



INTENSIVE PIG UNITS IN POWYS

CPRW has been concerned about pig development in Powys ever since we learned about the installation of a pig unit (P/2015/1240) metres from the river Hindwell, tributary of the river Lugg and some 400m from a controversial 80,000 broiler unit. We discovered that pigs were not mentioned in the application. Neither NRW nor the council's ecology officer were consulted. CADW had asked for confirmation that the building would be used for cattle or sheep and the Planning Officer gave this.

Since then we have discovered that many other "livestock sheds" or "agricultural sheds" have received planning approval with no mention of the intention of installing intensive pig-rearing. At first Powys planning officers denied that they had the right to ask applicants about the intended use of buildings and NRW said they did not have the resources to investigate our findings. We are not aware of any attempt at planning enforcement by Powys, or legal action or fines by NRW against any of these units.

There can be no doubt that these were cases of deliberate deception. This ruse to evade environmental scrutiny may have been more widespread in the UK: see posts on Farming Forum at the height of the applications in 2017:

<https://thefarmingforum.co.uk/index.php?threads/bqp-pigs-new-build-shed-system.155050/page-2>

<https://thefarmingforum.co.uk/index.php?threads/pig-sheds.168762/page-3>



S J H
Member
Location: Bedfordshire

Jan 23, 2017 #28

ploughman1963 said: Ⓞ

a question re planning:
with smell nuisance in mind, if one was to apply for a shed suitable for the above as a bare general purpose shed with intended use for machinery and livestock therefore getting planning without too much trouble, and then subsequently fit it out with all the equipment to make it suitable for pig finishing?? Would that be the easiest way to go about it?
TIA

I think you'd need full planning as its classed as intensive livestock, I think they'd be plenty of arguments to let you have one.

Ⓞ JP1



JP1
Member
Livestock Farmer
Location: Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

Jan 23, 2017 #22

ploughman1963 said: Ⓞ

umm - last farm shed we were involved with had no such restrictions which is why it occurred to me that it might be easier to convert an 'existing' shed rather than apply for a new pig unit

If you apply for planning you have to state if you are near other properties and if you intend to keep livestock. Seems the worst of all Worlds taking the risk after you've built a GP building. I got mine by volunteering no mono gastrics



oldoaktree
Member
Location: County Durham

Oct 4, 2017 #41

Turra farmer said: Ⓞ

Ever heard of odour assessment ?

I didn't realise that you had to jump through so many hoops to get planning for pigs sheds .
Why can't they just get planning for ag shed then convert it ?

It is likely that Powys has remained an easy target in Wales with the authorities “turning a blind eye”. Of 28 applications we have identified, only 7 have revealed that they are for pigs (5 separate farms), 13 have not mentioned pigs but installed pigs after gaining permission (13 separate farms) and sizes of the remainder are highly suggestive of pig-sheds.

The sheds are usually either 60.9m x 15.24m (1000 pigs) or half the size (500 pigs). Sometimes two separate applications are made for half-size buildings. This is not a local high-value “Welsh-brand” industry. Most, if not all, these units for so-called “bed and breakfast” pigs are run under contract with Stockcroft, which is part of Pilgrim’s Pride Corporation, a US-based pig and poultry supplier, which, in turn, is owned by Brazilian meat giant JBS, which acquired Tulip in October 2019 from Danish Crown. There is a large Tulip slaughterhouse in Ashton under Lyne.

<http://www.pig-world.co.uk/news/tulip-to-change-its-name-to-pilgrims-pride.html>

The national agricultural statistics for Wales (June 2019) say ‘*There was a 5.3 per cent increase in the number of pigs in Wales in June 2019. The current total is 24,400. The majority (87 per cent) of these animals are kept for fattening (meat production) with the remainder used for breeding*’.

‘Remaining producers tend to be the larger ones and are relatively few in number. To illustrate this, over two thirds of the pigs in June 2019 were to be found on fewer than 30 holdings.’

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2019-11/survey-agriculture-and-horticulture-june-2019-730.pdf>

This would give roughly 21,000 fattening pigs in Wales (87% of 24,400).

Ian Pick, well informed agricultural agent for many of the largest intensive livestock operations in Powys, has written in justification for his new application for 1,000 pigs at Abehafesp (20/1122/FUL) ‘*This type of development is not unique in Powys, and around 26 units identical to this proposal have already being built on farms in the County.*’

Ian Pick’s assessment suggests intensive ‘finishing’ pig numbers in Powys around 26,000. This matches our own findings, although we cannot be certain that all the units identified have pigs installed nor that we have discovered all the applications which might be for pigs. **Both Pick’s and CPRW’s assessments indicate more pigs in Powys than identified by the national statistics for the whole of Wales.** This parallels the situation for intensive poultry numbers.

