



Your ref: DM/26/1442
Our ref: ELU/PL/007
Email: polly.lawman@nfu.org.uk
Direct line: 07831 589810
Date: 03/09/2026

Dear Planning Officer,

Planning application: DM/26/1442 – Excavations and engineering operations associated with the construction of new manure store and slurry lagoon

Location Address: Bolney Park Farm, Broxmead Lane, Bolney, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH17 5RJ

The National Farmers' Union (NFU) writes in support of the above application submitted by our member at Bolney Park Farm.

The National Farmers' Union represents over 43,000 farming and growing businesses across England and Wales. We work to champion British agriculture and horticulture and to secure a sustainable future for our members.

The proposed manure store and slurry lagoon constitute essential agricultural infrastructure required to support the continued operation, environmental compliance and long-term resilience of the farm business.

All agricultural businesses are required to comply with the Water Resources (Control of Pollution) (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) (England) Regulations 2010 (SSAFO). Having sufficient slurry storage, which complies with the requirements of SSAFO is essential for agricultural businesses to meet their regulatory requirements and is fundamental to the long-term viability of farm businesses. It is, therefore, essential that farm businesses are able to invest in this vital infrastructure, ensuring that it remains fit for purpose and meets their needs both now and in the longer term.

Further, ensuring that farmers are able to meet their regulatory requirements and invest in new, modern, slurry storage has the potential to deliver environmental benefits, ensuring that slurries are handled appropriately and minimising pollution risks. Therefore, enabling farmers

to invest in these projects delivers for the environment, as well as supporting the local economy by ensuring the continued viability of rural businesses.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that planning decisions should help create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt, with significant weight placed on supporting economic growth and productivity. Farm businesses require modern infrastructure to remain commercially viable, environmentally responsible and compliant with regulatory standards.

Furthermore, the NPPF supports the sustainable growth and expansion of rural businesses and the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses. The proposed manure store and slurry lagoon represent a modest but essential investment in agricultural infrastructure which will strengthen the long-term sustainability of the holding and support the rural economy. This approach is echoed in the Mid Sussex District Plan (including Policy DP14). Therefore, we see rejecting this planning application as contrary to both the NPPF and the District Plan.

For these reasons, the NFU requests that Mid Sussex District Council reviews their decision and grants permission to the applicant for this important development.

Yours faithfully,

