

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

New Grainstore and General Purpose Farm Building

Lower Fields Farm, Barkey, Hertfordshire SG8 8HH

For: GC & JC Wilkerson

The farming business of GC & JC Wilkerson extends to 324 hectares of land which comprises with most of the land in arable cropping comprising wheat, barley, oilseed rape and sugar beet.

Until recently the farm has been managed by a local farmer and all storage has been provided off site at a third party grain storage facility. This facility has now decided to cease offering contract storage and therefore Lower Fields Farm needs a new purposes built building to provide the grain storage for the arable crop produce on farm

It is essential to modern farms that appropriate grain storage facilities are available to ensure that harvested grain can be stored in optimum conditions and allows the sale of crops at times to make the most of the volatile commodities market. Such buildings need to be of modern construction to aid efficiencies during the busiest period of the year, particularly harvest months.

There are a number of outdated buildings at Lower Fields Farm most of which cannot offer the required storage facility. The site currently offers 800 tonnes of grainstorage but the farm as a whole requires approximately 2400 tonnes and therefore a new building is required to be utilised alongside the existing buildings to replace the off site storage that is no longer available.

GC & JC Wilkerson has ensured that the impact of the building is limited as far as possible by setting it alongside the existing buildings keeping it in line with similar roofline and design as the adjoining building to ensure that as a new building it retains the agricultural nature and appearance of the farmyard.

The proposed location does not affect any public access.

The proposed building will be used for grain storage of approximately 1000 tonnes grain as the crop is harvested until time of sale and storage of fertiliser and other inputs for the rest of the year so ensuring that grain can be stored in the best condition until the market dictates the right time to sell.

If planning permission is granted for this building it will ensure that GC & JC Wilkerson are operating the business at the very highest standards by

- optimising the grain handling operations during peak seasons,
- ensuring that grain is kept in peak conditions and
- allowing the grain to be sold as far as possible at the most profitable times of year.

Therefore hopefully it can be seen that the proposal has been carefully considered by the applicant prior to application and that this building is essential to the proper functioning of the agricultural business, is best located and designed to have minimal impact upon the surrounding landscape and that therefore planning permission can be granted.