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# Planning Statement

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**Lower Byrwydd  
Castle Caereinion  
Welshpool  
Powys  
SY21 9AU**

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Erection of slurry store and all associated works

A M Jones

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**September 2024**

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## 1.0 The Proposal

The proposal is a development that will provide a modern covered slurry store at Lower Byrwydd, Castle Caereinion.

The application site sits to the south of the main farmstead with no existing slurry stores on farm. Planting doesn't form part of this application however the client is willing to work with the authority to ensure the proposed building are screened.

The proposed store will be 11.354m high and 38.993m wide. The proposed materials to be used are metal walls 6.06m high and will be open above, with a fibre cement roof to cover the store.

The proposed store will be located in a developed area with large agricultural buildings sitting to the north and therefore is compatible with the surrounding area.

The design aims to keep a balance between the two aims of the planning system – efficient economic development and protection of the landscape.

### 1.1 The Objective

The aim of slurry storage is to improve water quality and help mitigate climate change by ensuring sufficient slurry capacity is available on a farm for the equivalent livestock units. The storage will allow the plant nutrients within the slurry to be used more efficiently and reduce the needs for inorganic fertilisers, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the potential for the leaching of nutrients to the water. This benefit will further be increased as the proposal includes a covering which will mitigate the addition of rainfall to the slurry, stopping it becoming diluted and reducing the volume.

The proposal will not result in the increase of livestock. It will be used to store slurry that is already produced on the farm and will provide extra storage to ensure it is only spread as the correct and recommended times of the year.

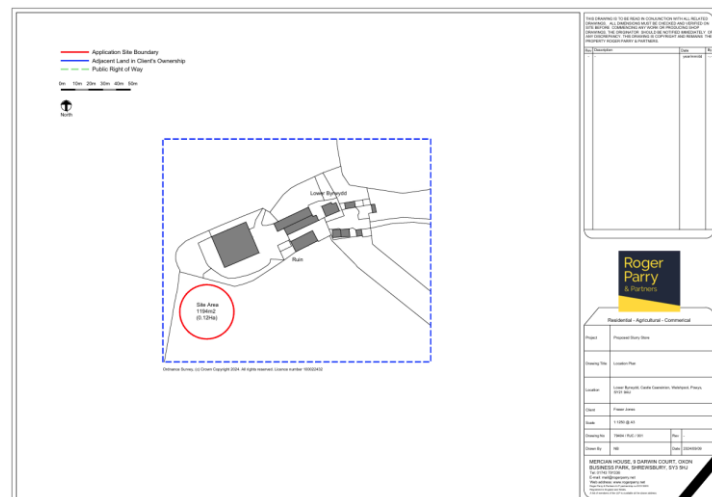
## 2.0 Assessment of the proposal

### 2.1 The Site



The proposed slurry store will not stand out in the surrounding landscape as it will be located adjacent to the large farming complex, therefore the proposal will not have any adverse effect on the site or surrounding area.

Lower Byrwydd comprises of agricultural land and buildings, the land is mainly used for arable and grazing. The proposed store is essential for the successful continuation of the farming enterprise and to comply with The Control of Agricultural Pollution Regulations 2021 (COFAPR) regarding the storage and use of slurry.



### 2.2 Ecology

The proposed slurry tower will have no detrimental effect on the wildlife or the surrounding ecology as the area is already a highly intensive agricultural piece of land which is used to access existing buildings by large machinery.