Many of these pig units are close to protected water courses and there is a high risk of slurry run-off into these watercourses. **This is in addition to the diffuse agricultural pollution from the very many intensive poultry units in Powys.** Pig slurry has high levels of Phosphate and Potassium which should be balanced by additional Nitrogen fertiliser making the overall nutrient contribution extremely high. Both Phosphates and Nitrates, as well as ammonia from sheds and slurry management are a serious threat to our rivers and plant biodiversity. NRW has announced that its forthcoming report on Phosphate monitoring for Welsh SACs is likely to show wide-spread failures.

The failure of Powys and NRW to acknowledge and control this risk to our Mid-Wales environment and to fulfil their duty to protect our rivers, including the Wye SAC and the Severn system, is nothing short of institutional negligence.

*Brecon and Radnor Branch of CPRW
3/12/20*

Confirmed pig units and possible pig units: from Powys Planning data

Application ref.	Validated	location	grid ref. E-N	size shed (m)	decription	number pigs?	N/Ammonia modelling?	EIA?	planning outcome?
P/2015/0462	19.5.15	Abercynithon Nantyrarian Road Llanynis Builth Wells Powys LD2 3HH	no info	no info	Erection of a livestock building	no info but pigs installed. 1000?	no info	no info	delegated 1.7.15
P/2015/0840 (resub.2014/0790)	21.8.15	Poyning Farm Llanddewi Llandrindod Wells LD1 6SN	no info	no info	Erection of pig rearing unit, formation of muck store & siting of effluent tank, erection of feed bin, upgrading of existing access track & alterations to vehicular access (resubmission of P/2014/0790)	applied for pigs ? number	no info	no info	delegated 14/1/16
P/2015/1152		Sunny Bank Farm Old Radnor Presteigne LD8 2RP	321488 257107	60.96 x 15.24	Erection of a pig rearing & finishing unit & associated works (2 of 2)	990	yes, x 2	no info	delegated 23/6/16
P/2015/1155	25.11.15	Sunny Bank Farm Old Radnor Presteigne LD8 2RP	321488 257107	60.96 x 15.24	Erection of a pig rearing & finishing unit & associated works (1 of 2)	990	yes, x 2	no info	delegated 1/4/16
P/2015/1240	18.12.15	Broadheath Farm, Presteigne, LD8 2HG	333946 263259	60.96 x 15.24	Erection of livestock building	no info but pigs installed	no	not req	Delegated 11.2.16
P/2016/0085	22.01.16	Oak View, Upper Woodhouse Farm Woodhouse Lane Rhos-y-Meirch Knighton Powys LD7 1NG	327447 271181	60.96 x 15.24	Erection of livestock unit	no info but pigs installed	no	? for pigs no info	delegated 18.3.16
19/0358/AGR PP-07658908	26.2.19	Oak View Upper Woodhouse Farm Woodhouse Lane Rhos-y-Meirch Knighton Powys LD7 1NG	no info.	no info.	Application for prior notification of agricultural development - proposed building	no info.	no info.	no info.	delegated 11.3.19
P/2016/1094	9.11.16	Neuadd Disserth Builth Wells Powys LD2 3TN	303666 256005	60.96x15.24	Erection of an agricultural building	no info.	no	no info	delegated 22.12.16
P/2016/0156	4.2.16	Treburvaugh, Knighton, LD7 1SG	323949 269862	60.96 x 15.24	Erection of a livestock building and associated works	applied for pigs just under 1,000	yes	no info	delegated 11.7.16
P/2016/0157 PP-04571912	4.2.16	Treburvaugh, Knighton, LD7 1SG	323949 269862	60.96 x 15.24	Erection of a livestock building and associated works	applied for pigs just under 1,000	yes	no info	delegated 11.7.16
P/2017/0145 PP-05795464	2.2.17	Rhonllwyn, Llandegley, Llandrindod Wells LD1 5UH	314036 264246	60.96 x 15.24	Erection of livestock building	no info but pigs installed	no	not req	delegated 29.3.17
P/2017/0247	13.3.17	Lower Trawscoed Newbridge-On-Wye Llandrindod Wells Powys LD1 6HR	302968 258566	60.96x15.24	Erection of an agricultural building	no info but pigs installed	no	no info	delegated 28.6.17
P/2017/0278 PP-05833338	10.3.17	Bryn Farm Howey Llandrindod Wells Powys LD1 6NL	303506 257495	60.96 x 15.24	Erection of a livestock building	no info but pigs installed	no	no info	delegated 4.5.17
