

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
IN RELATION TO A
PRIOR NOTIFICATION APPLICATION
FOR EXCAVATION/DEPOSIT WASTE FOR AGRICULTURE

FORMING PART OF:

**FERNHILL FARM
SUNDAYS HILL
BRINKWORTH
WILTSHIRE
SN15 5AT**

APPLICANT: L A LEWIS & SON

PREPARED BY:

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

APRIL 2026

Partners

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

Regulated by the 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. L A Lewis & Son farm approximately 62 acres (25 hectares) of owner-occupied land at Fernhill Farm, Brinkworth, together with an additional 160 acres of grassland rented in the local area. The applicant runs a dairy enterprise, with total cattle numbers around 170 head, of which approximately 95 are milked.
2. L A Lewis & Son have a live Countryside Stewardship Capital Grant (agreement number 2189144), administered by the Rural Payments Agency. The proposal is to replace an area of hardstanding in the existing farmyard at Fernhill Farm with concrete. The scheme aims to reduce foul drainage, run-off and risk of water pollution and requires planning permission to be obtained.
3. The agreement and planned works are supported by Harry May, Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) Officer for the Avon, Bristol and North Somerset Streams Water Management Catchment Area within the Severn River Basin District. The CSF Officer confirmed that the land is within a high water priority area, targeting water quality, sediment, surface nitrate and phosphate considered as high priority pollutant issues.
4. Currently the yard is in continual use by machinery and livestock causing damage to the existing surface. The resulting soil erosion is washed off during heavy rainfall into nearby ditches and adjacent farmland. By concreting the yard, soil erosion will be minimised and sediment runoff reduced. In turn, this will reduce sediment and associated phosphate pollution and ultimately improve water quality. It will also allow easier cleaning of the yard, which in turn assists with controlling water pollution.
5. The site will be located within field parcel ST9986 5454 which is greater than one hectare in area. The proposed works will be used directly in conjunction with the farming business, being a high-traffic central area of the farmyard, used for agricultural machinery and movement of cattle. 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.

6. The proposed area to be concreted extends to 680m². The materials used will be in accordance with the RP15: Concrete yard renewal specification listed by the Rural Payments Agency.
7. Without the proposed works, there will be a continued risk of soil erosion and water pollution to the farmland and wider catchment area, particularly during wet periods and throughout the winter months. Further details are provided within the CSF Officer report accompanying this application. This is a high-traffic area of the farm in daily use by farm machinery and livestock and so the proposed works are reasonably necessary for the purpose of agriculture.

Enc CSF Officer Report

RP15: Concrete yard renewal specification (RPA)

Catchment Sensitive Farming Assessment Form

To be completed by Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) where its support & approval is required by applicants, for certain capital items and options, before they can apply for Countryside Stewardship (CS) Capital Grant or CS Mid-Tier.

This form must be completed by CSF, external supplier working on behalf of CSF or a CSF partner, prior to the application deadline and then submitted by the applicant to the Rural Payments Agency (RPA).

Applicant name	David Lewis
Farm Business name	L A Lewis and Son
CPH number	45/137/0033
SBI Number	107252068
Farm address and postcode	Fernhill Farm, Sundays Hill, Brinkworth, Chippenham, SN15 5AT
WFD Water Management Catchment	Avon Bristol and North Somerset Streams
River Basin District	Severn
Form completed by: (CSFA or external supplier)	
Name	Harry May
Company if applicable	Natural England
E mail address	Harry.may@naturalengland.org.uk
Telephone number	07824758245
Any additional comments	
Pollutant priorities and pressures:	
Pollutant priorities in the catchment as targeted by CSF: - High Water Quality Priority - High Surface Nitrate Priority - High Sediment Priority - High Phosphate Priority Farm description: - Dairy – 80 total livestock, 20 sucklers & 60 store cattle – 114 Hectares. - Uncovered yards, cubicle housing and youngstock on straw creating slurry & FYM. - Uncovered FYM weeping wall system with a 120,000-litre reception tank. - Then pumped into a 750,000-litre store. - Grazed in summer months and winter housed. - Location – Sundays Hill, Chippenham – Bristol Avon Catchment - Connectivity to Watercourse – Approximately 219m to nearest watercourse (Woodbridge Bk - source to conf Charlton Str) - Proximity to Protected Sites – Ravensroost Wood SSSI is Approximately 2817m to the Northeast.	

Pollutant pressures on farm i.e. water, air, natural flood management:

RP28 – Roofing - 550m² - ST99865454 - Nitrates & Phosphate

- Uncovered FYM store (Source). Rainfall onto these areas produces large volumes of slurry, causing pressure on storage capacity.
- RP28 applied to these areas would remove rainfall into the store therefore reducing production of slurry.
- This would reduce Nitrate and Phosphate pollution by decreasing slurry production allowing for more targeted spreading at appropriate times to maximise crop uptake of nutrients to help improve water quality.

