

REGISTRATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 49 OF
THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

NAME OF UNDERTAKING: **Mink Farm - Route 350, North of
Northern Arm**

PROPONENT:

(i) *Name of Corporate Body:* **Botwood Fur Ranch Inc.**

(ii) *Address:* **c/o Burke Consulting Inc.
7 Somerset Place
CBS, NL
A1W 4P3**

(iii) *Chief Executive Officer:* **Mr. Kjeld Balle Jensen
President/Owner
Landtingvej 33
7830 Vinderup
Denmark
011-45-97442995**

(iv) *Principal Contact:* **Mr. Brian Burke
Burke Consulting Inc.
7 Somerset Place
CBS, NL
A1W 4P3
(709) 834-6331**

THE UNDERTAKING:

(i) *Nature of the Undertaking:*

Proposed development of a mink farm at a site adjacent to Route 350, north of Northern Arm. The farm is being developed to produce high quality mink varieties for sale to auction houses in North America and Europe. Farm construction is proposed to begin in the Fall of 2004.

The project proponent, Mr. Kjeld Balle Jensen, is an established Danish mink farmer with 25 years experience in the mink industry. Mr. Jensen currently owns and operates his own mink ranch of 1,200 females and has in the past also ranched fox. He produces a mixture of mink types and over the past two years has been selling some of his mink at auction in North America, at the American Legend auction house in Seattle.

(ii) *Purpose/Rationale/Need for the Undertaking:*

The proponent, Mr. Kjeld Balle Jensen, sees a great potential for mink and fox industry development in the province. The province has the proper climate for mink production as well as offering potential advantages in land, feed and labour availability and cost, as compared to Denmark. In addition, the proposed location in central Newfoundland will enable Mr. Jensen to access feed through the Central Feed Kitchen near Bishop's Falls.

DESCRIPTION OF THE UNDERTAKING:

• *Geographical Location:*

The proposed site, of approximately 272 acres, is located in on Route 350, north of Northern Arm and adjacent to a small existing mink farm owned by Mr. Sam Mercer . Encompassed in the site are an existing agriculture lease (approx 49 acres) and a piece of freehold land (approx. 25 acres). Mr. Jensen is in the process of purchasing both parcels of land. Maps of the proposed site are attached in Appendix 1. These maps include an overall site map, an aerial photo of the site and, a forestry resources map of the area and a drawing of the proposed site layout.

The land base is currently partially cleared, with the remainder in a wooded state. The site is generally flat.

- ***Physical Features:***

Physical requirements for the mink farm to be added to the site include mink sheds, storage sheds, perimeter fencing, temporary manure storage and access roads. A total area of 15 acres will be cleared and leveled to encompass the sheds and fencing. This main farm area will be situated on the 25 acre piece of freehold property, which was partially cleared in the past. Additional land will be developed, as required, for manure spreading. Each of the required physical features are further described below:

Road

Access to the site from Route 350 will be gained using existing access roads, including a logging road on the sites southern boundary, and existing access roads to the current agriculture lease and freehold property. This access will be upgraded and extended as required to reach the proposed main farm area. No water bodies are to be crossed in construction of the required access.

Mink Sheds

The proposed mink sheds for this farm will be 100 m long by 12.5 m wide. Each shed will hold six to eight rows of mink cages, depending on whether they are breeder sheds (six rows) or pelter sheds (eight rows). The sheds are to be constructed using simple post and beam wooden construction, with galvanized aluminum sheeting attached for roofing, as well as a fibreglass skylights, and a plastic fabrene material used on the exterior sides (to enable natural light penetration). See pictures below for examples of the type of construction to be used.



Exterior of Large Mink Shed



Interior of Large Mink Shed

An automatic watering system will be installed in the sheds such that the mink will have access to a continuous supply of water. Artesian well(s) will be used to provide the necessary water requirements.

Storage/Auxiliary Sheds

Two sheds (around 5,000 sq ft total) will be constructed on-site to provide storage space for equipment and materials as well as a small staff room/facilities.

