



Our Ref: PMK/DY/4137

1st July 2014

Mr P Somerfield
 East Staffordshire Borough Council
 The Maltsters
 Wetmore Road
 Burton upon Trent
 DE14 1LS

ESBC

- 2 JUL 2014

Dear Mr Somerfield

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (EIA) REGULATIONS 2011
 PROPOSED EXTENSION TO PIG FINISHING FACILITY
 LAND AT BONTHORNE FIELD, OFF DOGSHEAD LANE, BARTON
 UNDER NEEDWOOD : FOR MERCER FARMING**

Mercer Farming is proposing to apply for planning permission to extend the existing pig finishing facility at Bonthorne Field, Barton Under Needwood to accommodate a further 1750 pigs. The existing facility was approved under planning permission P/2012/01445 dated 13th February 2013. The site location of the proposed facility is identified on the enclosed drawings 4137.99 (Site Location Plan) and 4137/02 (Constraints Plan).

I am writing to obtain a Screening Opinion from the Local Authority as to whether the project falls within Schedule 1 or Schedule 2 of the above Regulations and therefore requires an Environmental Statement to be submitted as part of a planning application.

If the Local Authority require an Environmental Statement to be submitted, I am formally seeking the Scope of the Statement. I have set out below the background to the project, the proposed development, the application site and the potential environmental effects.

Background

Mercer Farming currently operates from 19 farms in the local area; they are renowned for their free range Packington Pork brand. The farms in total support, at any one time, some 42,000 pigs comprising 2,400 sows, 4,800 piglets, 14,500 grower pigs (7kgs - 40kgs) and 20,000 fattening pigs (40kgs - 110kgs). The sows are kept outdoors and the piglets reared outside until 12 weeks of age. The pigs are then finished in either large outdoor paddocks as free range pigs or in indoor facilities to high welfare standards for supermarket premium ranges. To improve control over the welfare and performance of the pigs Mercer Farming are undertaking more



indoor finishing within their own business, and are therefore seeking to extend the facility at Bonthorne Field.

Site Location

The location of the proposed extension to the finishing units is shown on the submitted Location Plan 4137.99 and Constraints Plan drawing no. 4137/02. The proposed facility would be located immediately to the north west of the existing pig finishing units. Access to the site would be gained from the current access to the pig finishing facility from Dogshead Lane. The site is located some 250 metres to the west of the A38.

Proposed Development

The site layout is shown on submitted drawing 4137/01. The scheme replicates the facility approved under planning permission P/2012/01445 and comprises the erection of 2 parallel finishing units on a concrete apron, with a bunded manure storage area to the rear of the units. The units are some 61 metres in length, 15 metres wide and 6 metres high. The elevational treatment of the units is shown in more detail on the submitted drawing 04 but briefly comprise concrete base walls with gale breaker curtain walls which are raised to allow natural ventilation of the units. A feed silo would serve each unit. The height of each feed silo is some 7.5 metres.

It is proposed to extend the access track linking the proposed units to the existing facility and Dogshead Lane. Sufficient space will be provided between the proposed extension and the existing facility to allow for HGV's to manoeuvre and leave the site in a forward gear.

Landscape planting is proposed along the field boundaries to the rear of the units (west), to the south of the access road, and along the frontage to Dogshead Lane. A substantial 12 metre wide planting belt is proposed along the boundary with Dogshead Lane. The proposed planting will assist in screening the facility and assimilating the development into the local environment.

Proposed Operation

The fattening process takes approximately 15 weeks and therefore each building would be stocked some 3.5 times per year. Whereas currently the existing pair of units operate on the same cycle, ie stocked at the same time, it is proposed once the extension is in operation that each of the four buildings will be stocked separately with approximately a three week period between each delivery of pigs. Approximately 3 HGVs would be required to deliver the pigs to one unit and 5 HGVs required to remove them from that unit at the end of the cycle. The pigs would be delivered to site at the start of the cycle in one day but could be sold over a 3 week period. A 25 tonne HGV of feed would be delivered per week to serve each pair of units.



The HGVs would access the site from Dogshead Lane, via the A38 Catholme Junction. Provision is available on site for the HGVs to enter/exit the site in a forward gear.

Manure from the units would be removed on a weekly basis and stored temporarily in the bunded manure storage area to the rear of the units.

The proposed finishing units comprise naturally ventilated buildings, kept to a low stocking density and are bedded with straw. Such requirements are essential for supermarkets, such as Marks and Spencers to purchase the pigs for their premium product ranges.

