

SWIG Awards

Open Space and Agricultural Category

Project Title: Lower Stanbridge Farm



What:- Rainwater harvesting system for collection of roof run-off for use on dairy farm.

Why:- A large new agricultural building (875m²) was planned for construction during the winter of 2014-15, located adjacent to an existing building of a similar size. Both buildings are used to house dairy cattle, currently 400 in number. The farmer wished to make use of the water being discharged from these buildings, both to reduce the volume of mains water usage on the farm, and also to reduce the stormwater runoff that was contributing to the waterlogging of an adjacent field.

How:- Due to several factors on site, it was decided to collect from half of the roof areas of each building. This amounted to an overall collection area of 680m²

A 50,000-litre tank was installed underground along with a Wisy WFF300 industrial rainwater filter.

How much:- The system was put in to operation on 2nd March 2015, and water meters were installed as part of the system in order that we can monitor the performance. The most recent reading was taken on 29th September, and revealed that a total of 375,720 litres of rainwater had been utilised during this period, giving an average of 1780 litres per day, despite the driest April on record. During the summer months most of the herd are on pasture, so only the young store cattle are using the rainwater in the buildings. As the entire milking herd is housed indoors during the winter months daily demand will be much higher, and it is predicted that the system will save around 1 million litres per annum.