

**PROPOSED SLURRY LAGOON
AT GUNTHWAITE HALL, GUNTHWAITE LANE,
PENISTONE, SHEFFIELD, S36 7GE
ON BEHALF OF
R P & M EMMOTT & SONS**

**DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT
AND PLANNING STATEMENT, INCORPORATING
AGRICUTLURAL JUSTIFICATION**



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1.0 Introduction

1.1 This proposal is to construct a slurry lagoon ("the Application") at Gunthwaite Hall, Gunthwaite Lane, Penistone, Sheffield, S36 7GE ("the Site"). The Application is made on behalf of R P & M Emmott & Sons ("The Applicant").

1.2 This document is designed to enable the local planning authority to understand the analysis which has underpinned the design and how it has led to the development of the scheme. This document explains the design and access issues that have been considered as part of this proposal and should be read in conjunction with the plans and drawings as submitted.

1.3 The proposed location is situated within the Green Belt and so consideration is given to how the Application complies with national and local planning policies as well as the agricultural justification that underpins the requirement for a new building.

2.0 Background

R P & M Emmott & Sons is a third generation dairy farm; the family have farmed at Gunthwaite Hall since 1936, since when it has always been primarily a dairy farm. The holding comprises approximately 270 acres, 250 acres of which are owned in a ring fence around the farmstead.

3.0 The Farming Business

Today father and two sons milk around 200 Jersey cows, the herd comprising around 400 beasts in total with youngstock and replacement heifers. Bull calves are reared and sold as stores through Bakewell market.

There is also a small sheep flock of approximately 30 texel x mules, with lambs reared to fat and sold through Holmfirth market.

The farm is self-sufficient in hay and silage and almost self-sufficient in straw, producing 100 acres of corn to feed the dairy herd.

4.0 Requirement for new Slurry Lagoon

There is an existing slurry lagoon with a capacity of approximately 1000m³, which holds approximately 3 months' slurry. The farm is located in a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone

and is now required to have a minimum of six months' slurry storage. As well as meeting legal requirements, the new lagoon will mean slurry can be spread at the times the crop demands it most, after the first and second cut of silage, reducing the requirement for artificial fertiliser, which will have environmental as well as economic benefits.

5.0 The Design

5.1 Amount

- The proposal is for one slurry lagoon.
- The total gross surface floor area of the lagoon is 500 sqm, providing six months' slurry storage for the dairy herd at Gunthwaite Hall.
- The lagoon will be below ground level therefore only the perimeter fence will be visible above ground.
- The lagoon will be clay lined with sloping sides

5.2 Siting

- The proposed site has been chosen as an available flat area of existing underused farmyard.
- The site is away from residential properties
- The chosen site is directly adjacent to and accessible to the large proportion of the farmland where it will be spread.
- The site is screened to the south by Oak Wood.
- The lagoon will not need any new access or hardstanding.

5.3 Scale

- The proposed lagoon measures 25m long, 20m wide, 3m deep in the centre.

5.4 Landscaping

- The lagoon is located between existing farm buildings and a wood to the south so it is not felt any landscaping is required or will have any benefit. The proposal is purely practical and needs to be easily accessible. It is also a hazard and needs to be clearly visible, not screened. A 1.3m high fence with barb on the top has to surround the lagoon for safety reasons.

6.0 Access to the Development

There is already a good access through the farmyard to the site.

There is easy onwards access from the lagoon to the land where the slurry will be spread.

There will be no vehicular access to the highway involved in construction or use, since the farm owns a digger and the land where the slurry will be spread is contiguous.

7.0 Environmental Considerations

The nearest residential properties (150m and 230m away) are sufficiently separated by distance and farm buildings.

Flies are not an issue with slurry lagoons. Flies are attracted to livestock and fresh manure.

Odour is controlled by adding a specially formulated additive to the slurry, made up of enzymes and bacteria. The additive is called Slurry Sol and is made by Microferm.

The lagoon is required to store slurry so that it can only be spread on the land when the crop requires it, thus reducing nutrient run-off into watercourses. The lagoon has been designed with and approved by the Environment Agency.

8.0 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The NPPF is a material consideration in planning decisions. At the heart of the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development.

Paragraph 9 states that local planning authorities should not regard the construction of new buildings for agriculture purposes as inappropriate in the Green Belt.

Paragraph 28 of the NPPF states that, "planning policies should support economic growth in rural areas in order to create jobs and prosperity by taking a positive approach to sustainable new development.

Section 7 of the NPPF relates to the requirement for good design. This statement has shown how the proposal has been designed to fit best with its surroundings while meeting the agricultural requirement it is intended for.

9.0 Barnsley Local Plan

Policy GB1 reiterates paragraph 89 of the NPPF that buildings for agriculture are not regarded as inappropriate in the Green Belt.

10.0 Conclusion

The proposal is for the construction of a slurry store which is necessary to meet six months' legal winter storage requirements.

By taking into account the landscape and the characteristics of the site and its surroundings, a proposal has been finalised which seeks to ensure that the most appropriate design, appearance and location have been selected.

The proposed layout, location, character and materials are sympathetic to the surrounding landscape and existing use of the site, ensuring that the proposal will not have an adverse impact on the surrounding countryside or on the openness of the Green Belt.

This location has easy, existing access, is at the centre of the holding, located within the farmyard and is adjacent to the fields where the material will be spread.

The proposal is considered to be policy compliant and it is requested that the Local Planning Authority approves this Application without delay in accordance with paragraph 14 of the NPPF.