPLES FROM THE CABE/ENGLISH HERITAGE BUILDING ON CONTEXT TOOLKIT.
2. BE SYMPATHETIC TO EXISTING AND PROPOSED LAND USES IN TERMS OF ITS SIZE, INTENSITY AND NATURE AS WELL AS SCALE, MASSING, STYLE, FEATURES AND BUILDING MATERIALS.
3. CONSIDER THE DENSITY, LAYOUT AND RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BUILDINGS, WHICH IS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE. PARTICULAR EMPHASIS WILL BE PLACED ON VISUAL APPEARANCE AND THE RELATIONSHIP TO SURROUNDINGS, INCLUDING IMPACT ON LANDSCAPE CHARACTER, AS WELL AS THE EFFECTS OF DEVELOPMENT ON EXISTING AMENITIES.
4. USE SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES WHERE POSSIBLE AND PROVIDE EVIDENCE THAT ENERGY EFFICIENCY, AS DESCRIBED WITHIN POLICY DME5, HAS BEEN INCORPORATED INTO SCHEMES WHERE POSSIBLE.
5. THE CODE FOR SUSTAINABLE HOMES AND LIFETIME HOMES, OR ANY SUBSEQUENT NATIONALLY RECOGNISED EQUIVALENT STANDARDS, SHOULD BE INCORPORATED INTO SCHEMES.

ACCESS

1. CONSIDER THE POTENTIAL TRAFFIC AND CAR PARKING IMPLICATIONS.
2. ENSURE SAFE ACCESS CAN BE PROVIDED WHICH IS SUITABLE TO ACCOMMODATE THE SCALE AND TYPE OF TRAFFIC LIKELY TO BE GENERATED.

3. CONSIDER THE PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS.

AMENITY

1. NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE AMENITIES OF THE SURROUNDING AREA.
2. PROVIDE ADEQUATE DAY LIGHTING AND PRIVACY DISTANCES.
3. HAVE REGARD TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURED BY DESIGN PRINCIPLES.
4. CONSIDER AIR QUALITY AND MITIGATE ADVERSE IMPACTS WHERE POSSIBLE.

ENVIRONMENT

1. CONSIDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS SUCH AS SSSIS, COUNTY HERITAGE SITES, LOCAL NATURE RESERVES, BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN (BAP) HABITATS AND SPECIES, SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION AND SPECIAL PROTECTED AREAS, PROTECTED SPECIES, GREEN CORRIDORS AND OTHER SITES OF NATURE CONSERVATION.
2. WITH REGARDS TO POSSIBLE EFFECTS UPON THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, THE COUNCIL PROPOSE THAT THE PRINCIPLES OF THE MITIGATION HIERARCHY BE FOLLOWED. THIS GIVES SEQUENTIAL PREFERENCE TO THE FOLLOWING: 1) ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT 2) AVOID THE IMPACT 3) MINIMISE THE IMPACT 4) RESTORE THE DAMAGE 5) COMPENSATE FOR THE DAMAGE 6) OFFSET THE DAMAGE.
3. ALL DEVELOPMENT MUST PROTECT AND ENHANCE HERITAGE ASSETS AND THEIR SETTINGS.
4. ALL NEW DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS WILL BE REQUIRED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE RISKS ARISING FROM FORMER COAL MINING AND, WHERE NECESSARY, INCORPORATE SUITABLE MITIGATION MEASURES TO ADDRESS THEM.
5. ACHIEVE EFFICIENT LAND USE AND THE REUSE AND REMEDIATION OF PREVIOUSLY DEVELOPED SITES WHERE POSSIBLE. PREVIOUSLY DEVELOPED SITES SHOULD ALWAYS BE USED INSTEAD OF GREENFIELD SITES WHERE POSSIBLE

INFRASTRUCTURE

1. NOT RESULT IN THE NET LOSS OF IMPORTANT OPEN SPACE, INCLUDING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PLAYING FIELDS WITHOUT A ROBUST ASSESSMENT THAT THE SITES ARE SURPLUS TO NEED. IN ASSESSING THIS, REGARD MUST BE HAD TO THE LEVEL OF PROVISION AND STANDARD OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE IN THE AREA, THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAYING FIELDS AND THE NEED TO PROTECT SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS TO MEET FUTURE NEEDS. REGARD WILL ALSO BE HAD TO THE LANDSCAPE OR TOWNSCAPE OF AN AREA AND THE IMPORTANCE THE OPEN SPACE HAS ON THIS.
2. HAVE REGARD TO THE AVAILABILITY TO KEY INFRASTRUCTURE WITH CAPACITY. WHERE KEY INFRASTRUCTURE WITH CAPACITY IS NOT AVAILABLE IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO PHASE DEVELOPMENT TO ALLOW INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENTS TO TAKE PLACE.
3. CONSIDER THE POTENTIAL IMPACT ON SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROVISION.

