

Comments for Planning Application 22/01221/PLF

Application Summary

Application Number: 22/01221/PLF

Address: Land South East Of Thirtleby Lane Bridge Thirtleby Lane Coniston East Riding Of Yorkshire HU11 4LL

Proposal: Siting of a static caravan for occupation by an agricultural worker in connection with an existing pig unit known as Line Farm

Case Officer: Mr Tim Williams

Customer Details

Name: Ms J TURNER

Address: Spacey Field Farm, Meadow Lane, Thirtleby, East Riding Of Yorkshire HU11 4LL

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Member of the Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment:22/01221/PLF | Siting of a static caravan for occupation by an agricultural worker in connection with an existing pig unit known as Line Farm | Land South East Of Thirtleby Lane Bridge Thirtleby Lane Coniston East Riding Of Yorkshire HU11 4LL

BF1 planning, design and access statement states

' Experimentally the unit has been run on an unmanned basis, which has proved to be detrimental to the health and well-being of the pigs, especially in case of emergency.'

The planning permission granted for this development made no mention of it being built and run on an experimental basis, in fact its states that it can be run quite adequately from Sproately Grange. It states this is having a detrimental effect on the health and well- being of the pigs. I question this, if as suggested there is a need for someone to be onsite 24/7 and that there is a need for this full time employee WHY is there no-one on site throughout the working day at present? If there is this need why are they not there now? If they are on site, then they are suggesting that the health and well-being of the pigs is detrimentally effected through the night. This I refute, pigs are creatures of habit, much like humans and settle down at dusk to sleep, very little movement occurs during hours of darkness. Their vision is poor in darkness so they do not tend to move around. What I suggest is that the pigs are checked daily and no-one remains onsite throughout the day. SO WHY is there a need for someone to be available and live on site, I would suggest it's just a ploy to get another dwelling in the isolated countryside.

They go on to state

'airborne viruses and diseases which can quickly spread through the herd, leading to rapid deterioration in the health of the pigs and potential losses. At this point, speedy intervention and application of appropriate medication or the isolation of ailing pigs can be crucial.

Pigs have the propensity to fight and bully other pigs within the group, particularly singling out

weaker or sickly pigs. Tail biting is an unfortunate, intermittent manifestation of this behaviour, driven by number of external factors, including stress and changes in temperature. These again requires immediate intervention and appropriate stockmanship in order to minimise distress to the affected animals and to prevent the issue from spreading through the herd. The rate of injury and mortality is critical to the business with a high rate of injury/mortality putting the business at risk from losing its contract.'

Again I suggest that no-one remains on site throughout the day, pigs are usually settled on a night so day time is when most incidents of bullying take place. Tail biting is often a manifestation when overstocking occurs, also when there is a lack of suitable things to play with including straw bedding. Should someone be onsite throughout the working day these issues would be addressed. This application suggests that a full time employee is required for this site and yet there is no-one there throughout the day now. Question, is this just a ploy to get another dwelling in the isolated countryside?

They also state

'There have been incidents of trespass and vandalism which would likely not occurred had there been an agricultural worker on site. Remote monitoring is no substitute for having an on-site presence in the case of a night time emergency, however infrequent these may be.'

The applicant knew exactly how remote these buildings were when they applied for permission, the property is surrounded by high fences with CCTV and lighting surely this forms a good deterrent, someone living onsite will probably not make a difference. Pigs settle down to sleep during hours of darkness so night time emergencies would be very very rare.

They further suggest

'Very careful management is required during the first two or three weeks following the arrival of the pigs to ensure that pigs find both water and feed. Stress of travelling, mixing into new social groups and new surroundings is reduced by promptly removing to the casualty pen any pigs which are distressed, injured, et cetera. Often the pigs need to be tempted to find water and feed by splashing water onto the plinth and broadcasting feed by hand'

Pig of 35/40kg are robust creatures and are able to locate food and water successfully unaided, when pigs arrive and are mixed in new social groups some fighting can occur but with plenty of space to move around should reduce this and the need to remove pigs to a casualty area should not be required. Unfortunately once a pig is moved from the group it cannot be reintroduced it will remain in a casualty pen until it reaches maturity. You only tend to move pigs to a casualty pen when no other option is available, once removed it cannot be reintroduced. (emphasis added)

They further suggest

'Adequate ventilation and warmth are key to healthy pigs with the ideal temperature being 15 to 18° C. Temperatures are generally relatively constant during normal working hours save for variations caused by wind speeds/directions. The ventilation, and therefore temperature control, comprise the standard rudimentary practice of opening, partial opening and closing of the opening top doors of the building with the intention of maintaining temperatures within of between 15 and 18°C. Temperature and wind speed/direction changes require manual opening or closing or partial closing of the top doors to each pen. Temperatures can vary widely during autumn, winter and early spring requiring frequent adjustments to the ventilation doors. Constant monitoring of the

buildings for vermin, including rats and pigeons, is essential to prevent desiccation of the water and feed and to minimise the risk of disease infection. Promptly cleaning out any desiccated feed or water troughs reduces disease risk and mortality.'

These are not purpose built temperature controlled pig building so no amount of manually opening and shutting the doors will maintain temperatures of 15 to 18 degrees C. the buildings are Yorkshire boarded with ventilation gaps, freezing external temperatures and strong winds will penetrate the building making this impossible. Vermin control forms part of RSPCA assured so this is part and parcel of keeping livestock. It is not something new it's something that is always required, the applicant has vast experience of keeping pigs so knew this was required as standard.

The labour input suggested as referenced in the 52nd edition of the farm management pocketbook is for manually feeding of pigs, these pigs are fed via automatic feeding systems so do not require to be manually fed, instead they just need to be checked over thus reducing the labour input immensely.

There is NOT a need for a full time person to be on site 24/7

There may be a dwelling available locally that could be capable of satisfying this need

This proposed development does not conform with planning policy