

**SLURRY LAGOON,
WHITELODGE FARM, MINETY**

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

September 2025





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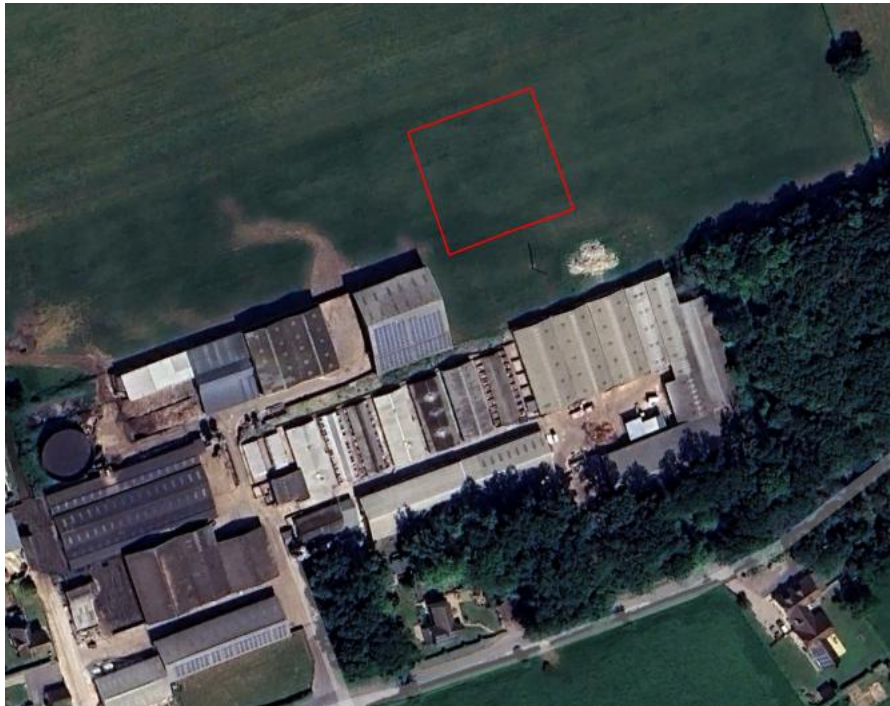
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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Supporting Statement accompanies a planning application which seeks consent for a slurry lagoon, measuring 45m wide, 45m long and 4m deep with sloped edges (1,341,000 gallons approx.).

1.2 The proposal is modest, encompassing a small area next to the main farm buildings.

Insert 1: The Proposed Development (surface dimension indicated)



1.3 White Lodge Farm is a well-established farming unit. The farm breeds and rears pigs, with 3,500 reared-on and finished. The farm runs a dairy unit with 500 cattle on the holding. Current dirty water and slurry facilities are at capacity, and additional storage is needed.

1.4 The proposal is to construct a slurry lagoon to hold slurry for the pig enterprise. This will be a below-ground lagoon.

1.5 This Supporting Statement:

- (i) describes the site and the proposals in section 2;
- (ii) sets out the policy of relevance in section 3;
- (iii) and assesses the proposals against that policy in section 4;
- (iv) ending with conclusions in section 5

1.6 The proposal accords with the development plan.

2 THE SITE AND THE PROPOSAL

The Site

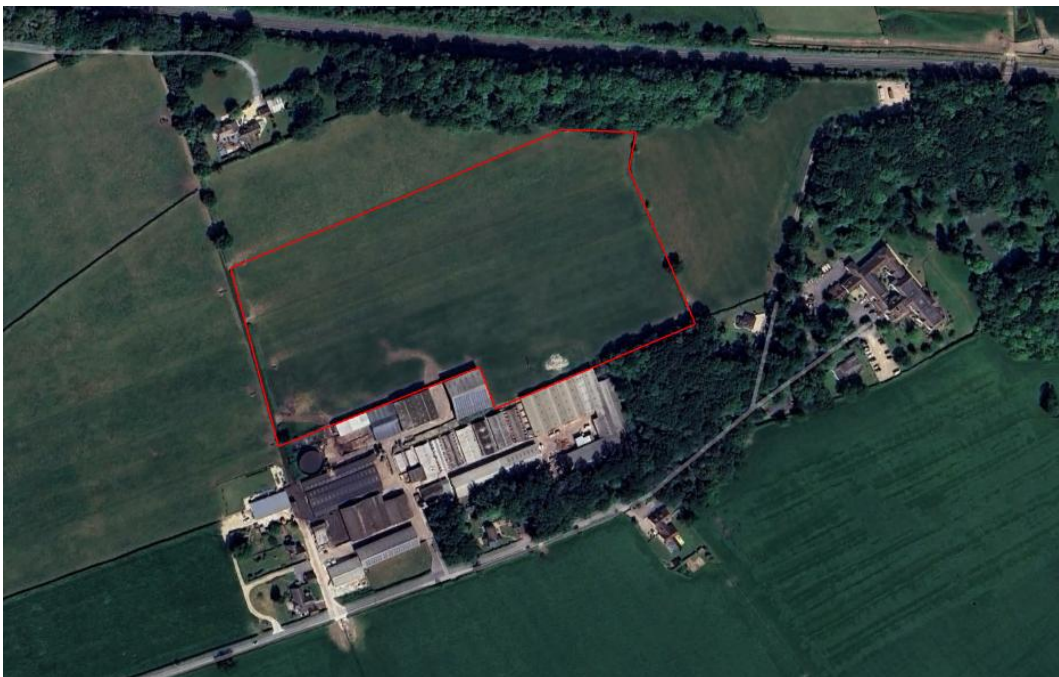
- 2.1 The Applicant runs and lives on the farm where the slurry lagoon is proposed.
- 2.2 The Proposed Site is shown below, looking west. It is a grassland field in close proximity to the agricultural buildings the slurry lagoon would serve. The field has been regraded in the past to bring the southern edge of the field to a level to allow the construction of barns (left in the photo).