Perimeter Fencing

The main farm site (15 acres) will be enclosed with chain link fencing, to prevent encroachment by pests/animals and mink escapement. To prevent possible escapement, the bottom of the fence will be extended 6-8 inches below the ground surface. Total fence height will be approximately four to five feet.

Manure Storage

A temporary manure storage area will be constructed, consisting of a concrete pad and bucking wall, with a steel/aluminum roof to prevent washout by precipitation. This facility will be constructed and located in keeping with the Environmental Guidelines for Livestock Producers. The facility will provide for temporary storage only, with the manure ultimately being made available to local farmers for spreading and/or used on fields to be developed by the proponent.

- ***Construction:***

Project construction is projected to occur from October 2004 through to July 2007. Construction will be undertaken in a staged approach to meet the requirements of the expanding farm. Following are the projected construction requirements for each phase:

- *October, 2004 - April 15, 2005*
 - Upgrade/Extend Access
 - Clear/Level Land
 - 2 Mink Shed(s) for breeding stock (2,500 females)
 - 1 Storage/Auxiliary Shed
 - Perimeter Fencing
- *April 15, 2005 - July 2005*
 - 2 Mink Sheds for mink kits (offspring)
 - 1 Storage/Auxiliary Shed
 - Manure Storage pad
- *July 2005 - July 2006*
 - 5 Mink Sheds for expansion (to 5,000 females) (2 breeding, 3 pelting)
- *July 2006 - July 2007*
 - 4 Mink Sheds for expansion (to 7,500 females) (1 breeding, 3 pelting)
- *July 2007 - July 2008*
 - 6 Mink Sheds for expansion (to 10,000 females) (2 breeding, 4 pelting)

The main site will be selected to minimize clearing and leveling requirements. Construction involves simple structures with low potential for environmental impact.

- **Operation:**

The process of farming mink is closely tied to the natural breeding cycle of the animal. The basics of the mink year are outlined in the following figure, which was prepared for the US mink industry. For mink farming in Newfoundland and Labrador the primary seasons are as follows:

- Breeding - Breeding to start in early March;
- Whelping - The breeding females will start having their kits as early as April 20th. Litters may range from as few as three to as many as 13, but four or five is the average;
- Weaning - Separating the kits from their mother and getting them on solid food starts after six to eight weeks, in late June or early July;
- Growth and Furring - From August through to pelting time in November/December the focus is on kit growth and proper fur development;
- Grading and Pelting - Prior to pelting, mink are graded such that the best performers can be retained as breeding stock . Pelting starts in November and can continue to early December.

JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.
	BREEDING		WHELPING
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.
WHELPING		WEANING & SEPARATING	
			GROWTH & FURRING
SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
GROWTH & FURRING		GRADING	PELTING

Mink Farm Season

Botwood Fur Ranch Inc. plans to import 2,500 disease free, high quality bred females from Denmark in April 2005. On average mink produce between four to five offspring. In 2005 the projected kit production will be approximately 10,000 kits. Over the following three to four years the operation will expand to 10,000 female breeders, producing up to 50,000 kits per annum.

This proposed operation will consist only of the farm. The proponent is proposing to establish a separate operation, potentially on a different site, for pelting. Feed will be obtained through the Central Feed Kitchen.

Waste Production/Handling

Waste production from a mink farm consists of one primary waste stream, manure and

urine from the mink, which is mixed with wood shavings and straw from the nest boxes. Manure production varies with the time of year, with lower volumes produced from late-November through May, as the farm is populated only with breeding stock, and larger and increasing volumes produced from June through November, as the kits grow. The mixing of the manure/urine with the wood shavings/straw produces a very manageable solid waste product. The projected maximum waste production for a 10,000 female mink farm is as follows:

- Manure 1,800 tonnes
- Shavings/Straw 250 tonnes

Waste Collection

With all animals held in cages the manure and urine collects directly under these cages, in the sheds. In a vast majority of cases the mink return to the same spot to deposit their waste on an ongoing basis. In addition, straw and/or wood shavings are used in the nest boxes and the manure/urine becomes mixed with the straw/shavings that fall through the cage, producing a more manageable waste product. For hygiene purposes and to reduce odour, waste will be collected from the sheds on a regular basis, consisting of every two weeks in the late summer and less often during cooler periods.

