

**PROPOSED AGRICULTURAL BUILDING, GRAIN SILO and RAINWATER COLLECTION TANK at LAND off BARNSELY ROAD, BARUGH GREEN, BARNSELY (OS Grid Ref: SE 31286 08860)**

**STATEMENT IN SUPPORT of APPLICATION**

**EXISTING SITE**

The site is located approximately 4.2 kilometers to the north east of Barnsley Town Centre (OS Grid Ref: SE 31286 08860) and comprises a well-established agricultural small holding, registered as County Parish Holding (No. 47-607-0450) and also as such with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

The site is bounded to the east by A637 Barnsley Road; by Cawthorne Dike watercourse to the north and by agricultural land to the west and south. Three dwellings overlooking the southern boundary located 170 metres from the site of the proposal are well screened by mature hedges, and the view towards them is shown on Photograph No. 1 below



**Photograph No.1 View towards nearest houses**

The land rises from north to south and is occupied by a number of agricultural buildings with access via an existing gated entrance off Barnsley Road which leads onto an unmetalled track within the site boundary.

The smallholding is owned, occupied and run by the applicant and is used for agricultural purposes including arable and livestock farming, general agricultural operations and limited personal equestrian use.

The site is 6.1 Hectares in area and is designated Green Belt in the current Barnsley Urban Development Plan, published December 2000. The strip of land adjacent to Cawthorne Dyke is floodplain, defined as Flood Zone 3 on the current edition of the Environment Agency Flood maps.

**PROPOSAL/NEED**

The applicant wishes to rationalise and develop his existing agricultural operations of cattle and pig rearing to extend his capacity and so improve the continuing viability of the smallholding.

It is proposed to improve and develop agricultural operations by constructing a modern weatherproof building which will be used for the storage of hay and straw, for the garaging of agricultural machinery and to provide additional animal shelters and permit additional livestock to be accommodated. It is envisaged one bay of the building will be used for garaging agricultural equipment, one for hay and straw storage and the remaining two for increased livestock shelter.

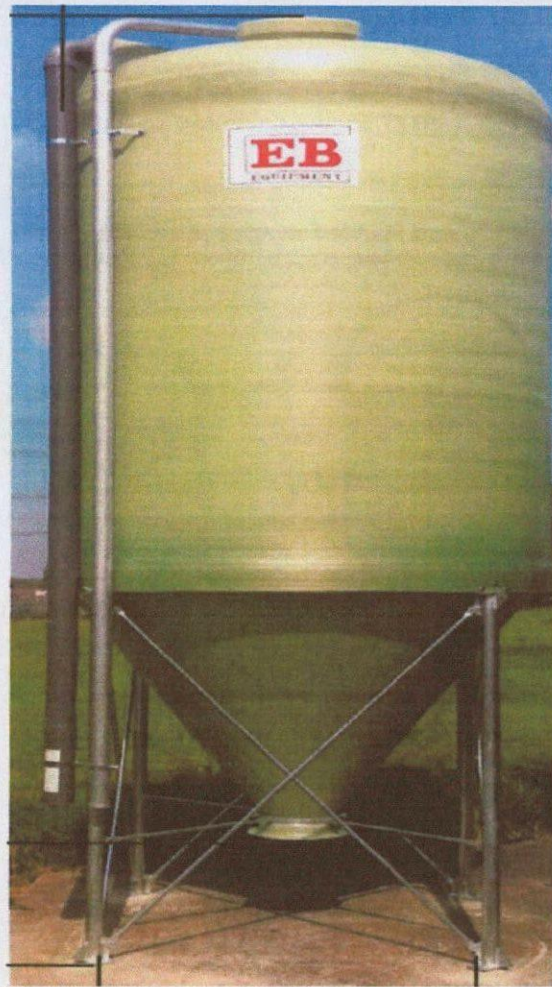
In order to facilitate the proper storage of animal feed as required by DeFRA's Animal Welfare Officer, a new grain silo is to be erected adjacent to the new building in the position shown on the plans.

It is intended to install an 8,500 litre rainwater storage tank to collect rainwater from the new building roof, with the water collected from this tank to be used to water livestock.

### **Animal Feed Silo**

The feed silo is to be erected adjacent to the new building to store grain mostly grown and processed on site. When site sourced feed is not available it will be replenished by a vehicle from an outside supplier. It is required to be located in this position to permit connection to an automatic Archimedes screw feeding system when funds permit.

This silo is to be the smallest unit available with a nominal 10 tonne capacity and maximum height of 5.400 metres, diameter 3.000 metres and will be manufactured by local company EB Equipment of Redbrook in glass reinforced plastic (GRP) in translucent green.

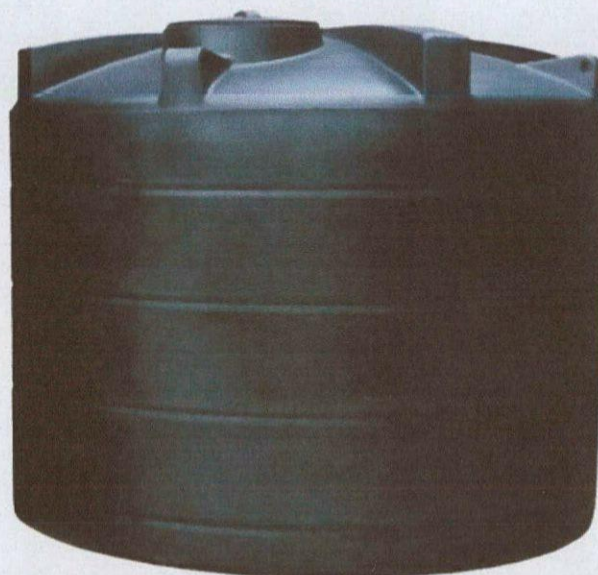


**Photograph 2 - Proposed Grain Silo**

### **Rainwater Collection Tank.**

This will be an above ground unit fed by the rainwater gutters from the new building located as shown on the attached plans. It will be a proprietary manufacture UV stabilised Medium Density Polyethylene unit of 8500 litres capacity, 2.600 in diameter and 2.030 metres high, black in colour.

The provision of this tank will allow rainwater to be collected and used to water livestock, making the business more environmentally sustainable and less dependent on treated mains supplied water.



**Photograph 3 - Proposed Water Tank**

#### **FLOODING OF SITE**

The locations of the proposed development are not susceptible to flooding during normal rainfall events. Flooding did occur on the lower part of the site adjacent to Cawthorne Dike during the unprecedented rainfall in summer, 2007, but no water encroached onto the site of the proposal or the existing buildings.

#### **PARKING and ACCESS**

The development will utilise the existing access off Barnsley Road and adequate turning space exists within the site to ensure safe egress of vehicles back onto the public highway. The only additional site traffic will be very occasional delivery of animal feed when this is not available from home grown grain.

#### **GENERAL**

The applicant is trying to establish and enhance his agricultural activities to become as self-sustaining and environmentally responsible as possible, and to make his operations economically viable and sustainable in the long term. This will enhance the survival of his shop business located in the centre of Darton in providing fresh produce and in maintaining jobs for 6 people.

The National Planning Policy Framework published in March 2012 by the Department for Communities and Local Government states in Section 3 that Planning Authorities should support a prosperous rural economy, by supporting economic growth in rural areas and promoting the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses.

As the land use is currently agricultural, the proposals fall within the requirements of Policy G8A of the current Barnsley UDP, which allows development in Green Belt land where usage is solely for agricultural purposes