Photo 1: The Proposed Site



- 2.3 This proposed Site sits within a field north of the main pig enterprise. The field where the slurry lagoon is proposed is outlined in red on the Google Earth imagery below.

Insert 2: Proposed site



The Proposal

- 2.4 The Applicant proposes to position a 1.34-million-gallon Earth Banked slurry lagoon. Slurry from the livestock sheds drain under gravity to the slurry lagoon. An example of an earth banked slurry lagoon is shown below.

Insert 3: Example Earth Banked Slurry Lagoon (AHDB)



- 2.5 Current facilities need to be expanded. There is currently an above ground storage tank for slurry that holds 360,000 gallons on site as well as a further tank on a separate parcel of land that the applicants use. There is a need to increase storage capacity.
- 2.6 The lagoon will store slurry from the livestock to be able to spread it onto the fields at appropriate times to help with grass growth. The current slurry storage facilities do not meet the production requirements, so a larger slurry storage solution is necessary.
- 2.7 The proposed slurry lagoon will be served from existing and new pipes from the pig sheds. The new pipes will run down the east face of the silage barn and into the lagoon.
- 2.8 Soils from the excavation of the slurry lagoon will be used to create the banks for the lagoon. It is intended to provide a gradual bank on the western side so that, when viewed from public viewpoints the lagoon is all-but visible. The addition of hedgerows to the base of the banks will not only further hide the lagoon from view but will also stabilise the banks.

3 PLANNING POLICY OF RELEVANCE

Local Plan

- 3.1 Core Policy 34 of the Wiltshire Council Core Strategy (adopted 2015); states that **“developments will be supported that:**
- ii. **support sustainable farming and food production through allowing development required to adapt to modern agricultural practices and diversification”.**

National Policy

- 3.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024) supports a prosperous rural economy, identifying in paragraph 88 that planning decisions should **“enable... the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses”.**

