

Supporting statement / additional information

Proposed site

The area proposed for the siting of the agricultural barn has been used for many years (at least 60 years) for growing trees, native and ornamental, for sale both bare root and rootballed, and in the last 20+ years has been used for growing Christmas Trees. This November / December will see the remaining mostly larger trees harvested. We have not replanted this area with more trees because the topsoil has become so depleted it is no longer commercially viable to establish with new stock. Other areas of the holding are far more productive for tree production.

The Location of the proposed Barn is relatively close to another agricultural building that has 3 phase power, which is approx. 42 mtr. away, it also allows us to use our existing track/roadway minimising the need to add more tracks. We can't get much closer to the existing building as we have a wildlife pond which also takes some of the run off from our site, and we do not wish to encroach on this. The pond is approx. 15mtr away from the proposed barn. In addition we want to keep and maintain the existing tree lines that act as windbreaks and screening, for both the existing building and the proposed agricultural barn.

Although the proposed barn will be visible from a public footpath approx. 150 mtr away, it will "only just be visible" as we will be maintaining the windbreak treelines. We will also retain some of the large evergreen Pinus Mugo and Picea Koreana on the edge of the Christmas Tree harvesting area that currently provide amenity screening and windbreak functions.

Usage

The site as a whole - Less than 5% of our site is given over to the retail Garden Centre. The majority of the site is used for agricultural purposes, including growing Christmas trees that are harvested on rotation, for grazing our sheep and producing hay. All our sheep are farmed for our own restaurant kitchen, cutting food miles down to a few hundred metres. We currently have a flock of 32 sheep and intend to grow this further. In addition to the immediate site, we also farm approx. 3.4 Hectares within the locality.

The proposed barn will be a multipurpose agricultural building. It will be used for Lambing in Spring, storing our various pieces of agricultural machinery, most of which are currently outside (depreciating quicker than we would like and needing more maintenance). Storing hay / feed in the Autumn / Winter, It will be used for Christmas tree harvesting, netting etc. November / December. In January and February it will be utilised for recycling our Christmas tree waste wood, and recycling wood from any non-returnable pallets and wood packaging that enter our site, by processing it through our "kindling" machine to produce a saleable product and generate income.

We do not want to divide the building up, the more open it is the more multifunctional it will be allowing it to cater for our various changing seasonal agricultural needs. It will be unobtrusive, in "Juniper Green" cladding, in common with agricultural buildings of a similar visual aspect in the rural area.

Summary

This proposed Barn will be in keeping with the rural farming landscape, allow our agricultural business to develop further, help iron out the peaks and troughs of income generation, keep our agricultural machinery and equipment secure and in good order, accommodate "Lambing", hay and winter feed storage, contribute to recycling and production of saleable product, and allow us to continue to be a successful rural business and employer.