Waste is to be collected using a small articulating tractor which is capable of operating in the sheds. A special attachment will be imported from Denmark which enables the tractor to easily collect the waste in an efficient manner.

Waste Handling and Disposal

The handling and disposal of the waste from the mink farm will be undertaken using approved manure management strategies. The primary handling and disposal methodologies to be used will include short-term stockpiling, land application and potentially composting.

Short-term Stockpiling

Stockpiling of manure will only take place on a short-term basis, to accumulate for land application. Stockpiling will be done in an approved manner and at a site on the farm of sufficient distance and location from the sheds and wells to ensure no risk of contamination.

Land Application

A total of 150 female mink (plus kits and males) per acre is the recommended maximum from the “Environmental Farm Practice Guidelines for Livestock Producers in Newfoundland and Labrador” for manure spreading. As such, for a 10,000 female farm the recommended minimum acreage for manure spreading would be 66.66 acres. The site will have a land base of 272 acres once approved, providing more than sufficient area for manure spreading. In addition, manure will be made available to other local farmers for spreading on their fields.

- ***Occupations:***

The proposed farm will require a projected 10-15 employees during the construction and operations phases. This will include two to three site foremen and the remainder as general labourers. This labour pool will meet the requirements for farm construction during the first three years as well as ongoing farm operations as the farm grows from 2,500 female breeders to a proposed 10,000 female breeders by the third or fourth year.

- ***Project-Related Documents:***

N/A

APPROVAL OF THE UNDERTAKING:

Approvals required for the construction and operations phases for Botwood Fur Ranch Inc. include the following:

- Crown land approval - Department of Environment and Conservation, Lands Branch - Application submitted
- Waste Management Certificate - Government Services Centre - Approval required prior to 2005 operations
- Import Permit/Quarantine - Canadian Food Inspection Agency - Approval required for import of breeding stock from Denmark in April 2005 and for initial on-site quarantine

SCHEDULE:

The initial land development and construction phase for this project must be started by October, 2004. Land clearing and leveling, the construction of at least two mink sheds and the installation of perimeter fencing must be completed prior to the arrival of the breeding stock in April 2005.

FUNDING:

Funding for this operation will consist primarily of private investment. Botwood Fur Ranch Inc. plans to apply for assistance through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (repayable loans), Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (wage subsidies), and the Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development (Seed Capital Equity Program). No approvals have been granted to date.

Mr. Kjeld Balle Jensen
President/Owner

Date

Appendix 1

Site Maps



Government of Newfoundland and Labrador Crown Lands Division



NOTE TO USERS

The information on this map was compiled from land surveys registered in the Crown Lands Registry.

Since the Registry does not contain information on all land ownership within the Province, the information depicted cannot be considered complete.