Possible Effects on the Environment

The potential environmental concerns relating to this proposal comprise odour and noise nuisance, an increase in local HGV traffic and the potential impact on a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The submitted Constraints Plan identifies the nearby sensitive receivers such as residential dwellings, Listed Buildings and the Scheduled Ancient Monuments. The nearest dwelling and Listed Building are located at Wychnor Bridges Farm, some 400 metres south of the site and on the opposite side of the A38 to the proposed scheme.

Odour

The main source of odour from the site would be from the manure generated during the pig finishing process. However, it is not anticipated that there would be an odour nuisance from the proposed facility which would affect the living conditions of residential properties in the vicinity of the site. This is due in part to the proposed management of the operation; the relatively small scale of the operation and the low stocking density. The units are naturally ventilated via the raising of the flexible, plastic curtain walls to form an opening to the atmosphere and immediate dissipation of any odour. There would be no active ventilation from the units and therefore there would be no fan/extractor noise related to the proposal.

Straw bedding soaks up urine and manure and is removed weekly from the sheds and stored in the temporary storage area to the rear of the units. Approximately once per month the manure will be removed from site and either spread directly onto fields or stored in temporary field mounds on land owned/controlled by the applicant. Manure would not be spread on Bonthorne Field surrounding the proposed pig units.

Furthermore, the nearest residential property to the site is some 400 metres to the south on the opposite side to the A38. The nearest properties "downwind" of the site, given a south-westerly prevailing wind are some 600 metres from the site at Catholme Lane, again on the opposite side of the A38 to the proposed scheme. It is not considered



that any odour emanating from the site will affect the living conditions at these dwellings given the substantial distances from the site.

Noise

The two main sources of noise emanating from the site would be from the pigs and HGV movements.

The maximum number of HGVs visiting the site on one day would be 6 if all the pigs were removed in one day and a feed delivery occurred on the same day. Moreover, this would only potentially occur 50 times per year if the operations of existing and proposed units are considered together. Regular visits to the site would comprise one car belonging to the Site Manager and the weekly feed delivery. It is not considered that such movements would comprise a significant noise nuisance.

HGV noise or noise from the pigs emanating from the site must be set in the context of the site's proximity to the A38. It is unlikely that any such site-related noise would be discernible against the prevailing A38 traffic noise at the nearest properties to the site, particularly given the position of such properties at Wychnor Bridges Farm and Catholme Lane which are located adjacent to the A38.

Traffic Impact

In terms of traffic movements, it is not considered that the articulated lorries required to deliver and remove the pigs would comprise a significant traffic impact in the local area. The maximum number of HGV's visiting the site on one day would be 6 if all the pigs from one unit were removed from the site on one day and a feed delivery occurred. However, as set out above it would more commonly take 2-3 weeks to empty a unit fully and therefore the HGV traffic visiting the site would be spread across this period.

The HGVs will access Dogshead Lane from the A38 Catholme Junction. The site access is situated some 40 metres to the west of the junction and therefore the traffic related to the project would not be passing through local villages; indeed there are no residential properties adjacent to the route to and from the site and the Catholme Junction.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments

To the south east of the proposed site, in the adjoining field is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, protected for "ridge and furrow, enclosure and pit alignment" features. The applicant recognises the importance of the Scheduled Ancient Monument and appreciates that further work may be required prior to the submission of the application given the proximity of the Scheduled Ancient Monument boundary to the site.



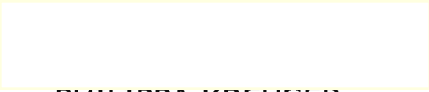

However, the submitted archaeological assessment in support of the existing facility concluded there would be no significant impact on the Scheduled Ancient Monument as a result of the erection of the pig finishing units. Given that the proposal is some 40m further away from the boundary of the Scheduled Ancient Monument, it is considered unlikely that the proposed scheme would have a significant impact on this heritage asset.

In summary, it is considered that the proposed development would not cause harm to any interests of acknowledged importance by reason of visual impact, odour, noise or traffic impact.

I trust this information is sufficient for your Screening and Scoping requirements, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further details.

