

Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an Existing Use or Operation or Activity,
including those in breach of a planning condition

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)

Publication of applications on planning authority websites

Please note that the information provided on this application form and in supporting documents may be published on the Authority's website. If you require any further clarification, please contact the Authority's planning department.

Site Location

Disclaimer: We can only make recommendations based on the answers given in the questions.

If you cannot provide a postcode, the description of site location must be completed. Please provide the most accurate site description you can, to help locate the site - for example "field to the North of the Post Office".

Number

Suffix

Property Name

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

Address Line 3

Town/city

Postcode

Description of site location must be completed if postcode is not known:

Easting (x)

Northing (y)

Description

Applicant Details

Name/Company

Title

Mrs

First name

Deborah

Surname

Mc Donald

Company Name

Address

Address line 1

High Fields,

Address line 2

Limbersey Lane,

Address line 3

Town/City

Haynes West End,

County

Bedfordshire

Country

GB

Postcode

MK453QX

Are you an agent acting on behalf of the applicant?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Applicant Contact Details

Primary number

***** REDACTED *****

Secondary number

***** REDACTED *****

Fax number

Email address

***** REDACTED *****

Reason for Lawful Development Certificate

Please indicate why you are applying for a lawful development certificate

- ☒ An existing use
☐ Existing building works
☐ An existing use, building work or activity in breach of a condition

Being a use, building works or activity which is still going on at the date of this application.

If Yes, to either 'an existing use' or 'an existing use in breach of a condition', please select the relevant Use Class.

C3 - Dwellinghouses

Description of Existing Use, Building Works or Activity

Please fully describe each existing use, building works or activity for which you want the lawful development certificate. Where appropriate, show to which part of the land each use, building works or activity relates

The property is a detached dwelling with a garage constructed in 1992 under planning permission ref: 91/01009/1, which included a room above the garage as habitable accommodation including a bedroom and bathroom with toilet and bath. Although the planning permission did not specify the room above the garage as habitable accommodation, the room was built to residential standards at the time of construction and has been used continuously as a bedroom/living space, ancillary to and forming part of the residential use of the main dwelling, since 1994 — a period in excess of 30 years. This use has been continuous throughout that period, with no interruption of 4 years or more. The application seeks confirmation that this existing use is lawful.

Grounds for application for a Lawful Development Certificate

Under what grounds is the certificate being sought

Where the use, building works or activity began **before 25 April 2024**

- ☒ The use began more than 10 years before the date of this application
- ☐ The use, building works or activity in breach of condition began more than 10 years before the date of this application
- ☐ The use began within the last 10 years, as a result of a change of use not requiring planning permission, and there has not been a change of use requiring planning permission in the last 10 years
- ☐ The building works (for instance, building or engineering works) were substantially completed more than four years before the date of this application.
- ☐ The change of use to use as a single dwelling house began more than four years before the date of this application.
- ☐ Other - please specify (this might include claims that the change of use or building work was not development, or that it benefited from planning permission granted under the Act or by the General Permitted Development Order).

Where the use, building works or activity began on or after 25 April 2024

- ☐ The use, building works or activity began more than 10 years before the date of this application.
- ☐ The use began within the last 10 years, as a result of a change of use not requiring planning permission, and there has not been a change of use requiring planning permission in the last 10 years.
- ☐ Other - please specify (this might include claims that the change of use or building work was not development, or that it benefited from planning permission granted under the Act or by the General Permitted Development Order).

Is the certificate being sought for a use, operation, or activity in breach of a condition or limitation?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

Please state why a Lawful Development Certificate should be granted

This application is made under section 191 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for a Certificate of Lawful Use for the existing use of the room above the garage at Longvalley, Dark Lane, Codicote, Hertfordshire, SG4 8UZ, as a bedroom/living space ancillary to the main dwelling.

The garage, including the room above it, was constructed in 1992 under planning permission reference 91/01009/1. While this permission did not specifically describe the room above the garage as habitable accommodation, it was built to residential standards at the time of construction and has been used continuously as a bedroom/living space since 1994 — a period exceeding 30 years.

Under section 171B(3) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, where there has been a breach of planning control consisting of a change of use of a building to use as a single dwellinghouse, or any other breach of planning control, no enforcement action may be taken after the end of the period of 10 years beginning with the date of the breach. As the use in question has continued unbroken for more than 10 years, it is now immune from enforcement action and is therefore lawful.

Evidence supporting the continuous use since 1994 is provided in the attached statement.

Information in support of a Lawful Development Certificate

When was the use or activity begun, or the building works substantially completed (date must be pre-application submission)?

01-06-1994

In the case of an existing use or activity in breach of conditions has there been any interruption?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

In the case of an existing use of land, has there been any material change of use of the land since the start of the use for which a certificate is sought?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

Residential Information

Does the application for a certificate relate to a residential use where the number of residential units has changed?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

Site Visit

Can the site be seen from a public road, public footpath, bridleway or other public land?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

If the planning authority needs to make an appointment to carry out a site visit, whom should they contact?

- ☐ The agent
☒ The applicant
☐ Other person

Pre-application Advice

Has assistance or prior advice been sought from the local authority about this application?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

Interest in the Land

Please state the applicant's interest in the land

- ☒ Owner
☐ Lessee
☐ Occupier
☐ Other

Authority Employee/Member

With respect to the Authority, is the applicant and/or agent one of the following:

- (a) a member of staff
(b) an elected member
(c) related to a member of staff
(d) related to an elected member

It is an important principle of decision-making that the process is open and transparent.

For the purposes of this question, "related to" means related, by birth or otherwise, closely enough that a fair-minded and informed observer, having considered the facts, would conclude that there was bias on the part of the decision-maker in the Local Planning Authority.

Do any of the above statements apply?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Declaration

I/We hereby apply for Lawful development: Existing use as described in the questions answered, details provided, and the accompanying plans/drawings and additional information.

I/We confirm that, to the best of my/our knowledge, any facts stated are true and accurate and any opinions given are the genuine opinions of the person(s) giving them.

I/We also accept that, in accordance with the Planning Portal's terms and conditions:

- Once submitted, this information will be made available to the Local Planning Authority and, once validated by them, be published as part of a public register and on the authority's website;
- Our system will automatically generate and send you emails in regard to the submission of this application.

☒ I / We agree to the outlined declaration

Signed

Neil Mc Donald

Date

01/09/2026

Amendments Summary

Updated site location plan as requested.