

P/2020/0011

Proposed Agricultural Worker's Dwelling

Black Rock Farm LL13 0SQ

1) Functional Need

There are two sheds each used to house 41,000 chickens. The sheds were first stocked on 3rd January 2019 and 30 flocks have been completed since then. In the first week after placement chickens are inspected 3 times a day as required by the Red Tractor Farm Assurance Scheme: membership of the scheme is required by Maelor Foods Ltd for whom the chickens are reared. After the first week, inspections are carried out twice a day. The sheds are divided into 12 lanes by the drinkers and feeders: each inspection walk of 100yds covers 2 lanes. Stockmanship is crucial in determining whether any of the Five Freedoms as defined by the Farm Animal Welfare Committee are compromised and what remedial actions are necessary. Whilst there are chickens in the buildings there is a qualified stockperson (all family members) continuously on site for 168 hours a week.

Emergency interventions/repairs have included:

- a) Main computers, which control ventilation, feeding, water, lighting,
- b) Ventilation actuators
- c) Feed auger blockages
- d) Auger bearings seizure
- e) Burnt out auger motors
- f) Underfloor heating system and boreholes
- g) Extractor fans
- h) Temperature fluctuation outside a pre-set range
- i) Gas fired supplementary heaters

All of the above are regarded as emergencies which require immediate remedial work. In addition to the 10 computer-controlled extractor fans, each building has 12 x 4' diameter fans which are operated manually. Feed is stored in 3no. silos which have a total capacity of 90+ tonnes. Switchover is manual and requires attendance at unpredictable times.