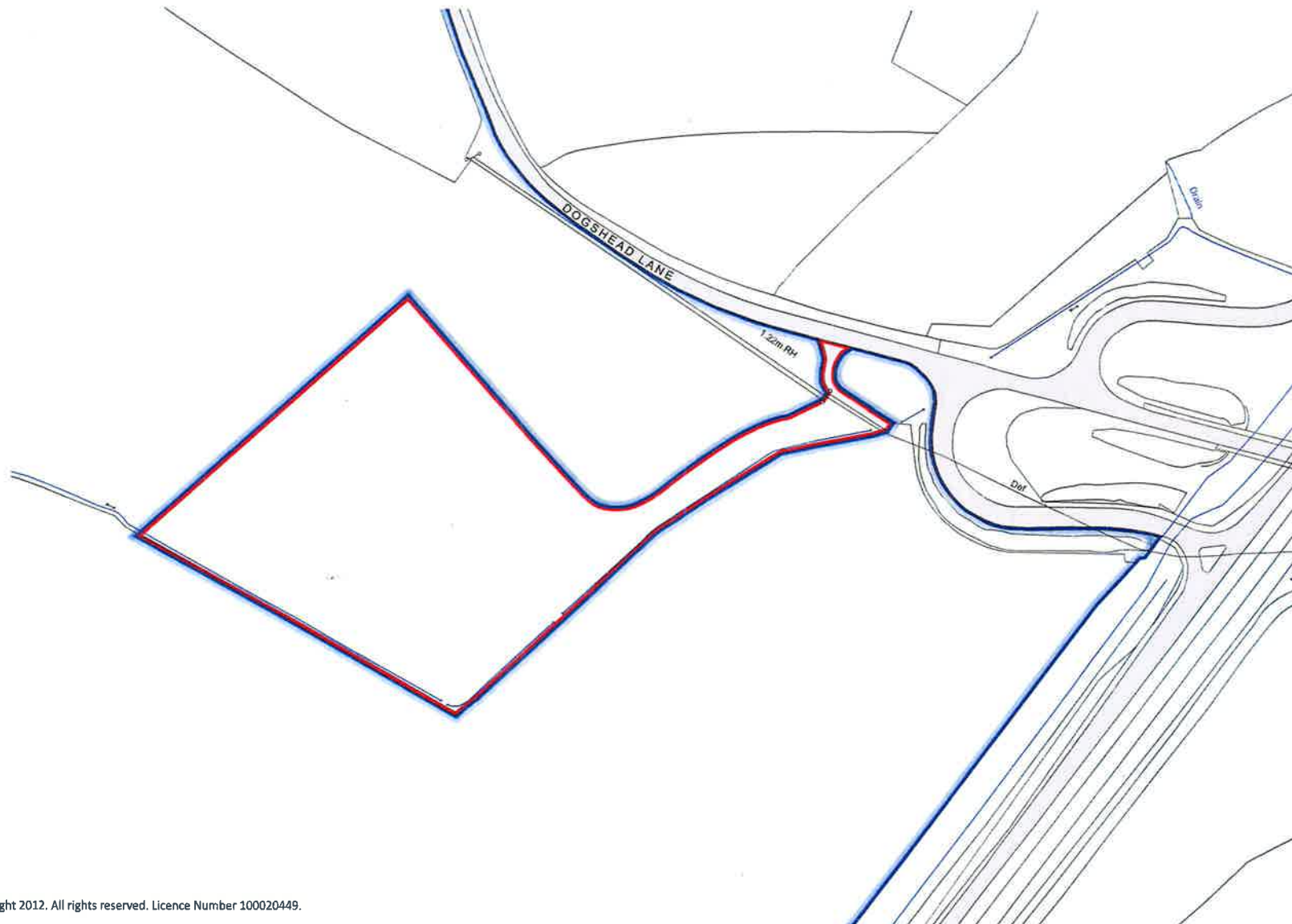
If the Authority consider that a formal Environmental Impact Assessment is not required, I would welcome clarification of the technical documents you would require to support the application.

Yours sincerely


PHILIPPA KREUSER
BSc(Hons) MA MRTPI
Email: 

Enclosures : Drawing 4137.99 : Location Plan
Drawing 4137/01 : Site Layout Plan
Drawing 4137/02 : Constraints Plan
Drawing 04 : Proposed Buildings

cc: Mr R Mercer





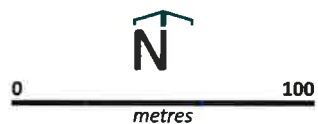
Ordnance Survey ©Crown Copyright 2012. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100020449.



