



May 2021

21/01630/FUL Tadymoor Farm milking parlour, yard and lagoon (retrospective)

The AONB Partnership would like to express concern about this application.

The retrospective nature of the application is unfortunate for a significant change from the permitted development building notified in 2020. The additional impacts arise more from the change in land use and associated traffic linked to the development than from the different building in itself, though the concrete yard is a substantial additional built feature. However the fact that the development has already been undertaken and the new land use is in place means that these impacts can actually be observed for real rather than inferred or projected. The substantial body of local objection to the application indicates that these additional impacts need to be considered carefully by the Council in reaching a decision. We note the comments about condition of the land, damage to road verges and increased large vehicle traffic on the small lanes nearby.

Keeping the cattle outdoors year round is claimed to be environmentally friendly but this depends greatly on the stocking density, and often the environmental condition of the land in winter is a factor leading towards indoor housing in addition to animal welfare. The hill land here has significant slopes and is not typical dairy country so this use may work the land unsustainably hard and risks environmental harm, including compaction and loss of soil structure and quality from both the livestock and from significant regular passage of vehicles. This, along with periods of very low vegetation cover increases water run-off from what is a catchment headwater area where land would ideally be retaining rain water longer to reduce flooding downstream. Increased water run-off in turn also raises the risk of soil loss and of nutrient run-off and diffuse pollution.

The liquid stored in the lagoon contains slurry, the content of which is still present despite dilution. The additional water makes this even more mobile when spread, so it cannot be correct to say there is no pollution risk. The watercourses nearby are of high sensitivity, holding freshwater crayfish as well as being tributaries of the River Clun, part of which is designated a Special Area of Conservation.

We urge very careful consideration of this retrospective application and the environmental quality of the AONB. If the permission were to be granted there may be a need for conditions to mitigate the impacts.

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