

Pre application communication with EA.

John Metcalfe

From: Hilary Deighton [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 May 2025 10: [REDACTED]
To: John Metcalfe
Subject: RE: Planetree Farm - Slurry Lagoon
Attachments: RE: Planetree Farm - Slurry Lagoon; Factsheet 5 earth bank slurry stores Feb 2023 (002).pdf; Factsheet 5a soil suitability earth lined slurry stores Feb 2023.pdf

Dear John,

The alternative location looks more favourable for further investigation from a groundwater vulnerability perspective.

The depth and nature of the underlying material needs to be investigated, a site investigation is now required to check the groundwater level and the permeability of the material 1m beneath the proposed base of the lagoon, this will help inform if a single liner will be adequate and that the material is suitable for the bund wall.

Info on site investigation

Four trial pits should be excavated to the perimeter of the proposed lagoon, one at each corner outside the footprint of the lagoon area, if these are of consistent clay of similar depth and colour then a middle trial pit should not be dug as this could breach the liner. They must be excavated to at least 1m beneath the lowest level of the lagoon to assess if there is a minimum of 1m of clay beneath the base.

A trial pit log should be submitted with locations, pit dimensions, weather, date, photos to the base ideally with a tape measure down and a basic log of the strata eg topsoil 0-30cm, red-brown clay 0.3-3.0m with sand lens on west side 0.5m wide by 0.2 high between 0.8 and 1.0m and note any boulders and water seepages.

If the trial pits clearly show 1m of good clay below the base level of the proposed lagoon, and they are not below groundwater level then you can proceed with organising bulk sampling.

To assess the suitability of the material for bund construction, bulk samples of the clay material excavated from the trial pit that will be used to construct the bund should be tested for:

- particle size distribution,
- moisture content,
- plasticity
- permeability.

The permeability test should be done using 2.5kg rammer compaction via a BS1377 triaxial test using UK Accredited Service (UKAS) Lab. Where the trial pit material is consistent one sample should be taken. If it is variable then more samples should be taken/tested. The depth the samples have been taken from should be recorded.

Please provide the results of the trial pits and soil samples as described above, if all this is shown to be satisfactory then we require design and construction details of the lagoon demonstrating that the lagoon is designed and constructed in accordance with Ciria C759b.

Kind regards

Hilary

Hilary Deighton
Agricultural Regulatory Inspection Officer
Environment Agency

[REDACTED]

NB. My normal working hours are Monday and Tuesday morning ,Wednesday and Thursday

From: John Metcalfe [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 April 2025 17:39
To: Deighton, Hilary [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Planetree Farm - Slurry Lagoon

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Hi Hilary

I've met with Mr Bullock (the farmer) to find an alternative location for his proposed slurry lagoon. The attached map shows a position 90 metres west of a ditch which is shown on OS as a watercourse. It's actually a dry drainage ditch which probably only runs after heavy rainfall.

The spring referred to previously is over 300 metres from the proposed site and only feeds Plane Tree Farm farm buildings. The other properties listed (Bull Hill and Chadswell) are no longer farms and are on the mains water supply as is Plane Tee farmhouse

If the site is suitable in terms of geology we will get soil samples to determine the clay content.

Could you please check if this site is potentially a suitable site subject to acceptable clay content and soil properties.

Many thanks

john

[REDACTED]

From: Deighton, Hilary [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 April 2025 10:36
To: John Metcalfe <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Planetree Farm - Slurry Lagoon

Hi John,

I think the best course of action is to try and find an alternative site that we can assess the Gw vulnerability again to see if we think the site could be suitable for some form of lagoon , we'll most likely then need trial pits to establish the depth and nature of material and possibly soil samples to confirm the permeability .

I'll wait to hear from you .

Kind regards
Hilary

From: John Metcalfe [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 April 2025 10:20
To: Deighton, Hilary [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Planetree Farm - Slurry Lagoon

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Hi Hilary

Thank you for this.

I must say I was sceptical about the site when Mr Bullock showed me the area. I'm meeting him next week to see if we can find alternatives.

