

High Leas Farm

Update no.1 January 2010

This is the first update to the Information Pack dated 4 January 2010.

Rural Land Register (3.16)

During the autumn we received the forms, map, and field schedule which were broadly correct. All of the fields appear to be fully registered. Two minor changes were needed, to remove two sections of the access track (1) at the bottom of the wood road and (2) immediately north of the farm buildings (because hard-surfaced tracks are not supposed to be in the RLR). We returned the paperwork on about 11 October 2009. We have heard nothing more.

OELS Agreement (3.18)

Natural England have invited us to renew our OELS agreement and we have replied saying: "We intend to lease the land to another person from 2011 if a suitable person can be found. If so, we will encourage the Lessee to renew / reapply. If we continue to farm ourselves, we will wish to renew and perhaps upgrade to HLS. This will not be known before summer 2010."

Water Supply (8.2)

The entire water system – including the supply to the house - froze in early January 2010 and the filter jars cracked. New ones are being obtained. This means that the system certainly needs to be modified before next winter, if only to install extra frost protection on the filters, and on pipes to the house.

Google Maps

The image on Google Maps is very out of date. The photograph must have been taken about 10 years ago and there have been many changes, including the removal of some buildings and alteration to the roadways.

Wind Turbine (9) (p.21)

Please don't read what we have said as meaning that we want this to be our sole project, just for us. It would be much better if the Tenant were to be involved, as there will be on-site issues such as maintenance. But it will have to be a separate project, outside of the Lease. It could (for example) be done as a joint venture between 2 or more members of our family, and the Tenant. You could be getting at least some of the electricity you need this way.

Ponds

The old pond below the farmstead was cleaned out in autumn 2009 and the former slurry lagoons were also remodelled into a single large hole. Both filled up very quickly in the wet weather we had. It remains to be seen whether these will hold water in dry spells. A good deal of tidying up needs to be done!

Edward & Sam Beaumont 16 January 2010