



Cannon Hall Farm Ltd Proposed Permanent Marquee



Justification Statement

February 2017

Site Description

Cannon Hall Farm is the first Farm Visitor Centre of its type in the world and holds a strong claim to believe that it may be Kirklees Area's largest Independent Tourist and Visitor attraction.

Under the leadership of the present Owner and his family, Home Farm Tearooms was opened in 1981 and Cannon Hall Farm was opened to the public in 1989, quickly adding an Adventure Playground and Gift Shop.

The opening of the Farm Shop in 1999, new farmyard in 2013 and the Hungry Llama Indoor Play in 2015 have helped to make Cannon Hall Farm one of the most popular visitor attractions in Yorkshire and a winner of multiple awards.

The Farm welcomes over 20,000 school children each year making it also one of the region's top educational attractions. One-hour guided tours are offered which provide an illuminating educational experience designed to fulfil many of the requirements of the current National Schools Curriculum. The tours include supervised guided events including indoor lunch areas, visits to see small animal petting, milking demonstrations, non-contact animal feeding and racing events featuring both sheep and ferrets. This provides an exclusive opportunity for schools to combine education and entertainment side by side and a unique chance to help children to develop an insight into how food is produced. Hundreds of schools visit the Farm each year.

In 2005 the Farm were awarded the title "Best Farm for Schools" in the UK and also received the title of Best Tourism Experience at the White Rose Awards 2011 together with the New Innovation Award from the UK National Farm Attractions Network Awards Scheme.

Project Justification

The application proposes to enhance the existing Farm facilities with a permanent, multi-functional Marquee structure on a general 36 x 12m footprint located on the site of previous temporary facilities.

The new structure will provide the Farm with an ability to improve the existing facilities offered by:-

- 1 Proving increased area and a greater capacity
- 2 Replacing existing facilities reaching the end of their life cycle durability
- 3 Increasing the capacity of space used for School educational visits
- 4 Providing greater flexibility for the Farm to host future events
- 5 Complementing the wide range of facilities offered to visiting tourists and the general public
- 6 Increasing the International profile of the Farm and the South Yorkshire region