Source: Uncovered FYM store

Pathway: Slurry Collection & Spreading

Receptor: Adjacent Fields, Ditches & slurry store.

RP28 – Roofing - 560m² – ST99865454 - Nitrates & Phosphate

- Open loafing & feeding yards producing slurry. Rainfall onto these yards creates unnecessary slurry, causing a strain on slurry storage.
- RP28 applied to these areas would remove rainfall input into these yards therefore reducing the amount of slurry production.
- This would reduce Nitrate and Phosphate pollution and improve water quality.

Source: Open Feeding & Loafing Yards

Pathway: Surface Water Runoff & Slurry Collection

Receptor: Adjacent Fields, Ditches & Slurry Store

RP15 – Concrete Yard Renewal - 680m² – ST99865454 - Sediment & Phosphate

- Current yard is not concreted and is heavily trafficked creating soil erosion. This soil is then washed off during heavy rainfall either into nearby ditches or the adjacent field.
- RP15 applied to this area would remove any soil erosion caused by machinery therefore removing any sediment runoff from this area.
- This would reduce sediment and associated phosphate pollution and improve water quality.

Source: Eroded soft surface yard

Pathway: Surface Water Runoff

Receptor: Adjacent Fields, Road and nearby Ditches

RP4 - Livestock and machinery hardcore tracks - 190m – ST99866761 - Sediment & Phosphate

- Heavily poached livestock routes (Source). Rainfall and heavy livestock traffic on grazing routes through fields results in heavy poaching. During heavy rainfall this disturbed sediment (carrying phosphate) is washed away into nearby ditches and into the watercourse.
- RP4 applied to these areas would remove poaching of the field routes therefore reducing sediment run off and phosphate pollution.
- This would reduce Sediment and Phosphate pollution and improve water quality.

Source: Heavily poached livestock routes

Pathway: Surface Water Runoff

Receptor: Adjacent Fields & Ditches

The following items & / or options are approved by CSF for inclusion in a CS agreement:

CS Item / option code (e.g. RP15)	Field Number (e.g. AB 1234 5678)	Max agreed total to be applied for (e.g. 20m, 20m ² , 2m ³ , 2 units)	Additional text to be included in agreement document e.g., description of item / option, what is being covered, reference to any specific conditions set out in this form below etc.
RP28	ST99865454	340m ²	Roofing of feeding yard
RP28	ST99865454	220m ²	Roofing of loafing yard
RP28	ST99865454	550m ²	Roofing of FYM store
RP15	ST99865454	340m ²	Concreting of unsurfaced yard
RP15	ST99865454	190m ²	Concreting of unsurfaced yard
RP15	ST99865454	150m ²	Concreting of unsurfaced feed passage
RP4	ST99866761	190m	Livestock track to aid in grazing
RP18	ST99865454	120m ³	6 Rainwater Harvesting tanks
RP19	ST99865454	6 units	Downpipe filters for rainwater harvesting tanks

Any other supporting information or documents – please include a map or annotated aerial photograph to confirm the location of the approved capital items & / or options which have been agreed

- Farm visit conducted by CSFA on the 22nd August 2024.
- Below maps and images show the locations of the proposed capital items.



The below 6 pictures show the highly trafficked areas to be concreted using RP15.





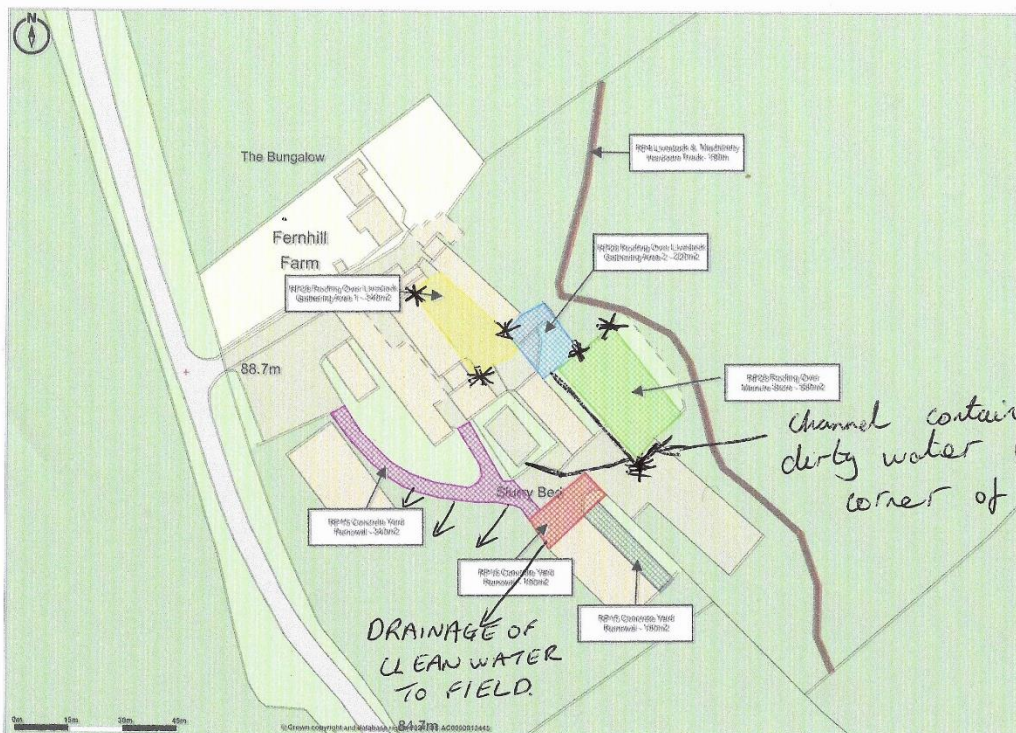
These 5 images show the current FYM store which is to be covered by RP28. A condition of approval for this area is that all effluent run off from the stores must be directed to the farm's slurry storage tanks. This will require an impermeable base and sides, to contain the liquid.





