JUSTIFICATION OF NEED FOR LAMBING SHED

The proposed lambing shed is required to secure the well-being and welfare of the applicant's flock of new breed sheep that will enable the applicant to add to and diversify the existing pig breeding operation currently being operated on the application site.

The addition of the new breed sheep will be focused on breeding and raising a viable flock of ewes to support the diversification of the agricultural unit for wool production and lamb and mutton meat for market.

The small lambing shed is essential to provide a suitable enclosed building comprising 4 no. lambing jugs (independent areas) in which breeding ewes ready to give birth can be accommodated to ensure their well-being and welfare during actual lambing acting as a nursery for new-born lambs and the parent ewes immediately before and after labour to ensure the ewe and lamb(s) are healthy, are feeding correctly and should the need arise to provide surrogate ewes in the event of a ewe having multiple births or not engaging and feeding their new born lambs. The lambing shed will provide temporary on-site accommodation during the lambing process and protect the pregnant ewes and newborn lambs in cold or inclement outdoor weather conditions. The lambing shed will also be used at other times for example during the shearing season to house the ewes for a brief period where they can be monitored and acclimatise before being released back to grazing pasture.

The lambing shed can also be used to nurse unwell ewes or awaiting the arrival of the vet in more serious illness cases in comfort and warmth and away from and without distressing the other grazing ewes.

It is proposed to build up the flock to a level of between 20-40 sheep at anyone time.