

Christopher and Rebecca Ashton
Top O'Th Meadow Farm
Meadowhead Lane
Norden
Rochdale OL11 5UE

Date: 22nd January 2025

Dear Sir or Madam:

Ref: planning request for a general-purpose barn.

Please find attached our justifications for requiring a new barn.

Hay.

We currently have storage for around 300 bales of hay while production of hay is around 2500 bales. This means having to have the bulk of hay wrapped in polythene and left outside, the result of this is birds pecking holes in the polythene letting air / moisture in and destroying the contents. A new barn would give us the capacity to store all perishable products indoors and remove the need to wrap the hay in plastic, reducing the effect on the environment and increasing profitability.

Straw

We currently have no storage space for straw, shavings and sawdust. This means many vehicle journeys to collect the week's requirements of straw, shavings and sawdust. A new barn would mean we could get a delivery of these products every 3 months, removing the need to collect weekly in vehicles, reducing our carbon footprint and preventing unnecessary journeys, causing wear and tear on roads.

Horse feed

We currently have no storage space for animal feed. This means many car journeys to collect the week's requirements. A new barn would mean we could get a delivery of these products every 3 months, removing the need to collect weekly in vehicles, reducing our carbon footprint and preventing unnecessary journeys, causing wear and tear on roads.

Fencing

We currently have nowhere to store our fencing, which has to be maintained regularly, so this is being stored outside on the ground, in small regular deliveries. As these are wooden items and stored outside, they deteriorate long before they would have done had they been stored inside, resulting in needing to be replaced before they would, had they been stored inside and kept dry prior to use. Being able to purchase the fencing in bulk, rather than on demand, would significantly reduce the amount of deliveries required, thus reducing our carbon footprint.

Plant and equipment

Our tractor, various trailers, agricultural machinery, implements and equipment used as part of our agricultural operations have to be kept outside. This results in rusting and unsightly machinery requiring more maintenance than would be necessary and needing to be replaced years earlier.

Maintenance

At present a lot of maintenance work of our agricultural machinery has to be done outside, which in our all too often inclement weather can result in many lost days.

Visual impact

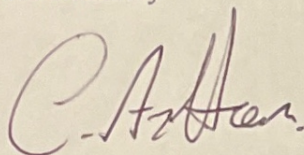
The two dilapidated chicken sheds (29.9mts x 19.4mts) currently on site are an eye sore, and I hope you would agree that a barn would be more in keeping with our surroundings. The proposed barn is 25mts x 12mts, so will have less of an impact visually than the current dilapidated chicken sheds.

Environment

With much less journeys in vehicles to collect our requirement of animal products and fencing deliveries, no polythene to buy and then dispose of, and reducing the frequency with which machinery needs to be replaced I feel sure this would benefit the environment.

With your assistance I believe we could run a far more efficient, aesthetically pleasing and environmentally friendly farm.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'C. Ashton', written in a cursive style.

Mr and Mrs C Ashton