These 3 pictures show the current uncovered loafing and feeding yards which are to be covered under the option code RP28. This work will help to increase slurry storage capacity by removing rainfall input.

The image below shows the drainage plan for the farm. The clean water collected from the roofing will be diverted in rainwater harvesting tanks, & the clean water from the concrete will be shed into the adjacent field.



- * 6 locations of storage tanks for clean rain water

channel containing
dirty water to drain on
corner of store then
underground pipe
to reception pit



These 3 images show the location of the proposed tracks (RP4) to aid in livestock grazing. This will prevent future poaching of the ground which is clearly evident at current.

Additional requirements:**Conditions and / or further advice**

RP 15 i.e., **Concrete** yard renewal, please refer to keeping dirty water and effluent separate from clean water and the need to direct dirty water, effluent and clean water into suitable containment and management systems which comply, or will comply, with relevant legislation. Please use any plan which is attached to the [CSF Request for Support form](#), to help with this.

RP28, where the proposal is to **roof** over sprayer washdown areas, manures stores, livestock gathering areas, slurry stores, silage stores, please refer to: -

- the need to keep dirty water and effluent separate from clean water
- the need to direct dirty water, effluent and clean water to suitable containment and management systems which comply, or will comply, with relevant legislation
- the need to cover a floor that is, or will be made, impermeable by the time the grant is claimed
- not directly lead to the expansion or intensification of the enterprise
- not to cover heaps of manure or silage in a field situation

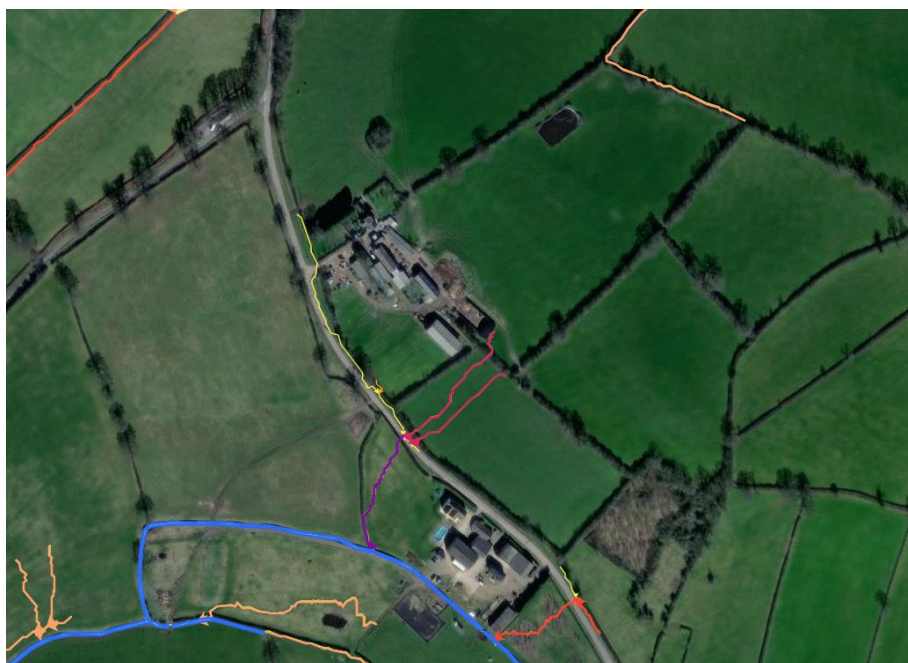
Planning Permission – Some capital items e.g., buildings, concreting etc. will require evidence of planning permission or confirmation from the relevant planning authority that it is not needed. Therefore, applicants will need to refer to the relevant CS specification and submit the relevant evidence with their grant claim where required.