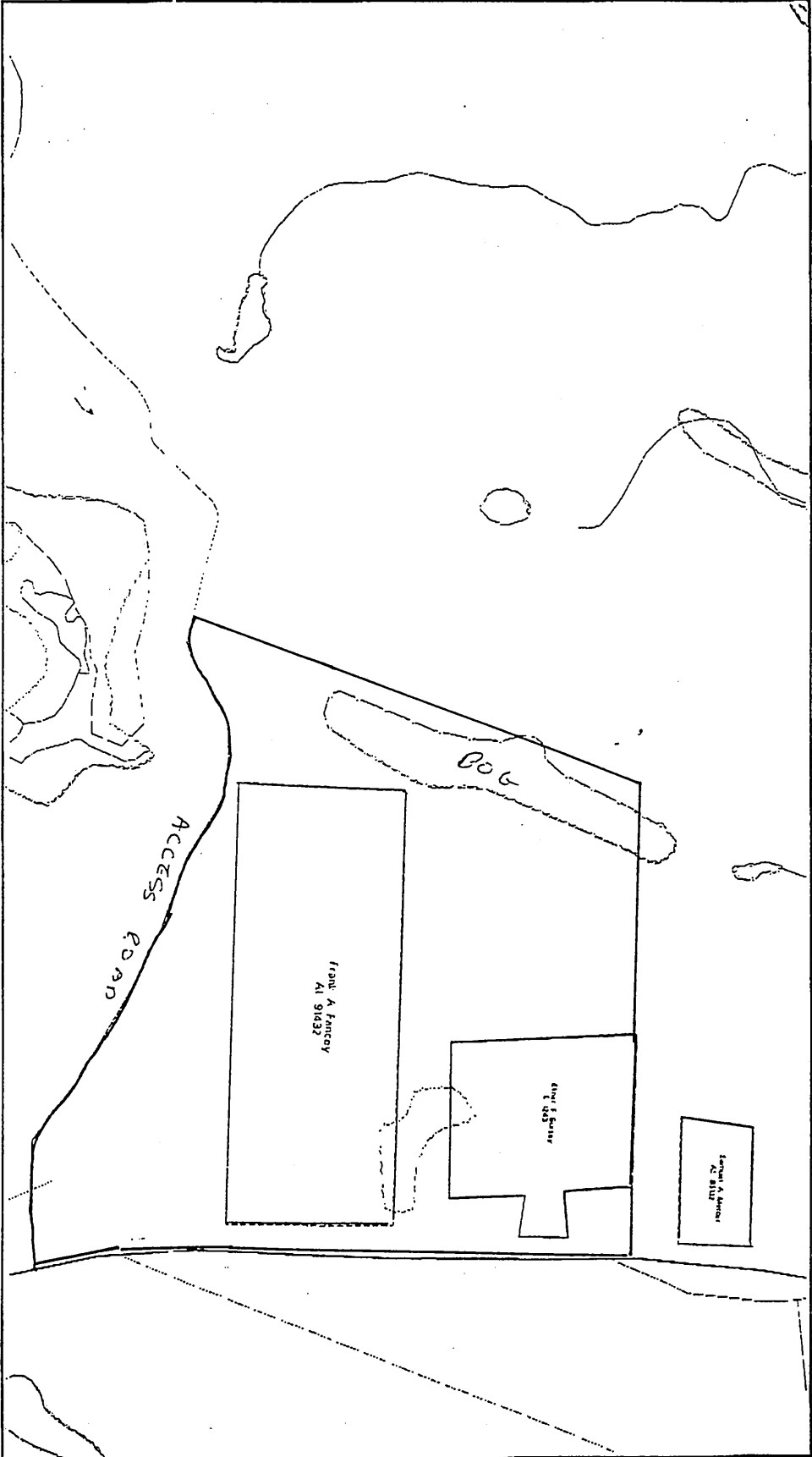
The boundary lines shown are intended to be used as an index to land files issued by the Crown. The accuracy of the plots is not sufficient for measurement purposes and do not guarantee title.

Users finding any errors or omissions on this map sheet are asked to contact the Crown Titles Mapping Section, Howley Building Higgins Lane, St. John's Newfoundland.

Some titles may not be plotted due to Crown Lands volumes missing from the Crown Lands registry or insufficient survey information.

Users can also contact the Crown Titles Mapping Section by fax or telephone as listed below:

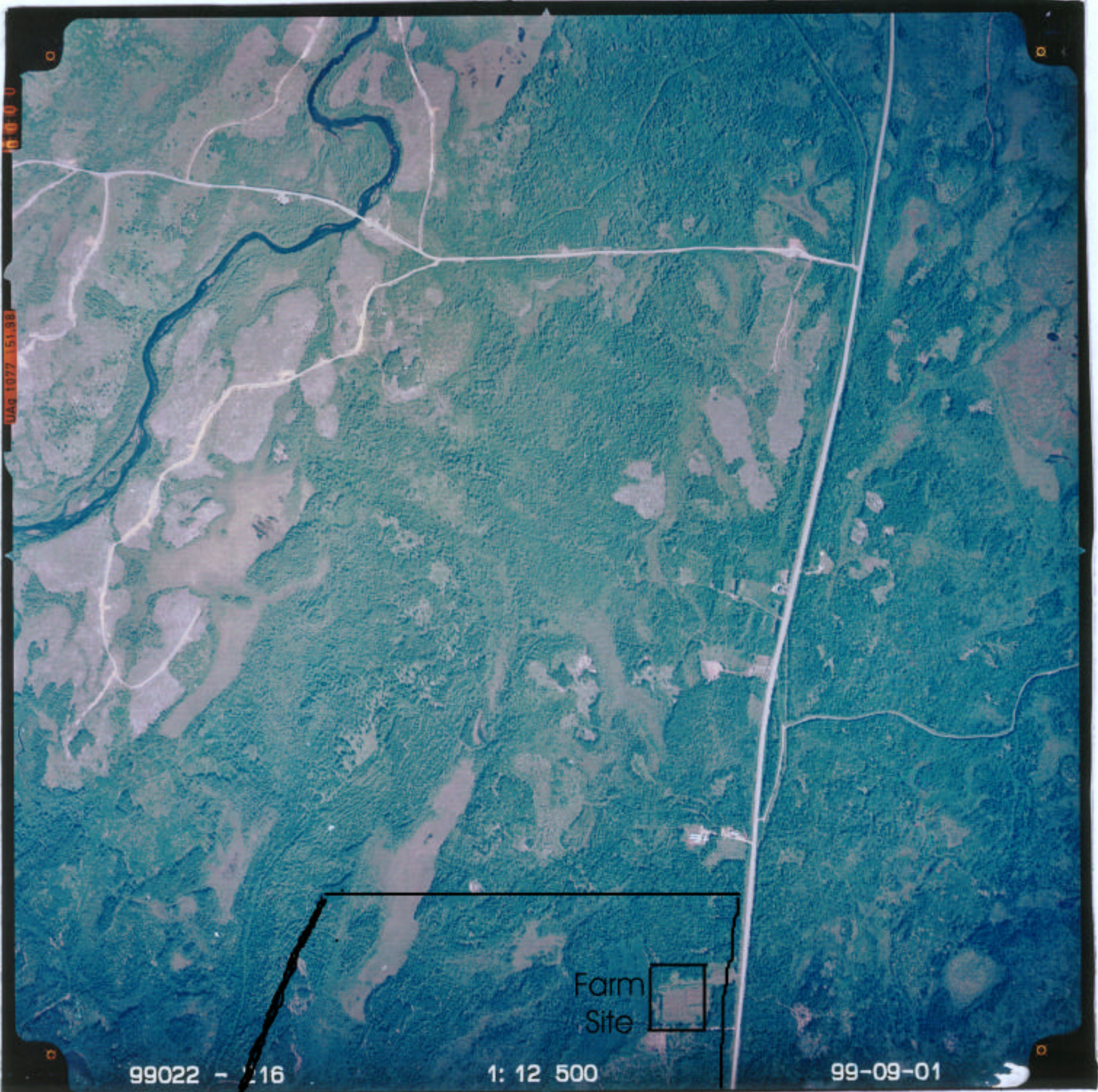
Fax - 729-8136
Telephone - 729-5500



Scale 1:10,000

Expired Title: EX
Cancelled Title: CA
Approximate Location
(c) Government Services and Lands

