



Chapelfield Veterinary Partnership Ltd.
Wellesley Road
Tharston Industrial Estate
Long Stratton
Norfolk, NR15 2PD
Tel: 01508-530686
Fax: 01508-532411

22nd November 2019

Dear Mr Green,

As the Veterinary Surgeon responsible for the cattle herd at Boundary Farm, I have been asked to advise on any issues currently present in the farm facilities, the farm layout and farming practices in general.

The main concern at present is maintaining the current health status and well-being of the animals particularly where the herd at Boundary Farm is to be substantially expanded as planned. There are two aspects to this, firstly the provision of extending the cattle rearing facilities and secondly, the provision of on-site living accommodation for stock management purposes.

I understand that you propose to build another, similar cow shed to that erected at Boundary Farm in 2014. I understand that you intend to take specialist advice on the design, layout and materials of the new cow shed. As part of the proposed layout, I would advise that you address the biosecurity and welfare risks posed by the proximity of the public footpath to the existing shed as a matter of priority, due to a number of concerns that I have. Dogs can pose a significant risk to livestock both in terms of dog-worrying and passing on cattle abortive infections in their faeces. Walkers, too can transmit disease from one area to another by foot. Therefore, preventing access by the general public to the cattle will mitigate these risks. There is also a potential risk to the general public posed by the cattle if passing through areas containing adult male cattle and female cattle with young calves at foot.

You should also seek to ensure that experienced workers are permanently on site at the cattle rearing facilities at Boundary Farm. Animals need to be inspected and examined on a regular basis. This includes looking after animals at anti-social hours including through the night and at weekends. By having someone on-site any health or welfare issues can be picked up and dealt with at an early stage.

Steve Trickey BVM&S MBA MRCVS David Stockton BVMS MRCVS Florin-Liviu Conduruta MRCVS
Giovanni Capuzello MRCVS Ed Pilkington BA VetMB MRCVS Harriet Nuttall BA VetMB MRCVS
Olivia Turley MVB MRCVS Maria Segurana Gil MRCVS

Overall, I consider that the improvements planned are both desirable and necessary to ensure that the health and well-being of the herd is maintained and improved. If you would like further clarification on any matter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Steve Trickey BVM&S MBA MRCVS
Farm Clinical Director

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