CSF score (if approved)

High		Medium	X	Low	
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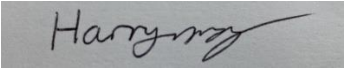
Justification to support the CSF approval and score or reasons for declining:

- The below ALERT map shows strong connectivity to the nearby watercourse.



- The current slurry wizard calculations give Mr Lewis slurry capacity at 3 months storage, whereas a calculation for post roofing gives Mr Lewis just over 5 months storage.
- This means that the proposed capital works will allow the farm will comply with storage requirements.

Form completed by:

	Harry May	
		Date: 28/10/2024
Countersigned by CSF where applicable:		
	Paula Sage	
		Date: 7th November 2024

This approval will be valid for up to 24 months from the date of CSF signature, provided that the details relating to the items and options which were approved have not changed.

RP15: Concrete yard renewal

How much you'll be paid

£33.64 per square metre (m²) - this will be converted into hectares in your agreement.

How this item benefits the environment

Upgrading existing outdoor (uncovered) yards improves how slurry and other effluents are managed and makes it easier to clean the yard. This reduces the risk of water and air pollution.

This item can help you protect, recover and improve biodiversity on your land.

Where you can use this item

You can only use this item with support from [Catchment Sensitive Farming](#):

- on farms targeted to reduce water and air pollution from agriculture
- where renewing the concrete will reduce pollution, including keeping slurry and effluent separate from clean water
- where the concrete covering the yard is used to direct slurry, contaminated water and effluent into systems which contain and manage them – it must comply with relevant legislation

Catchment Sensitive Farming provides advice where there are water quality or flood risk issues linked to farming.

You must contact your local planning authority to get advice and to check if planning permission is needed.

You cannot use this item:

- on covered or indoor yards
- for the flooring of silage clamps, manure or slurry stores
- in areas housing livestock
- where the pollution issue or risk has been created within the past 5 years (for example, by development of new buildings)
- where the proposal will lead to the expansion or intensification of your business
- on historic or archaeological features identified in your [Historic Environment Farm Environment Record](#) (HEFER)
- on areas of wildlife interest identified on your Farm Environment Record (FER) or on [MAGIC](#)

What you must do to use this item

You must:

- construct an upgraded concrete base to make it easier to clean and manage yard run-off, whilst not increasing the risk of silage or manure effluent loss
- construct the base with concrete at least 150 millimetres (mm) thick on compacted and blinded hardcore that's at least 150mm thick

- reinforce the concrete base (for example, with weldmesh or structural fibres) to minimise cracking and distribute the loads exerted by livestock or farm vehicles
- lay the concrete in bays and treat all joints with sealant that's resistant to effluent damage
- only fully load the concrete when it achieves its design strength (after 28 days)

You must not roof over an outside yard receiving aid through this item (even at your own expense).

Evidence you must keep

You must keep written support from your Catchment Sensitive Farming adviser and provide with your application.

You must also keep and provide with your claim:

- photographs of the site during the different stages of construction or contracts, invoices or other documents confirming the technical specification for the completed works
- photographs of the completed works
- any consents or permissions from the local planning authority

If you do not need consent or permission from your local planning authority, you must provide evidence to show this. This can be a:

- letter from the authority confirming you do not need permission
- note of a telephone conversation with a local authority representative, with the name, date, and time of the call
- link to online guidance or printout of guidance text which shows you do not need permission

You must also keep and provide on request:

- receipted invoices, or bank statements where a receipted invoice is unavailable
- photographs of site before works start
- any consents or permissions connected with the work (in addition to the ones provided with your claim)

Read the record keeping and site visit requirements in the [Agreement holder's guide: Capital Grants, Higher Tier capital grants and Protection and Infrastructure grants](#) for more information.

If you're applying for this item as part of a Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier (CSHT) application, read the record keeping and site visit requirements in the [CSHT agreement holder's guide](#).

Advice to help you use this item

The following advice may help you to use this item, but you do not have to follow it to get paid. It's not part of this item's requirements.

British Standards

Check to make sure the work meets relevant [British Standards](#).

Choosing a location

You can locate this item:

- in high traffic areas or in livestock movement and loafing areas within the curtilage of the farmyard
- on uncovered outdoor yards made of concrete, hardcore, stone, gravel, tarmac or bare earth within the curtilage of the farmyard

Keeping clean water and slurry separate

You should not let slurry, effluent or contaminated water mix with clean water. Plan how to manage any additional runoff from the impermeable concrete area. To do this, you may need to reassess the yard drainage which may include adding :

- cross drains
- catchpits
- gullies
- kerbs
- sleeping policemen

Protecting soil, water and air from pollution

Read the [Code of Good Agricultural Practice](#) about protecting soil, water and air from pollution.