

Design & Access Statement for: TAMARISK, Drigg, Holmrook, CA19 1XG

Introduction

The application is for two agricultural buildings to house and support the welfare and husbandry of a flock of 16 pedigree sheep and a flock of 35 hens; this includes the storage of associated equipment. One of the buildings is already erected.

I shall refer to the new building as building A and the erected building as building B in the remainder of the statement.

These buildings will enable the continued management of our flock of pedigree sheep and our rare breed hens. Our sheep are the Valais Blacknose breed from the Swiss canton region of Valais and whilst very hardy to cold temperatures their natural environment is much drier, therefore their breed traits do not allow them to withstand extended periods of wet weather. Housing the flock, for the wettest months of the year and for lambing periods prevents a number of diseases and conditions.

Note – as the breed are non seasonal breeders lambing can occur almost year round. For these reasons housing all the flock is required as an essential part of their husbandry.

Building A will be used to provide their housing, feed and bedding storage which runs to 350kg of hard feed per quarter and in the future large quantities of straw and haylage/hay. Currently, we cannot store the amount of forage we need for the season which has resulted in suppliers having none to offer us later; the new buildings will vastly improve this situation. There will also be storage of animal and pasture management equipment i.e. hurdles, turnover crate, race, mower, hayracks, footbaths and plant items.

Building B has sufficient floor space for the welfare requirements of 35 hens to roost and roam and enables the environmental protection and security necessary for them, including the ability to secure them compliantly with government regulations during periods of Avian flu outbreaks.

Currently, the housing arrangements for the hens occupies some of the footprint where building A would be sited. The hen coop and run would be demolished and the hens would be transferred to building B.

Proposed Scheme

Building A:

A single span building with oversail, enclosed on three sides with an open face on the fourth. Comprising 3 bays. Constructed of a wooden portal frame, a brick wall will extend from ground level to a height of 1.2m. The brick wall will be constructed from Furness brick in 'Edwardian natural buff'. The frame from 1.2m to the eaves will be clad with natural wooden boards and the roof covered with slate blue box profile sheets interspersed with a single clear sheet over each of the 3 bays. The floor will be concrete. An ACO drain will be installed abutting the floor edge of the open face, this will run to pre-existing drainage in this area of the garden and property boundary. Hard standing, comprising MOT Type 1, will be used adjacent to the buildings open face to allow for access from the stoned garden track.

Roof dimensions – 3.8m to roof ridge, 2.74m to eaves

Length -14m

Width -7.62m

Floor space: appx 106sqm

Building B:

A single span building with a mono pitch roof with oversail, enclosed on 3 sides with open face on fourth. Wooden frame with wooden board cladding down to ground level. The roof is slate blue box profile sheeting interspersed with 2 clear box profile roof sheets. The floor is compacted MOT Type 1.

Roof Dimensions: 2.6m to roof ridge 1.9m to eaves

Length: 5.5m

Width: 4m

Floor Space: 22sqm

Design

The design of building A provides a configuration that allows us the most flexibility with keeping ewes and rams separate but meet the welfare needs for each group. The ability to store larger quantities of bedding and food stuffs helps us off set the risk of unavailability, plan our feeding regime more effectively and obtain better economies of costs. An area set aside for machinery and equipment ensures the investment on these items and materials is not wasted through deterioration or degradation from being outdoors rendering them unusable. The overall design principal was that the materials used for the buildings are natural, subtle and attention has been paid to help it fit in with the existing area and the house. Bird boxes will be fitted around building A and 'bee bricks' will be occasionally inserted in lieu of solid bricks to attract solitary bee species to nest. Water run off from the roof will be directed and stored in water containers beside the building and used for irrigating garden plants and vegetables. The west elevation will be used to grow climbing species of plants. Newly installed drainage will be integrated with pre-existing drainage arrangements. Building B is located a little distance from building A. It was designed to be modular and easily moveable/removable and was erected in the lee of a hedge with willow trees and evergreen fir to protect from the prevailing wind and worst weather conditions; as a result it is therefore almost entirely screened from the surrounding views. The adjacent boundary is farmed pasture. The unscreened north west elevation looks inwards to our property curtilage

Note- bedding and animal waste contained within that material from buildings A&B will be disposed of using a local farmers midden for which we have a pre-existing arrangement. Some hen bedding will be composted on site for mulching and soil improvement as we do now.

Overall, we are committed to meeting the Biodiversity Net Gain through increasing the amount of hedgerow on the site and the species types within it; creating a neutral grassland pasture parcel and by planting more native trees. Since owning the site, we have always set out to improve the habitats

and diversity of the wildlife that enjoy them; the way we develop the site will only continue our ethos.