

Pelistry Farm Livestock/Agricultural building

Shed structure.

The proposed 75x40 ft (23x12meter) shed would consist of a galvanised steel structure, timber clad sides coupled with precast concrete panelled walls to 5 ft in height accompanied by corrugated roof sheets slate blue in colour with a total of 10 corrugated roof lights. The shed will include an 8 ft overhang on the east facing profile.

The shed will be fixed via anchor bolts set into footing blocks poured prior to erection. Once the shed is erected concrete will be poured around the base of the legs capping of the bolt fixings providing strength to the structure whilst being incorporated into the shed flooring.

The building will incorporate precast concrete panels bolted to the shed stanchions on 3 sides of the structure from ground level to 5ft. Concrete panels have been chosen in the design due to their durability and strength where other materials such as wood will degrade once it comes in contact with manure for extended periods of time. The sides will then be clad vertically from 5ft to roof height using space board cladding. Space board cladding is the process of leaving a gap of approximately 20mm between each corresponding plank allowing constant airflow throughout the building. The cladding and concrete panelling will only be required on the North, South and West profiles of the shed leaving the East facing open.

Big 6 corrugated roof sheets slate blue in colour would be used with barge boards and ridge tiles to suit. The ridge tiles used on the shed would be alternating close fitting crown cranked. This will allow heat from the livestock in the shed to escape through the ridge tiles aiding with ventilation. A total of 10 clear roof lights would be incorporated into the roof, one per shed bay either side of the ridge providing natural light into the building.

Due to the current layout of buildings at Pelistry farm a proportion of the shed will be visible from the lane leading to Pelistry beach. The positioning of the shed would mean that a reduced amount of the building will be visible to the public. Siting the shed in the chosen area would allow for easy vehicular access around the yard whilst servicing the livestock and reduce movements over the lane during the harsh winter months.

Justification

Pelistry Farm is one of the only remaining traditional mixed Scillonian farms with both narcissi flowers and livestock. Currently livestock at Pelistry farm are out wintered on parcels of less favourable and drier areas of land. Due to the nature of the free draining sandy soils fields neighbouring Pelistry beach have become most suited for this period.

Over recent years changes in weather patterns have led to prolonged periods of extreme weather in particular extended rainfall. During the winter period daily checks of the livestock are undertaken to service the animals and provide them with forage made during the summer months which is stored at the main farm yard. Although maintenance to the lane is currently carried out by ourselves we

are conscious that multiple vehicular movements over the lane will in time aid towards its erosion hampering access to an increasingly popular beach.

A study of Pelistry Farm recently carried out by Carbon toolkit on behalf of The Duchy of Cornwall highlighted the positive impact the livestock had within the farming enterprise. However the report did go on to say that care must be taken throughout the winter months as to not undo the positive effects the cattle have during the majority of the year via excessive poaching of the saturated soils. Removing cattle from this area would significantly reduce vehicular moments over the lane with the majority of livestock operations being contained within the yarded area at Pelistry Farm.

At Pelistry Farm we are continually striving to find ways in which to improve our soil health as well as working with the environment. An example of this is recently becoming LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming) accredited. Over recent years we have looked at ways to increase farm productivity while incorporating new farming practices through the use of a minimum tillage seed drills and companion cropping. Both of which have been used to aid reduce erosion and carbon loss.

Through housing livestock during the winter months our aim is to harvest the manure enabling us to monitor nutrient levels and spread on selected fields to aid the following crop. The use of farmyard manure (FYM) will through time allow the farm to be less reliant on imported chemical fertilisers as well as helping to improve the structure, nutrient, fertility and PH levels of the soil.

During the summer months, the shed would be used to aid the increasing bulb and flower enterprise. Providing dry storage for processed bulbs and machinery whilst not in use.

Growing straw to use as bedding will provide another crop within the farming rotation, this intern will have a positive effect through the incorporation of crop reside back into the soil. We also believe that this may provide an incentive to other farmer/growers on the island by producing straw.