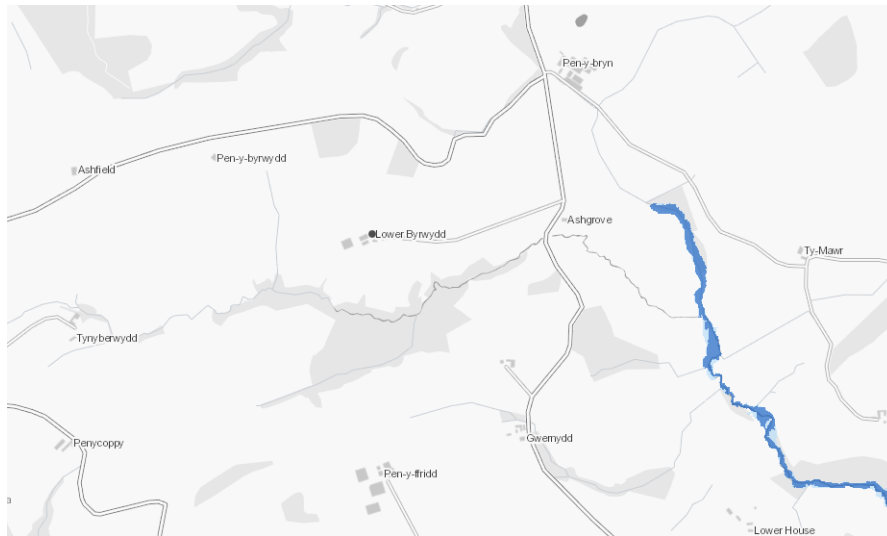
## ADD ECOLOGY REPORT SUMMARY

### 2.3 Highways

The proposal will have no impact on the highways as the site will be accessed by an existing access and used by the applicants. There will be no increased traffic to the site if the proposal is granted.

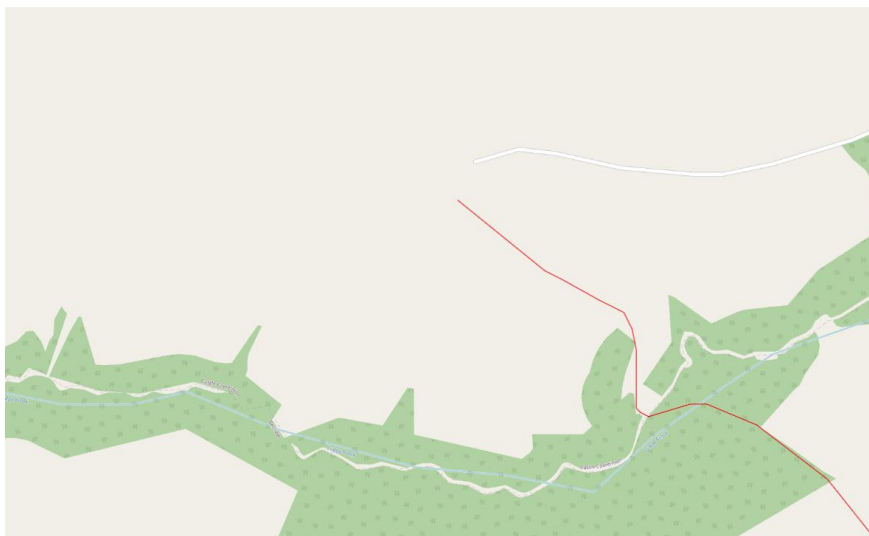
### 2.4 Flooding

The site is located outside of any flooding identified on NRW's flood risk assessment map.



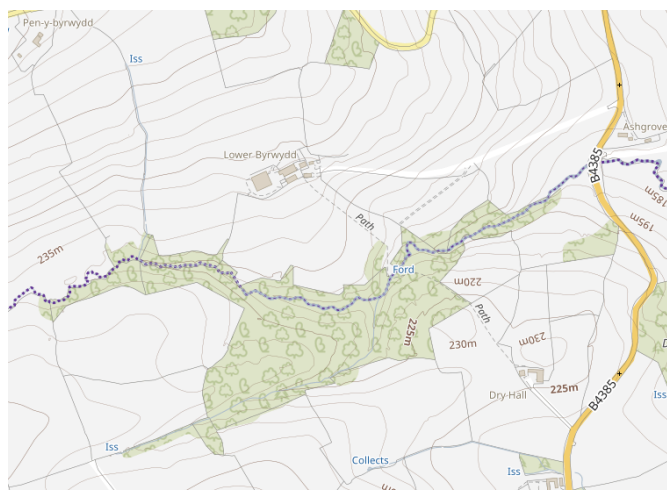
### 2.5 Footpath

There are no public rights of way on the proposed site. All nearby footpaths will be unaffected by the development and the applicant will ensure access remains available at all times.



## 2.6 Cultural Heritage Assessment

There are no listed buildings on or adjacent to the proposed site. The closest listed building is over 500m away from the proposed site. Due to large established hedgerows and the lie of the land there will be no effect on them. The visual impact is further reduced by the proposal having the backdrop of the buildings and existing farmyard at Lower Byrwydd.



