

Darnalls Farm,
Weston,
Hitchin SG4 7AL

N.H.C.
27 OCT 2025
NORTHGATE

Note re. Change of Use of Welbury Farm Grain Stores to Storage

When we rebuilt these barns in early 2024 following a fire caused by vandals we were farming around 1,000Ha of arable and in need of grain and machinery storage for an operation of this scale.

Since then we have halved the farming operation to around 500Ha due to family generational changes. In this period the economics of arable farming have also become more unsustainable. We have lost a farm employee and reduced our planted arable area in favour of environmental land management schemes that are encouraged by the Government through the Sustainable Farming Incentive and Countryside Stewardship. We therefore have less requirement for grain and machinery storage. Rather than let the barns go redundant we would like to be able to use them for commercial storage if the opportunity arises. It would make a suitable non disruptive or visible change of use for the barns with the knowledge that we can convert them back to agricultural use as and when we need to.

To summarise, in the short term at least, in the current economic climate and due to our evolving circumstances it would make sense to convert these barns for storage use.

Happy to discuss any details of the circumstances with the Planning Officer.

Kind regards,

Alex Cherry