



# Non-Technical Summary

## Tranmere Sheds

Tranmere Sheds is owned by a small family company, M Field, and is currently permitted for 2520 finishing pigs.

The farm is on the B1249 between Driffield and Langtoft. There is no public access through the yard or on the arable land in the vicinity and there are no SSSI's in close proximity of the farm: the farm is in a NVZ.

Electricity is mainly provided by our supplier, E-On, but there are solar panels on site. There are two generators installed to heat grain store and an emergency back-up and a total of 2 gas cylinders on site: one for the house (LPG) and one for the drier (propane). The majority of water is sourced from a bore hole, which is alarmed and tested, although at peak capacity- or in an emergency- mains is used.

Pesticides are stored in locked container and waste, and used products, are mixed with slurry, stored in a slurry bag. Round up is the only pesticide used, it is stored in a locked container and applied twice during the summer by qualified personnel. Diesel is supplied by AMK fuels and stored in impermeable containers. The slurry is stored off site and spread on land, predominantly off farm: two Agronomists are employed, and advise on the application of muck. Muck is removed and stored on middens off site. Surface water mostly flows in to drains. Roofwater is not currently collected but this is being looked at.

All incidents are reported in a management diary. There has never been any complaints about the farm at Tranmere.

There are two different types of shed on sight. Purpose built bacon houses and converted barns. The purpose built pig sheds range from 5 to 25 years old. They are all environmentally controlled houses. They are well insulated, with slatted, or part slatted-part concrete floors, the slurry is removed at the end of each batch. The temperature and air speed are monitored, controlled and recorded by a system. A temperature profile for the pigs is programmed into the computer system. Levels of humidity are controlled to ensure that the dry matter of the litter does not fall below 60%.

The converted straw sheds are fully mucked out at the end of each batch. More than 70% of pigs are stored with a scrape through system which is used weekly. They are naturally ventilated through Yorkshire boarding.

A stocking rate in line with the industry guidelines, Red Tractor standards, is never exceeded and seen as an absolute maximum. Birds are introduced at up to 14 weeks old and depletion begins at 22 weeks old and all pigs are removed by 27 weeks (having been on site up to 14 weeks), giving an average of 3.5 batches a year. Sheds are then emptied and the straw, or slurry is then removed by tractor. We are trying to make the whole site, all in all out. The buildings are then washed and disinfected. The clean out period is usually 10 days.

The principal emissions from the unit include ammonia and minimal dust. The measures set out above are aimed to reduce the production and thus emission of ammonia, odours and dust from the sheds, and so reduce the environmental impact. The fans (in bacon houses, prevent rainwater from entering the buildings, thus the risk of the bedding becoming wet is minimal. Keeping the straw dry and using optimum levels of protein in the diet reduces ammonia production.

Each shed has its own feed which is blown in by contractor. Balanced diets are produced by ABN, with diets formulated with optimum protein levels and fed in controlled quantities to match the requirements of the pig age: there are two diets according to age. Each shed has its own bin and all rations are blown directly into hoppers where it is stored. Feed is moved to buildings in augers. Any food spillage is immediately removed. Water is provided through drip feed bite drinkers in all accommodation except one shed of 300 which have river drinkers.

All carcasses are stored in a sealed container and are then removed off site by a contractor,  
He visits weekly and is met on the drive for transfer.

There is a herd health plan that is monitored and supplied by the Garth Vet and the whole site is Red Tractor assured.