

Planning Statement:

The proposed development could provide a secondary income and farm diversification. We would be able to sell the resultant firewood and dry hay. Harvesting hay is becoming increasingly difficult due to climatic change and this drying facility would be of huge benefit, to ourselves and local farmers. The resultant dry logs would be used in the farmhouse, farm cottage and our two self catering cottages and this would reduce our dependency on fossil fuels.

A hard standing is required for Health and Safety reasons. The hard standing would provide a firebreak between the boiler and the existing wood. Wood and hay will be stored on the hard standing.

Presently the current site is used for forestry. We are in the process of applying for a felling license as the wood is ripe for harvesting. Harvested timber would fuel the boiler and therefore transportation would be negligible. We hope to use our own timber but may on occasion buy in timber if dry wood is unavailable on the farm, or if the weather prohibits the felling of our own trees.

We intend to operate the boiler ourselves however we will be offering employment to local people who can provide specialist machines such as harvesters and forwarders.

We would extend the existing track for Health and Safety reasons and this would enable vehicles to move freely around the site. There would be little vehicle movement. Vehicles may deliver wood and pickups may collect the finished dry product but we foresee most of the logs being used within the farm complex.

Noise will be minimal as there is only a small fan within the boiler. No external lights are needed.