

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

IN RELATION TO A

PRIOR NOTIFICATION APPLICATION

FOR EXCAVATION/DEPOSIT WASTE FOR AGRICULTURE

FORMING PART OF:

**STONES FARM
UFFCOTT
SWINDON
WILTSHIRE
SN4 9NB**

APPLICANT: ANDREW CUNINGHAME T/A A G CUNINGHAME

PREPARED BY:

**WEBBPATON
THE DAIRY
HOOK
ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT
WILTSHIRE
SN4 8EF**

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Partners

Mark Webb FRICS FAAV
Libby Hutchinson MRICS FAAV
Becky Farthing MRICS FAAV
Helen Wiltshire MRICS FAAV
George King MRICS FAAV ASA



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RICS



**WebbPaton LLP Rural
& Commercial Valuers**

The Dairy Hook
Royal Wootton Bassett
Wiltshire SN4 8EF

Tel 01793 842055

post@webbpaton.co.uk
www.webbpaton.co.uk

1. A G Cuninghame farm approximately 197.55 acres of owner-occupied and rented land on and near the proposed site plus additional land on grass keep basis in the local area. A G Cuninghame runs a sheep farm, with a flock of 450 breeding ewes, 105 replacements, and 800 lambs. Stock numbers are at 1,500 at peak lambing season, and will not drop below 700 head of sheep at any time.
2. A G Cuninghame have a live Countryside Stewardship Capital Grant (agreement number 2194764), operated by the Rural Payments Agency. In accordance with the live agreement, the proposal is to replace and install areas of damaged concrete and hardcore and install a yard inspection pit under the agreement in the existing farmyard at Stones Farm. Outside of the live agreement, which will be self-funded by the applicant, the applicant proposes to install a drainage gully, sleeping policemen and raised humps leading towards a sediment trap/pond off of the yard inspection pit. The funding and proposal aims to reduce foul drainage, run-off and risk of water pollution by ensuring the separation of clean and dirty water, allowing the dirty run-off to be contained within the sediment trap. The site comprises a hardcore yard and renewing concrete, alongside the works outlined above, will achieve the aims of the Countryside Stewardship Capital Grant which will allow easier cleaning of the yard, which in turn assists with controlling water pollution. The scheme requires planning permission to be obtained.

Whilst not part of the live agreement outlined above, the final part of this proposal will be a second and third phase of concreting (to achieve the same aims as above). The applicant intends to apply for these phases when the Countryside Stewardship Capital Grants reopen in a second and third phase as shown with the plans appended to this application.

3. The agreement and planned works are supported by the Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer for the South East and Thames River Basin. The Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer confirmed that the land is within a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone, a medium to high priority water area and targeted for a surface water nitrates safeguard zone, surface water pesticide and phosphate issues, and sediment issues.

Due to the sloping topography of the yard and land, current dirty water running off the yard and public highway naturally gravitates down the fields where it will flow into nearby brooks and ditches. This could lead to a pollution problem in surrounding watercourses as they flow into nearby brooks and ditches leading to the Upper Kennet to Marlborough system. The proposed works will collectively protect the nearby watercourse by ensuring the separation of clean and dirty water and potential seeping into nearby ditches, assisting in controlling water pollution.

4. The proposal will be located within field parcel SU1277 5377. The proposal will be used directly in conjunction with the farming business, being high-traffic areas of yard, used for agricultural machinery and movement of sheep. It is therefore reasonably necessary for, and designed for, the purposes of agriculture, as per Part 6, Class A of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended).
5. The works detailed above are Phases 1, 2 and 3 of the scheme. Phase 1 of the works consists of concreting which measures 736m², with associated drainage gulley, sleeping policemen and raised humps leading towards a sediment trap/pond off of the yard inspection pit. Phase 2 and 3 of the project see approximately a further 1398m² of concreting to the north and south of the yard. The project has been split into three phases due to the grant limits in place at the time of the application.

The materials used will be in accordance with the RPA capital items listed below:

- RP14: Yard inspection pit;
 - RP15: Concrete yard renewal.
6. Without the proposed concreting works this location will become wet as it is in a high traffic area used by daily farm machinery and livestock, especially during wet periods and throughout the winter months. Therefore, the proposed works are reasonably necessary for the purpose of agriculture, especially to contribute to reducing water pollution at ground and surface water level for both the farm and the catchment area. Further details are provided within the Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer report accompanying this application.

7. Please note, a site plan has not been produced at the largest scale of 1:500 specified under Wiltshire Council's validation requirement checklist as it is too small a scale for the proposed works, the scale chosen for the site plan clearly shows all details of the proposal.