Would it be helpful if we get test hole samples (we usually do this) even though they will use a liner anyway?

Regards

john

John Metcalfe


From: Deighton, Hilary [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 April 2025 09:04
To: John Metcalfe [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Planetree Farm - Slurry Lagoon

Morning John,

Please see e mail attached with detailed comments on the groundwater vulnerability and site suitability .

In summary , the local geology and hydrogeology indicate that this location is unlikely to be suitable for a single HDPE liner (the geotextile will protect the liner but won't provide containment)
We think that a single liner in this location may not provide sufficient impermeability and that the groundwater is likely to be vulnerable.

There is detailed guidance on the site selection and construction of slurry stores and other installations in CIRIA Report C759F, Livestock manure and silage storage infrastructure for agriculture, this can be downloaded from Ciria.

<https://www.ciria.org/ItemDetail?iProductCode=C759F&Category=FREEPUBS&WebsiteKey=3f18c87a-d62b-4eca-8ef4-9b09309c1c91>

If I can advise further on an alternative design or location , don't hesitate to contact me .

Kind regards

Hilary

Hilary Deighton
Agricultural Regulatory Inspection Officer
Environment Agency

From: John Metcalfe [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 March 2025 13:23
To: Deighton, Hilary [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Planetree Farm - Slurry Lagoon

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Hi Hilary

Thank you for coming back to me.

The liner will be a 2mm HDPE (high density polyethylene) membrane with a underlay layer which will ensure the liner is not punctured by sharp rocks etc.

I'll look forward to the groundwater team comments regarding site suitability.

Kind regards

john

John Metcalfe
ruralfuture**s**

From: Deighton, Hilary [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 March 2025 11:26
To: John Metcalfe [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Planetree Farm - Slurry Lagoon

Dear John,

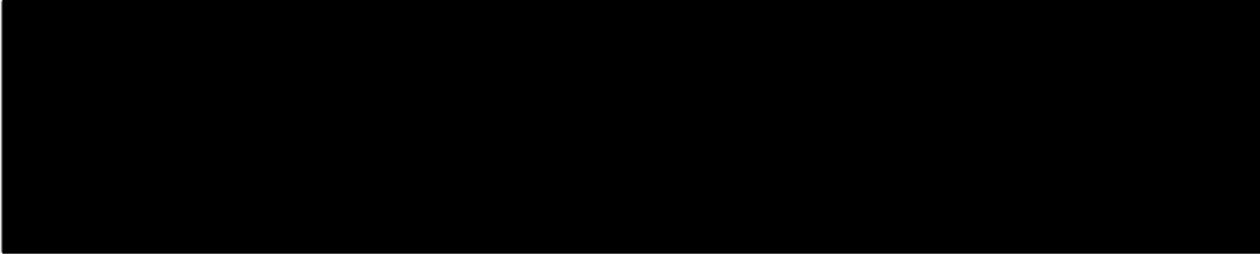
Thankyou for you e mail enquiring about the site suitability for a slurry lagoon for Planetree Farm, Jackie Monk is about to retire so I will assess your proposal.

I've consulted our Groundwater Team today to enquire about the site suitability for a single lined (presumably synthetic sheet) and will get back to you with further guidance when I receive their comment.

Kind regards

Hilary

Hilary Deighton
Agricultural Regulatory Inspection Officer
Environment Agency



From: John Metcalfe [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 March 2025 15:28
To: Monk, Jackie [REDACTED]
Subject: Planetree Farm - Slurry Lagoon

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Hi Jackie

This is in respect of a proposed slurry lagoon at Planetree Farm, Chaigley. The farmer is Andrew Bullock.

The farm is dairy and contract reared pigs. The cows are housed all year round.

Mary has completed the Slurry Wizard and we will require a 60m x 25m lagoon (bund additional).

The lagoon will be lined so I'm assuming we don't need to undertake the soil tests for clay content?

Could you confirm that the proposed site is acceptable please?

If you're happy with the location I'll prepare the site plan and section drawings and run them past you before submitting to RVBC.

Many thanks

john

John Metcalfe

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