4 ASSESSMENTS

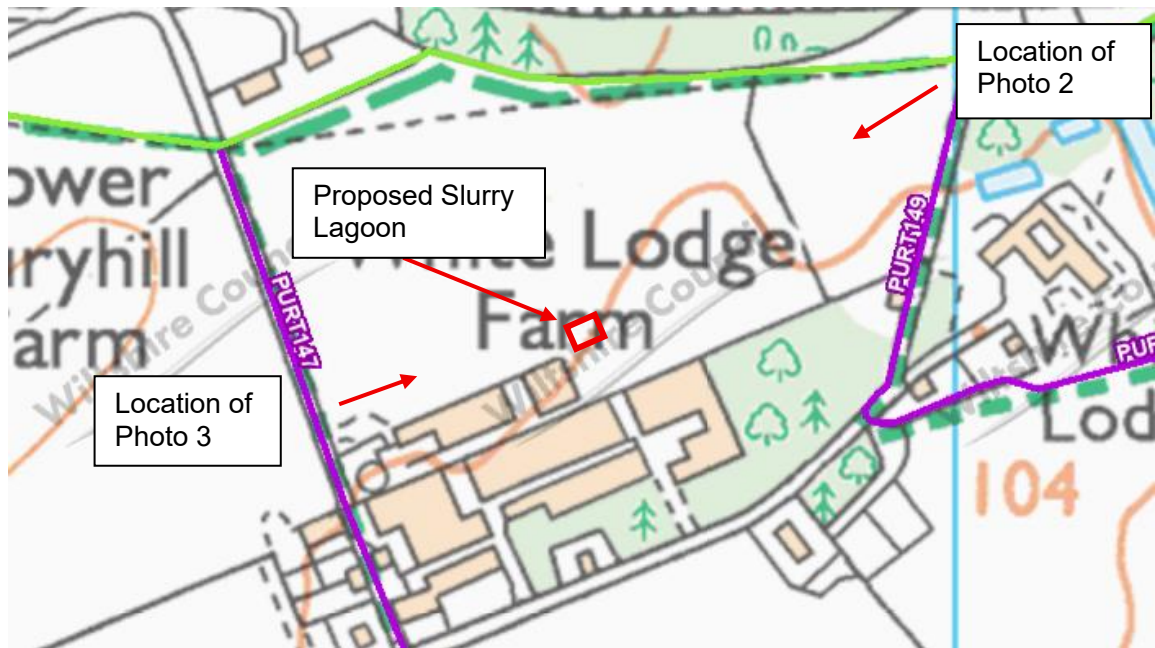
In Principle

- 4.1 The proposed slurry lagoon accords with the Wiltshire Core Strategy, Core Policy 34 and paragraph 88 of the NPPF. The proposed slurry lagoon will allow the farm to become more self-sustainable in terms of slurry storage, and meet the requirements for slurry storage under the Nitrate Vulnerable Zone rules and guidance.
- 4.2 The addition of a slurry lagoon will allow for the spreading of slurry produced by the animals on the farm. This will make it possible for a reduction and potentially inorganic fertiliser applications.
- 4.3 Slurry spreading on the fields will increase soil organic matter (SOM) levels. Having higher levels of SOM will improve soil structure, drought resilience, enhancing nutrient cycling, increase carbon sequestration and increase beneficial microbial activities in the soils. All these benefits lead to increased crop growth, reducing soil erosion and nutrient runoff. An overall increase in SOM will allow for a more sustainable farming enterprise.

Well Located

- 4.4 The proposed location of the slurry lagoon and the most logical, is next to and slightly lower than the livestock buildings. Having the lagoon close to the livestock means that there is minimal need for pumping to move the slurry to the lagoon. Having the lagoon close to the farm will also keep most of the associated farm traffic isolated to one area minimising soil compaction and travel times when it comes to maintenance, mixing and emptying of the lagoon.
- 4.5 The proposed location of the slurry lagoon is not overly visible. The Public Rights of Way nearby are shown with views from the bridleway PURT 149.

Insert 4: Positions of PROWs



- 4.6 The proposed slurry lagoon may be partially visible from PURT149 and PURT147 by way of glimpsed views through hedgerows. The view of the site from PURT149 is shown below.

Photo 2: View from PURT149



- 4.7 As can be seen in the above photo the view of the field where the slurry lagoon is proposed is blocked by a hedgerow. This is much the same for the view from PURT147 where there is a hedgerow bordering the bridleway. The following view is taken from within the field. The bank will be graduated and the lagoon will not result in landscape harm.

Photo 3: View From Just East of PURT 147



- 4.8 There will be no unacceptable landscape effects.

Flooding and Flood Risk

- 4.9 The site is not affected by river flooding and the area where the lagoon is proposed is not affected by surface water, based on the Environment Agency flood maps.

Insert 5: Flood Risk



Insert 6: Surface Water Flood Map 1 in 30 Year Likelihood



- 4.10 The 1 in 30 years surface water flood map shows part of the farmyard flooding. This is the case in the 1 in 1000 years surface water flood map as well. Due to the nature of the proposal, there will be no increase in water runoff.

Biodiversity

- 4.11 The Site for the lagoon is improved, heavily grazed grassland, as shown below.

Photo 4: The Site



- 4.12 The proposal, as shown on the application plans, proposes that a new hedge will be planted on two sides of the lagoon, almost 100 metres in total. Additionally the banks on the southern and western sides will be planted with wildflowers. Overall there will be an increase in biodiversity.

Previous Planning Decisions

- 4.13 There has been previous support from the Council towards the construction of slurry lagoons. This is evident from the planning decisions the Council has made.

Slurry lagoons have been approved on numerous occasions:

- PL/2025/03731 - Gardners Farm
- PL/2024/07509 – Burnt Heath Farm
- PL/2023/04524 – East Farm

5 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The Applicant proposes a slurry lagoon to store slurry from the established livestock enterprise.
- 5.2 The slurry lagoon extends to approximately 6100m³ or 1.3 million gallons (approx.).
- 5.3 The slurry lagoon is acceptable in principle under the NPPF and Core Strategy Core Policy 34.
- 5.4 The location of the slurry lagoon is well placed being adjacent to the farm buildings and mostly out of sight from surrounding PROWs.
- 5.5 The lagoon is required to enable greater winter storage of slurry, as is required. It will not result in any adverse impacts.



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