This statement has been prepared to accompany an application for the construction of a slurry lagoon.

Its purpose is to provide a non-technical explanation of climate change mitigation measures that have been incorporated into the design to minimise resource and energy consumption compared to the minimum building regulation requirement.

Waste and recycling

The regulatory and financial pressure on dairy farmers to provide adequate slurry storage has significantly increased over recent years but particularly 2021 and 2022 due to the doubling of manufactured fertiliser prices. The environmental benefits of additional slurry storage are two-fold;

1. Applications of slurry to crops can be targeted which reduces the risk of diffuse watercourse pollution, and

2. The ability to use more of the nutrients within the slurry reduces the reliance on manufactured fertilisers which require fossil fuels to produce. To that extent, it is essential that investments in slurry storage are supported by Local Planning Authorities.

The current slurry storage facilities do not meet the requirements of the farming system now operated by the Applicant. The proposed store will allow the Applicant to store slurry for a minimum of six months, which means no slurry will need to be spread during winter. This in turn means that the Applicant can become compliant with The Water Resources (Control of Pollution) (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) (England) Regulations 2010.

The location of the store has been chosen to take advantage of the topography of the land and allow the Applicants to easily spread the slurry using an umbilical system. Slurry will continue to be stored on a temporary basis in the farmyard but will be pumped to the proposed store before it is spread on the land around the farm in spring/summer.

Flood risk

The lagoon is in Flood Zone 1 an area with a low probability of flooding.

Materials

The slurry lagoon will be constructed from the existing earth/soil at the site
by digging it out and using the spoil to create a bund around the edge. The lagoon will be lined with a sand blinding layer and finished with an impermeable membrane liner to ensure slurry cannot leak into the ground.

Water

Incidents of ground water pollution are reduced by the improved storage facility which will alleviate the need to spread slurry at times when the conditions are not ideal.

Conclusion

For the aforementioned reasons appropriate climate change mitigation measures can be incorporated into the proposed development.