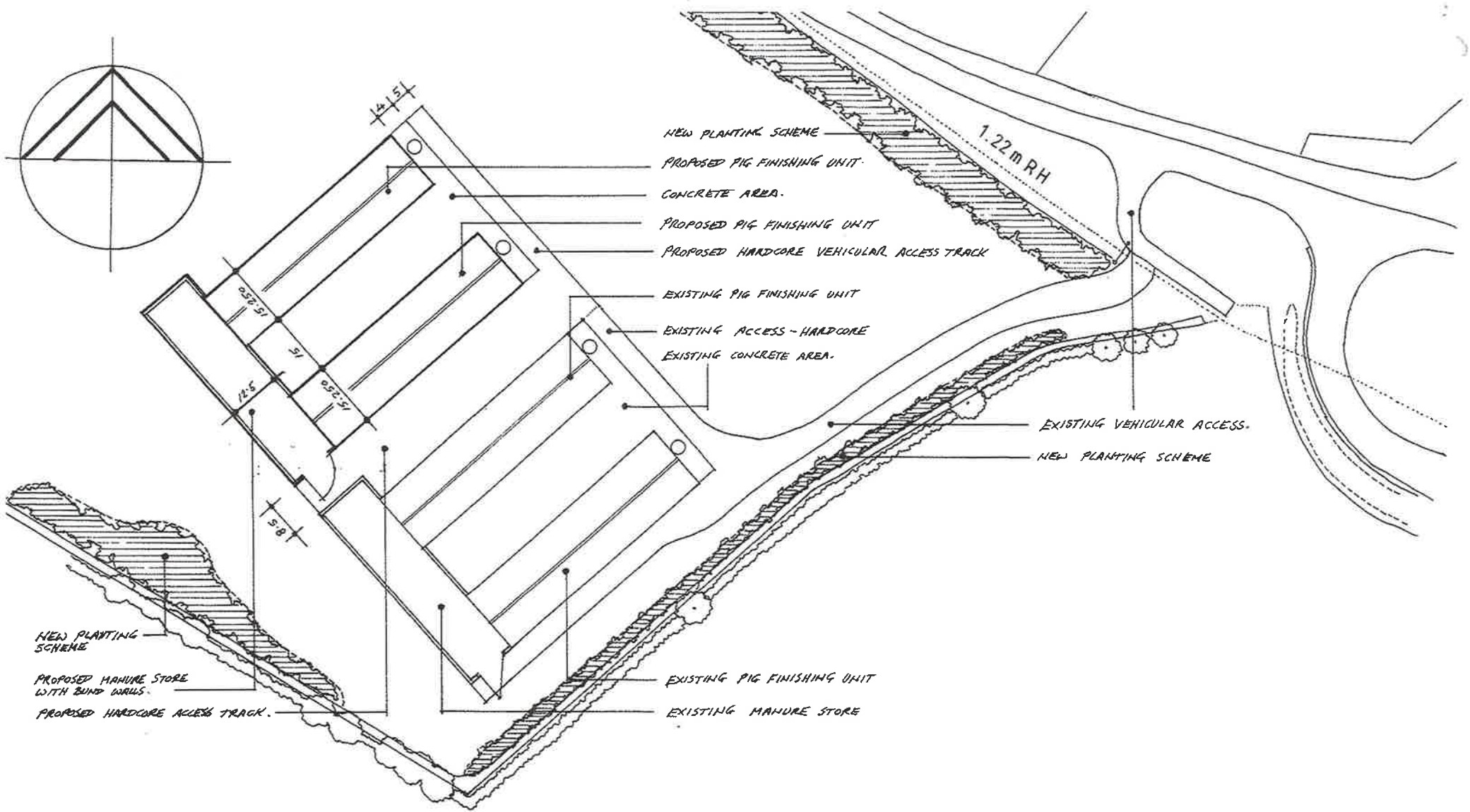
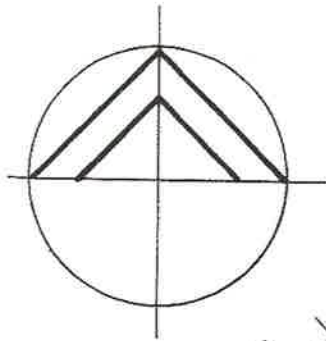
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LEGEND

