

About the application

Application number: 2025/91128	
What is the application for?:	Extension of farmyard and erection of cattle building
Address of the site or building:	Healey Farm, Healey Lane, Bristfield, Dewsbury, WF12 0NT
Postcode:	WF12 0NT

User comments

Type of comment: An objection	
Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?	Yes

The application is for a new agricultural building to allow an increase in animal numbers. The site has already been developed with four buildings and new hard standing created, without planning or notification, over the last three years. It appears that part of that expansion has been to accommodate the 2 Valleys events business rather than the farming operations.

The vehicle access to Healey Farm is a bridleway, the length of which is owned by eight different landowners. Although shown as an access route on the submitted plans, the bridleway below Healey Farm is in a poor state, partially blocked, and not suitable for vehicle use.

The bridleway above the farm is in a poor condition due to the excessive traffic and vehicle weight, which it was never intended to carry - HGVs and other very large vehicles with livestock, feed, manure and 2 Valley's kit travelling to and from Healey Farm. Current operations are already causing unacceptable damage to the verges and to the access bridge at Freckleton. With more livestock, more traffic is inevitable and cannot be sustained. Surface repairs to the bridleway will not change this.

The farm acts as holding point for their slaughterhouse (Spenborough Abattoir/Worsley Wholesale Butchers).

The proposed increase in stock numbers (from 600 to 800 cows, 600 to 1,000 sheep) will increase the amount of manure both produced on site and transferred to the site from the slaughterhouse. The manure generated by the high number of animals is already causing a nuisance to residents by its transport and its storage at Pudding Hill, before spreading on the land. The heap hasn't moved position for several years.

Nitrates contained within the manure are a challenge. Nitrates (N) in excess of DEFRA guidelines have the potential to cause environmental damage, polluting the land and local water courses and ultimately impacting other farms in the area, which currently enjoys non Nitrate Vulnerable Zone status.

DEFRA good practice guideline means a maximum of 250kg/hectare/year total N should be applied to the land. The application says the farm has the use of 53ha (130 acres).

Based on DEFRA guidance, 600 cow alone can produce around 34,000kg of N per year which, applied to the available land, is at a rate of 641kg/ha/year.

With 800 cows that becomes 46,000 of N and 875kg/ha/year.

Both numbers are way over good practice limits, without allowing for sheep and slaughter house manure.

The land cannot sustain more animals and the planning application should be refused.