Bonwood
Friday, July 16, 2004



040 1077 51 98

99022 - 216

1: 12 500

99-09-01

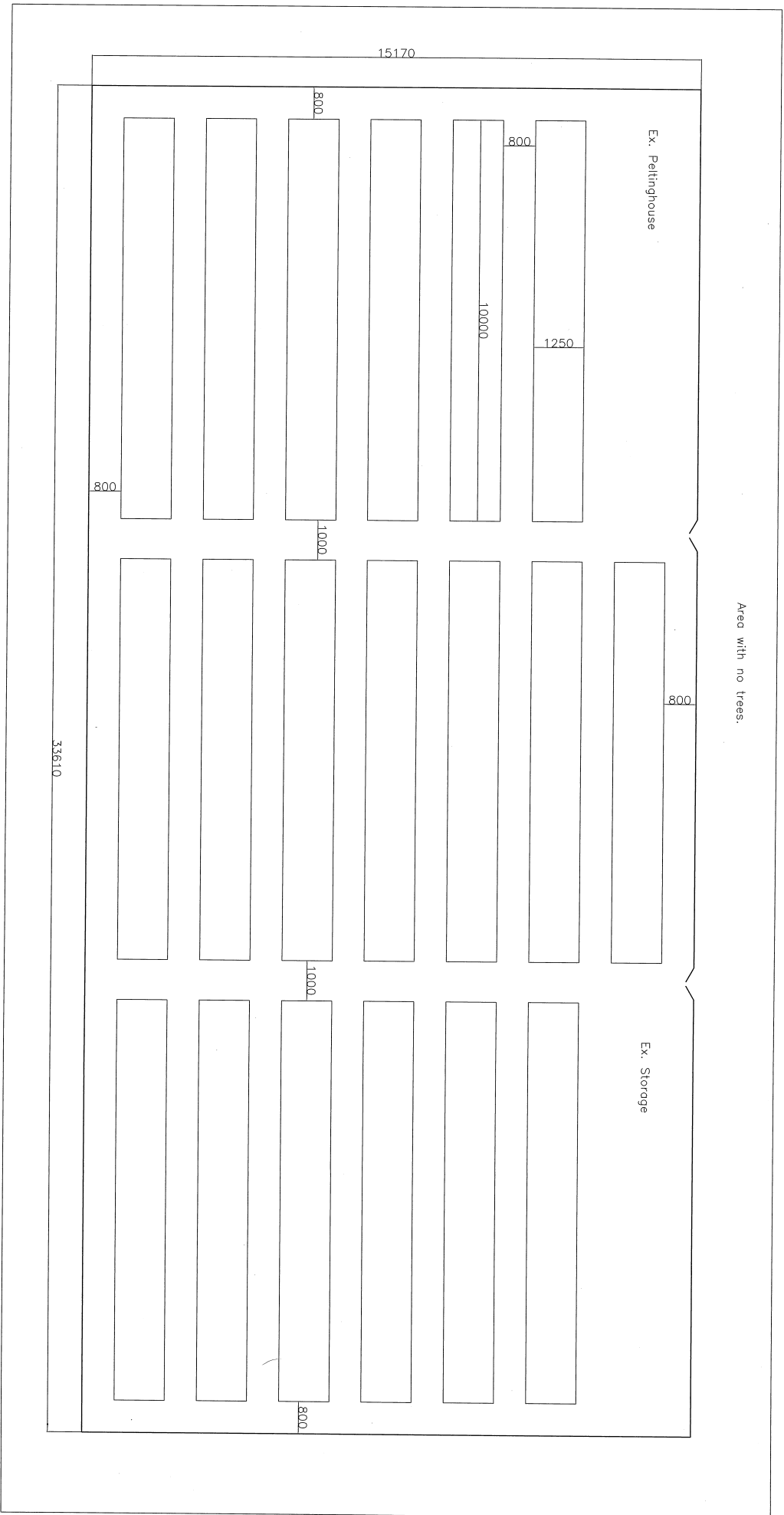
Farm Site



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NEWFOUNDLAND
AND LABRADOR

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GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND LANDS
SURVEYS & MAPPING DIVISION

Address:
PO Box 8700
St. John's NF A1R 416



All measure are in cm.
 No measure on the drawing.

Building owner: Kjeld Balle Jensen
 Case: Minkronch
 Form: Situationsplan
 Mål:
 Date: 02-06-04

Case nr:
 Tegning: NR1