Key Issues:
The proposed development is for the redevelopment of Redwood Farm, Great Gransden, Sandy. Redwood Farm is a successful pig breeding unit producing prime genetic livestock that is nationally renowned for top-quality pure-breed pedigree stock. The proposals are for the replacement of the existing pig-rearing unit structures with an entirely new piggery comprising 11 state-of-the-art pig houses.

Redevelopment is needed as there is no natural flow through the pig unit buildings at Redwood Farm. This leads to the inefficient and time-consuming movement of pigs between units, with associated implications for noise and odour. The maintenance of the dated buildings on the site is costly and labour intensive to maintain the optimum living conditions for the pigs.

The EIA process was instrumental in identifying environmental constraints early and influenced the proposed development in terms of its scale, technology solutions and layout to mitigate the environmental effects, with the proposals, seeking to enhance the local environment from the existing site operations.

Purpose of the Project:
The purpose of the project is the replacement of the existing pig-rearing unit structures with an entirely new piggery comprising 11 state-of-the-art pig houses.

The EIA was undertaken on behalf of B&S Farming Limited.

Description of the Project:
Redwood Farm has developed since the mid 1970's and is a successful breeding unit with currently a 250 sow pig breeding unit and around 2,600 pigs. The farm is nationally renowned for its top-quality pure-bred pedigree stock including Large Whites, Land Race, Duroc and Welsh.

The current farm comprises several buildings and structures of varying age and design, which have developed in an ad hoc way over time. The site is approximately 24 acres/9.7 hectares, and includes a residential property, agricultural buildings and open arable land. Access is from Caxton Road.

The construction of the proposals will take place over approximately 24 months.
EIA Learning Outcomes

Lessons Learnt:

Linking Consultation & Design

As part of preparing the proposals, a consultation exercise was undertaken with the local community, to understand any issues related to the existing facility and how these could be mitigated through the proposals.

As a consequence of the noise and odour assessment work undertaken early on this project, and the feedback from the local community on such issues, the pig houses were laid out so that the movement of the stock through the unit is less stressful for the animals and is more efficient, with associated reduction in noise.

They also have slatted flooring so slurry can be flushed and pumped into a sealed storage tank, enabling the houses to be cleaned quickly and efficiently, minimising odour impacts and any localised pollution accidents.

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Lessons Learnt Continued:

Turning Constraints into Opportunities

Key design changes undertaken to reduce and remove environmental effects was the addition of 3 m tall chimneys and continuous fans to reduce odour and other air quality impacts.

Other key design changes included the reduction of the number of fans, and fan design selection, to reduce noise impacts.

Landscaping proposals have been prepared which provide planting and other mitigation, reducing effects on landscape and views, as well as providing compensatory planting and net biodiversity gain.

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