-  Application site
-  Land in the applicant's control



<p>PACKINGTON PORK Packington Farm Pig Finishing Unit 4137/99 1:2500 @A4 June 2014</p>	<p>PROJECT CLIENT TITLE DRG NO SCALE DATE</p>
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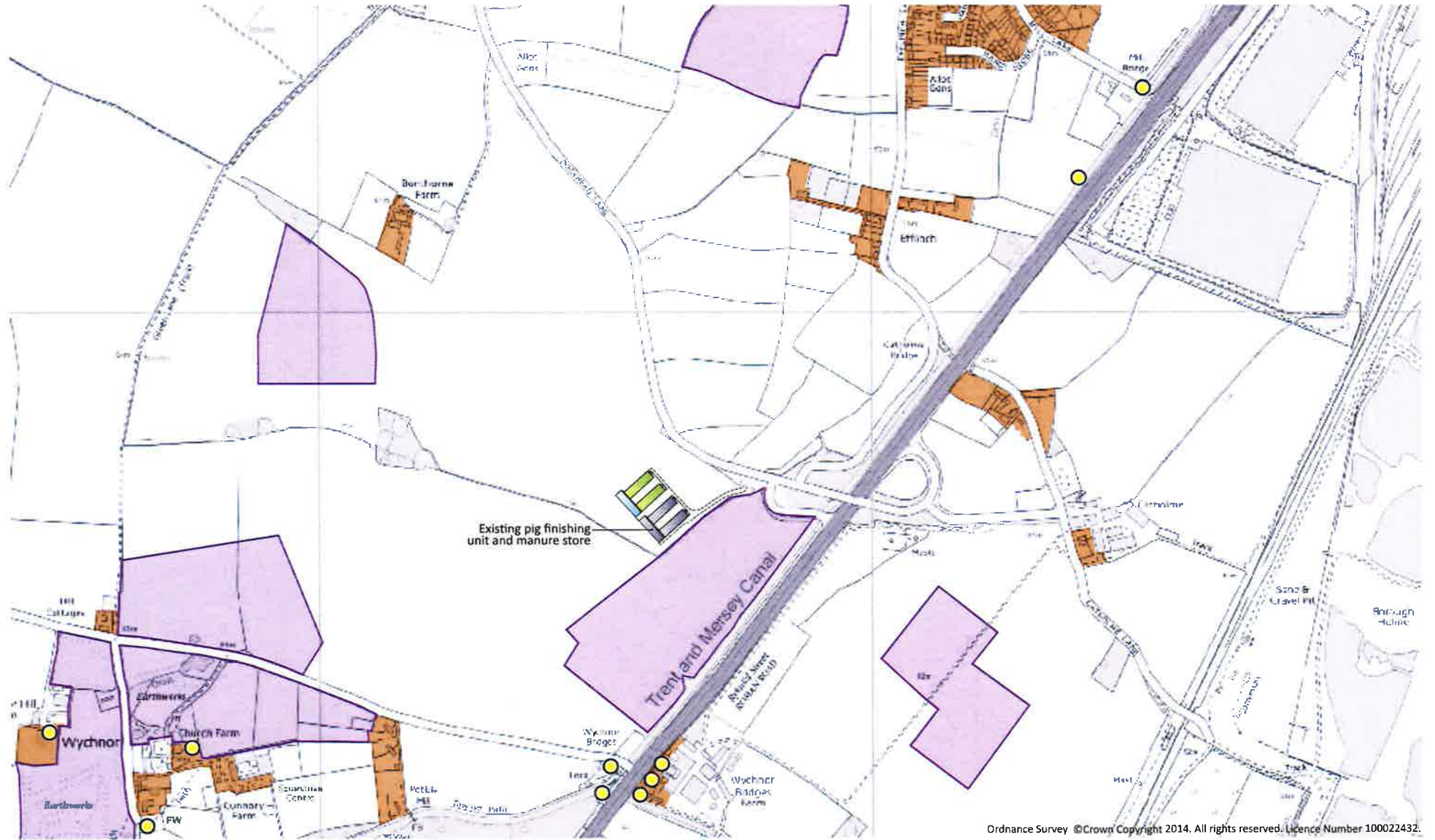
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0 50
metres




PACKINGTON PORK PROJECT
Packington Farm
Pig Finishing Unit TITLE
4137/01 DRG NO
1:1250 @A4 SCALE
Apr 2014 DATE





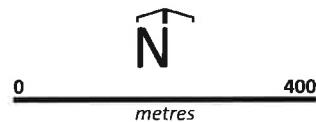
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LEGEND

