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17th May 2024

Supporting Statement

John Grant (Donnington) Ltd

Regarding the Installation of Three Liquid Fertiliser Storage Tanks
At Northgate Farm, West Pinchbeck, Spalding, PE11 3TB

Application Number: N/A

Client: John Grant (Donnington) Ltd and Omex Agriculture Ltd
Property: Northgate Farm, West Pinchbeck

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. This supporting statement was prepared on instruction from Omex Agriculture Ltd, on behalf of John Grant (Donnington) Ltd.

1.2. The purpose of the statement is to provide further information to support a retrospective planning application for the installation of three liquid fertiliser tanks inside a bunded containment facility at Northgate Farm.

1.3. The information used in the preparation of this statement was collected by telephone and email with Omex Agriculture Ltd and the applicants. I have visited the site concerned, on Wednesday 8th May 2024.

2. THE WRITER

2.1. The writer of this statement is Charles Holt, a member of the Farm Consultancy Group. Charles Holt holds a BSc (Hons) in Agricultural Economics and a Diploma in Farm Management. He is a Fellow of the British Institute of Agricultural Consultants.

2.2. The main references used as sources of standard farm management information are the Farm Management Pocketbook by Professor John Nix, the ABC Budgeting and Costing Book, and the Farm Buildings Handbook.

3. THE FARMING ENTERPRISE

3.1. John Grant (Donnington) Ltd farms a total of approximately 4000 acres (1600 hectares) in the area.

3.2. Of this, approximately 1500 acres (600 hectares) of it is within five miles of Northgate Farm. Northgate Farm is the main hub for the farming business in the area. 100 acres (40 hectares) of land is owned immediately around Northgate Farm.

3.3. The crops grown on the surrounding land are brassicas, peas, wheat and sugar beet. These crops need fertiliser applying to them at varying amounts in order to grow to their potential, and to be profitable for the business.

3.4. The farm business employs six employees, including the directors.

3.5. Northgate Farm provides one of the main hubs for the farm business, and it is conveniently situated on a good road with an easily accessible farm entrance for delivery of farm requisites by lorry.

4. THE FERTILISER TANKS

4.1. The three fertiliser tanks were installed within their bund on 27th March 2024.

4.2. The tanks are each 3 metres in diameter and 7.4 metres in height. They are installed within a purpose-built concrete bund. They are bolted down to the concrete pad on which they are installed.

4.3. The rationale for erecting the tanks is that liquid fertiliser has a lower environmental impact than the alternative, being granular fertiliser.

4.4. Liquid fertiliser is applied by a crop sprayer. This is more controllable than a granular fertiliser spreader, especially at the field margin. Consequently there is less risk of fertiliser being spread on land on which there is no crop, or into hedge bottoms or ditches and water courses. While modern granular fertiliser spreaders are themselves very accurate, liquid sprayers are even more accurate.

4.5. In addition, there is no packaging involved in liquid fertiliser storage and delivery, as it arrives in bulk by lorry. Granular fertiliser is delivered in large bags, which have to be disposed of.

4.6. Granular fertiliser is more at risk from theft, and there is a small risk of nitrogenous fertiliser being stolen for creation of explosive, although it contains an inhibitor these days. There is no risk of this eventuality for liquid fertiliser.

4.7. The three tanks are specifically designed to hold liquid fertiliser, and have been installed within a water-proof bund, designed to contain their entire contents should the tanks leak or fail for any reason.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1. I trust that the information provided herein is sufficient to enable South Holland District Council to grant planning permission for the three fertiliser tanks and bunded enclosure.

Charles Holt

The Farm Consultancy Group

17th May 2024