

Non-technical summary

Farm name: Lockes & Blackhall Farm

Applicant: North Farm Livestock Ltd

Lockes and Blackhall Farm are existing pig buildings, run by the current owner on a continuous system therefore under threshold. As North Farm Livestock acquire the farm, this will change to a wean to finish system and take the farm over threshold.

Locks Farm, situated at NGR TG10443236 is in an isolated rural location, approximately 1.9 km to the south-south-east of the village of Edgefield in Norfolk. The surrounding land is used largely for arable farming, although there are some wooded areas nearby. The site is at an altitude of around 55 m with the land rising towards higher ground to the north and falling towards the River Bure Valley to the south. Locks Farm has 4 existing pig buildings, plus a tractor shed, that will be converted to house pigs. Buildings labelled 1- 4 hold 748 pig places each, the building labelled tractor shed will be converted to hold 300 pigs, totalling at 3292 pig places at Locks Farm.

Blackhall Farm, situated at NGR TG10103313, is approximately 750 m to the north-north-west of Locks Farm and is approximately 1.1 km to the south-south-east of Edgefield. Blackhall Farm is at an altitude of around 62 m with the land rising towards higher ground to the north and falling towards the River Bure Valley to the south. Blackhall farm has one existing building holding 1008 pigs. Taking the total pig places of the Lockes & Blackhall Farm unit to 4,300 places.

Across the whole unit, the pigs will be wean to finish (7kg-105kg), reared on a naturally ventilated straw based solid floor system. There is a lying area and a dunging area. The dunging area is scraped through every day, and fresh straw added to the lying area. The solid manure from this is stored on concrete muck pads and is removed 3 times a year, and exported off farm on a muck for straw contract with neighbouring arable farmer.

Pigs will be fed pelleted feed ad-lib which is formulated specifically to match the growth stage of the pig by BQP's dedicated nutritionist. Protein and phosphorus levels are kept to a minimum at all times. The feed is made by ForFarmers. Nipple drinkers are used and water consumption is monitored.

These measures are intended to reduce the production and emission of ammonia odours and dust and to prevent liquids escaping to the environment. This in turn should reduce the environmental impact of the farming activities.

Solid manure is stored on a concrete muck pads with collection system to contain liquids. Dirty water from yards and the contents of the wheel wash and footbaths is collected and stored in dirty water lagoons.

Dead stock are deposited into dedicated covered and locked carcass bins which are emptied when necessary.

The farm runs a batch system therefore all buildings are pressure washed and disinfected at the end of the batch. The dirty water is collected and exported to neighbouring arable farmer for spreading on surrounding land in accordance with Good Agricultural Practice.

The farm operates as a part of BQP's fully integrated supply chain with the aim to reduce waste and the emission of ammonia, dust and odours as well as increasing efficiency throughout the whole process.