OTHER

1. NOT PREJUDICE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL AND AMENITY IMPROVEMENTS.

The proposed development is an appropriate design for the functional purpose it serves. The proposed development will not impact on neighbour amenity.

POLICY DMG2: STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS

DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CORE STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND SHOULD SUPPORT THE SPATIAL VISION.

1. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS IN THE PRINCIPAL SETTLEMENTS OF CLITHEROE, LONGRIDGE AND WHALLEY AND THE TIER 1 VILLAGES SHOULD CONSOLIDATE, EXPAND OR ROUND-OFF DEVELOPMENT SO THAT IT IS CLOSELY RELATED TO THE MAIN BUILT UP AREAS, ENSURING THIS IS APPROPRIATE TO THE SCALE OF, AND IN KEEPING WITH, THE EXISTING SETTLEMENT.

WITHIN THE TIER 2 VILLAGES AND OUTSIDE THE DEFINED SETTLEMENT AREAS DEVELOPMENT MUST MEET AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS:

1. THE DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE ESSENTIAL TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY OR SOCIAL WELL BEING OF THE AREA.
- 2. THE DEVELOPMENT IS NEEDED FOR THE PURPOSES OF FORESTRY OR AGRICULTURE.**
3. THE DEVELOPMENT IS FOR LOCAL NEEDS HOUSING WHICH MEETS AN IDENTIFIED NEED AND IS SECURED AS SUCH.
4. THE DEVELOPMENT IS FOR SMALL SCALE TOURISM OR RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS APPROPRIATE TO A RURAL AREA.
5. THE DEVELOPMENT IS FOR SMALL-SCALE USES APPROPRIATE TO A RURAL AREA WHERE A LOCAL NEED OR BENEFIT CAN BE DEMONSTRATED.
6. THE DEVELOPMENT IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE ENTERPRISE ZONE DESIGNATION.

WITHIN THE OPEN COUNTRYSIDE DEVELOPMENT WILL BE REQUIRED TO BE IN KEEPING WITH THE CHARACTER OF THE LANDSCAPE AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE SPECIAL QUALITIES OF THE AREA BY VIRTUE OF ITS SIZE, DESIGN, USE OF MATERIALS, LANDSCAPING AND SITING. WHERE POSSIBLE NEW DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE ACCOMMODATED THROUGH THE RE-USE OF EXISTING BUILDINGS, WHICH IN MOST CASES IS MORE APPROPRIATE THAN NEW BUILD.

IN PROTECTING THE DESIGNATED AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY THE COUNCIL WILL HAVE REGARD TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WELL BEING OF THE AREA. HOWEVER THE MOST IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IN THE ASSESSMENT OF ANY DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS WILL BE THE PROTECTION, CONSERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE LANDSCAPE AND CHARACTER OF THE AREA AVOIDING WHERE POSSIBLE HABITAT FRAGMENTATION. WHERE POSSIBLE NEW DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE ACCOMMODATED THROUGH THE RE-USE

OF EXISTING BUILDINGS, WHICH IN MOST CASES IS MORE APPROPRIATE THAN NEW BUILD.

DEVELOPMENT WILL BE REQUIRED TO BE IN KEEPING WITH THE CHARACTER OF THE LANDSCAPE AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE SPECIAL QUALITIES OF THE AONB BY VIRTUE OF ITS SIZE, DESIGN, USE OF MATERIAL, LANDSCAPING AND SITING. THE AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AND WILL BE USED BY THE COUNCIL IN DETERMINING PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS POLICY THE TERM SETTLEMENT IS DEFINED IN THE GLOSSARY. CURRENT SETTLEMENT BOUNDARIES WILL BE UPDATED IN SUBSEQUENT DPDS.

The development is needed for the purpose of agriculture. The building will reduce the risk of diffuse pollution. The development will have no detrimental impact on the character of the area.

SECTION 6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1** The proposed development will assist the applicant in the management of dirty/clean water separation on the farm which will reduce the risk of diffuse pollution within a priority catchment.

- 6.2** The building is located on the footprint of an existing silage clamp within the existing farm curtilage and will have no visual impact on the surrounding area. No habitat is affected.

- 6.3** The proposal has been fully assessed in respect of all relevant planning policies. The development is congruous with national and local planning policy. We hope the planning authority will support the application.

July 2025

Images