P/2017/0332	27.3.17	Upper Blackhill Dolfor Newtown SY16 4AB	311360 288880	60.96 x 15.24	Erection of an agricultural livestock building and associated works	? for pigs no info	no	not req	delegated 18.5.17
P/2017/1384	24.11.17	Cwm Mule Dolfor Newtown SY16 4AB	311669 286548	60.96 x 15.24	Construction of a stock shed	? for pigs no info	no	not req. "not in Schedule 2"	delegated 25.1.18
P/2017/0697 PP06098991	20.7.17	Hill Farm Llandysill Montgomery SY15 6HL	320729 296326	61m x 15.5m + 61m x 15.5m	Erection of 2 no. livestock buildings & a covered manure store, together with 2 no. feed bins, hardstanding & access	applied for pigs 990+ 990	yes	not req.	Planning Committee 6.10.17
P/2017/1131	2.10.17	Lower Vedwllwyd Dutlas Knighton Powys LD7 1YD	320824 278262	45.2 X 15.24	Erection of a general purpose agricultural building	? for pigs no info related to P/2018/0416?	no	not req.	delegated 30.11.17
P/2018/0416	12.4.18	Lower Vedwllwyd Dutlas Knighton Powys LD7 1YD	320824 278262	60 X 15.24	Erection of a general purpose agricultural building	no info but pigs installed	no	not req.	delegated 15.06.18
P/2017/1192	23.10.17	The Lands Llanbister Road Llandrindod Wells Powys LD1 6UG	314779 274 923	60.96 x 15.24	Erection of an agricultural livestock shed	no info but pigs installed	no	not req.	delegated 31.1.18
P/2018/0334 PP-06806749	19.3.18	Llandrindod Wells Powys LD1 6PD	299599 263074	60.96 x 15.24	Erection of an agricultural livestock shed	? for pigs no info	no	not req.	delegated 16.7.17
P/2017/1352	28.11.17	Lower Llaneon Farm Buildings Franksbridge Llandrindod Wells LD1 5SA	312388 256078	60.96 x 15.24	Erection of a livestock building	no info but pigs installed	no	not req.	delegated 25.5.18
P/2017/1453 PP-06109287	15.12.17	Dolygarn, Llanbadarn Fynydd Llandrindod Wells LD1 6YL	308609 278509	60.96 x 15.24	Erection of an agricultural livestock building	? for pigs no info	no	not req.	6.8.18
P/2017/1257	30.10.17	Neuadd Farm Rhayader Powys LD6 5HH (Noyadd Farm, Cwmdauddwr)	295745 266952	60.96 x 15.24	Construction of a stock shed	no info but pigs installed	no	no info	delegated 31.1.18 no officer report
P/2018/0151 PP-06650491	30.1.18	Lower Weston Llangunllo Knighton LD7 1SL	321937 269977	60.96 x 15.24	Erection of a livestock shed	no info but pigs installed	no	not req.	delegated 7.3.18
18/1147/FUL	8.1.19	Goetre, U2342 Llanerfyl, Welshpool	301412 309422	30.5 x 15.2	Erection of an agricultural building and all associated works	? for pigs no info	no	not req.	delegated 14.3.19
18/1089/Ful	20.12.18	Lower Litton B4357 From Crossroads With C1052 To Crossroads With B4356 At Whitton, Knighton, LD8 2NS	326767 266181	30.28 x 15.24 30.28 x 15.24	Erection of 2 agricultural buildings and associated works	no info but pigs installed	no	not req.	delegated 4.3.19
20_0177_FUL	31.1.20	Pantycaragle Farm , Beguildy, Knighton, LD7 1YD,	319784 279315	39.63 x 15.24 (includes manure store)	Erection of an agricultural building for use as livestock and muck store and all associated works	no info. but pigs in SCAL	yes SCAL at NRW request	not req. not on website screening supplied on request	delegated refused 1.10.20
20/1122/FUL	4.9.20	Bank Farm Aberhafesp Newtown Powys SY16 3LS	308109 293941	80 x 15.5 (includes manure store)	straw based pig rearing with associated feed bin, hard standing area, landscaping and drainage attenuation pond	1000 pigs	yes	no screening report	still active

Pigs mentioned in application

Pigs not mentioned in application but CPRW believes pigs installed

Pigs not mentioned in application but size suggestive, typically 60.96m x 15.24m

applications for the same address have been put next to each other in spite of different dates

Information update 29/11/20. Planning data from Powys Planning Portal. Data about pigs installed from public. Please advise us if there are any mistakes. We apologise for these and will rectify.