-  Proposed pig finishing unit
-  Proposed manure store
-  Scheduled Ancient Monument

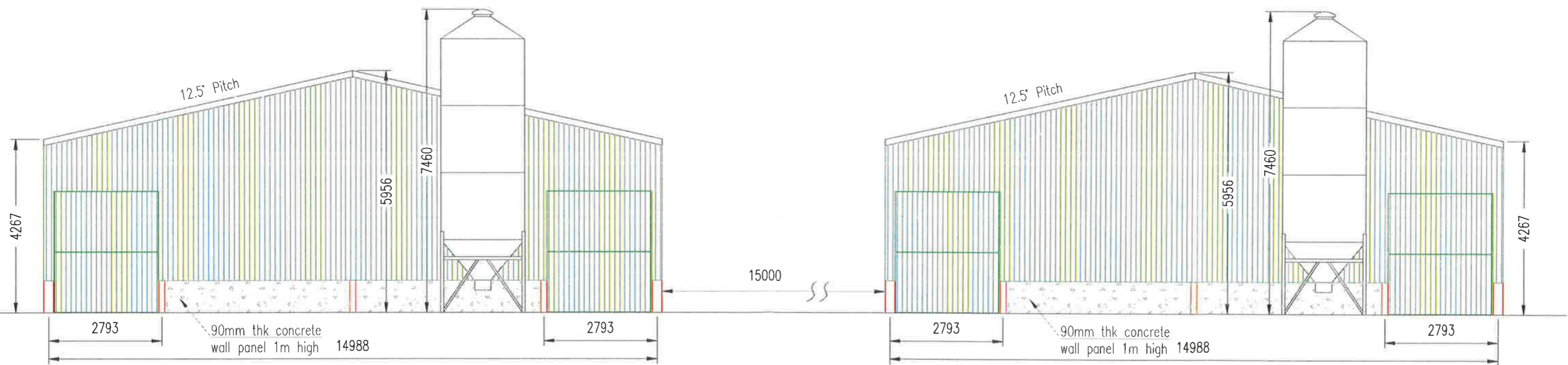
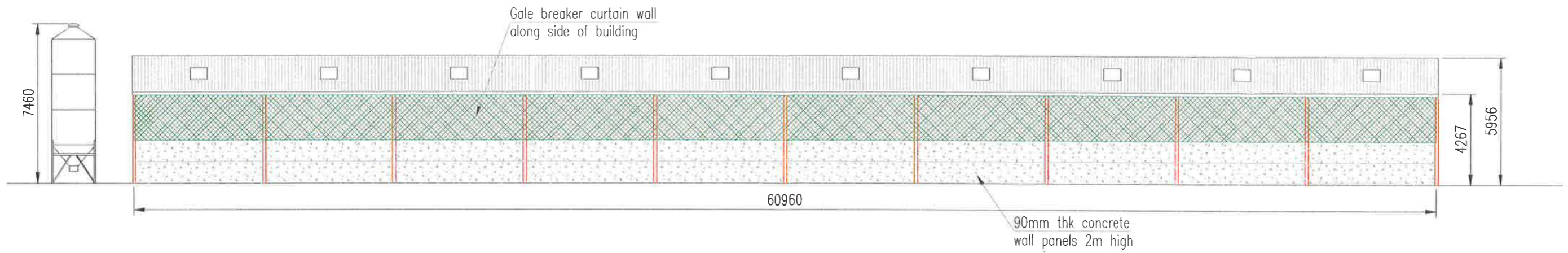
-  Residential development
-  Listed building



BONTHORNE FIELD PROJECT
Dogshead Lane, Barton under Needwood,
Burton upon Trent DE13 8AW

Site Location
4137/02
1:10,000 @A4
May 2014

TITLE
DRG NO
SCALE
DATE



<p>Quality Equipment G.E. BAKER (UK) LTD</p> <p>Heath Rd, Woolpit, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, IP30 9RN Telephone: 01359 240529 Facsimile: 01359 242086 www.quality-equipment.co.uk Email: info@quality-equipment.co.uk</p> <p>All information shown is the sole property of G E Baker UK Limited and any use in full or in part is strictly prohibited without express permission ©</p>	Rev	Revision note	Date	
	⊕	Customer Mercer	Date 26/10/12	Scale 1:100,200
	If in doubt, ask		Dwg. Title Elevations	
	Dwg. No. 04		Drawn by SJC	Rev. A3