

Justification Statement
for

A prior notification application for the creation of cattle and
machinery track

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This statement supports a Prior Notification application for a farm track for machinery and livestock Higher Greenhead Farm under the General Permitted Development Order 2015.
- 1.2 This statement provides the justification for the proposed development.

2 The Property and Site

- 2.1 Higher Greenhead Farm is located east of the A59 approximately 800m from Sawley village. The farm curtilage is the easternmost unit within a cluster of farm and residential properties. The site is located outside the Forest of Bowland National Landscape (FoBNL). The surrounding countryside is characterised by open grassland with hedgerow boundaries and stone walls with scattered wooded parcels.
- 2.2 Higher Greenhead Farm extends to 85.8ha of grassland along with a substantial range of farm buildings which accommodate the dairy herd and youngstock.
- 2.3 The dairy herd operates on a rotational grazing system with access to the surrounding parcels for as long as possible each year. In periods of wet weather there is a significant risk of poaching and soil erosion where the cows come into the yard for milking. Where access tracks are available the risk is reduced. The tracks also allow transport with heavy machinery to the fields during wetter periods.
- 2.4 An area of land to the northwest of the farmstead requires improved access to reduce the risk of pollution and soil erosion.

3 Proposed development

- 3.1 The proposal is to create a new farm track from the farmstead extending 193 metres from the farm to provide access to a grassland parcel. The track will also involve crossing the Hollins Syke watercourse.
 - 3.2 The proposed tracks will greatly reduce the risk of pollution as soil particles from erosion, as well as manure, are less likely to be washed into water courses. The tracks will also improve foot health and reduce lameness in the dairy cattle.
 - 3.3 The work is to be carried out with grant funding support from the catchment sensitive farming scheme which provides support to farming enterprises who are taking action to protect water courses.
 - 3.4 The works to install the tracks will be carried out to meet the criteria set out by Natural England (see attached).
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- 3.5 Flood maps show the site is within Flood Zone 1 with a low risk of flooding. Surface water flood maps show a small amount of surface water flooding adjacent to Hollins Syke. The depth and extent of flooding is insignificant as the crossing will only be used by dairy cattle and large agricultural machinery.

4 **Conclusion**

The farm track is essential for agriculture, falls within Class A of the General Permitted Development Order 2015 and fits with both National and Local Planning Policy. The track will assist in protecting soils and reducing the risk of erosion and runoff causing pollution of watercourses.