## 3.0 Policy Context

This section assesses the principle of the proposed development against policies contained within the statutory development plan and also other material considerations, including national planning policy, government circulars.

### 3.1 Local Planning Policy

In paragraph 2.2.12 in the Powys LDP 2011-2026 it states economic consideration has to be given to agriculture, from being the largest primary production industry in Powys recognised. Objective 7- Key Economic sector outlines wanting to maintain and strength key economic sectors of Powys.

The development site is situated in an area considered in planning policy terms to be open countryside, where TAN 6 and TAN 23 strictly controls the new development at such location. Development will only be permitted when the proposals are considered to be appropriate uses, which enhance and maintain the vitality and character of the countryside.

The polices emphasise that development must be in accordance with direct new development to be of an appropriate scale, and design, taking into account form and layout, local context and character such as building materials, form, colour and texture. The polices also require that new development shall be to detrimental impact upon the residential amenity of neighbours.

### 3.2 National Planning Policy

Chapter 4 of Planning Policy Wales (PPW) recognises the countryside as a dynamic and multi-purpose resource which requires the careful balancing of goals and needs. Whilst respecting the principle of exercising strict control over development in the open countryside, it is important given the nature of Powys and its rural economy that the Plan supports development proposals which are appropriate to the location, and which sustain and enhance the working countryside. In particular PPW advocates a constructive approach to agricultural development and to rural diversification particularly for business re-use of farm buildings (7.6.5 PPW). All new development in the open countryside should respect the character of the surrounding area and be of appropriate scale and design.

The policy framework for the consideration of agricultural buildings is set out in TAN6 – Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities. Section 6.1.1 states “the Welsh Assembly Government’s objective is a sustainable and profitable future for farming families and businesses through the production and processing of farm products while safeguarding the environment, animal health and welfare, adapting to climate change and mitigating its impacts, while contributing to the vitality and prosperity of our rural communities. The planning system can play an important part in supporting the future sustainability of agriculture.”

## 4.0 Planning Policy Assessment

At all levels of planning policy there is a strong commitment to agriculture to provide necessary resources for correct storage of farmyard manure in line with the guidelines.

The acceptability of the Proposed Development is therefore influenced most by the details of the proposal and its associated impacts.

In summary, the planning considerations for the covered slurry store at Lower Byrwydd are identified below and considered in turn:

- The principle of the development.
- Landscape and visual impacts.
- Nature conservation and biodiversity.
- Historic environment and heritage assets.
- Residential amenity.
- The highway network and access.

### 4.1 The Principle of the Development

Lower Byrwydd is located outside Castle Caereinion and as such is in the countryside where new development is strictly controlled. However, Government and Local Authority have a commitment to the provision of allowing new buildings for agricultural use.

The application site is technically suitable for this covered slurry store proposal being open and level, close to the existing farm buildings without any major impact to the existing infrastructure at Lower Byrwydd. It is considered that this is an appropriate location for this type of development and that it complies with the relevant criteria of policies.

### 4.2 Landscape and Visual impacts

It is concluded that the proposed development would not have a significant landscape or visual impact, as it will sit adjacent to existing buildings and with the backdrop of the established farmyard. Thus, the proposed development complies with criteria of policy.

### 4.3 Natural Resources Wales assessment

The proposal is for a slurry store with metal walls, covered with a roof that will ensure the enterprise has sufficient storage space to store the farmyard slurry produced by the current livestock at Lower Byrwydd. A new slurry store will allow for more efficient spreading of slurry when the land requires it most rather than having to spread all year round. The proposal will not increase existing stock numbers.



## 5.0 Conclusion

The proposed covered slurry store would provide essential slurry storage which is required to fulfil the functional need of Lower Byrwydd.

The proposal is of an agricultural nature in appearance and would sit close to existing buildings. It is considered that any visual impact would be minimal in this context as seen from both the main road and wider landscape.

There will be no impact on the site's ecology, footpaths, listed buildings, highways or flood risk.

The proposal will not result in the increase of livestock on the farm. It is needed to store slurry in line with regulations and recommendations given by the Government.

It is therefore considered the proposal is compliant with national and local planning policies, we therefore politely request the application be approved.