



**North
Herts
Council**

Correspondence address:

PO Box 10613, Nottingham, NG6 6DW

Telephone: 01462 474000

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

Dr

First name

Ben

Surname

Carpenter

Company Name

Royston Rugby Union Football Club Limited

Address

Address line 1

Heath Sports Club, Royston Rugby Club Baldock Road

Address line 2

Address line 3

Town/City

Royston

County

Hertfordshire

Country

United Kingdom

Postcode

SG8 5BG

Are you an agent acting on behalf of the applicant?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

Contact Details

Primary number

***** REDACTED *****

Secondary number

Fax number

Email address

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.

Other (please specify)

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

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

The storage container has been in continuous use and located on the site for a period exceeding 10 years. During this time, the container has remained in situ without interruption and has been used consistently for storage purposes to allow Royston Rugby to carry out training and matches on the land leased from Therfield Heath.

No enforcement action has been taken by the Local Planning Authority during this period. As such, in accordance with Section 191 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the siting and use of the storage container are now immune from enforcement and are therefore lawful.

On this basis, a Lawful Development Certificate should be granted to confirm the lawfulness of the existing storage container on the site.

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)?

04-06-2013

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

If Yes, please complete the following information about the advice you were given (this will help the authority to deal with this application more efficiently):

Officer name:

Title

First Name

***** REDACTED *****

Surname

***** REDACTED *****

Reference

25/02841/GEN

Date (must be pre-application submission)

05/11/2025

Details of the pre-application advice received

25/02841/GEN - Therfield Heath

Thank you for your email.

I have considered your email regarding the storage container at Therfield Heath. If you are suggesting that the container has been in situ since 2013 and have evidence to support that conclusion on the balance of probabilities, then I would advise that you submit a Lawful Development Certificate Existing to retain the container. You would effectively need to show in the submission that the container has been therefore for more than 4 years, which would make it lawful and immune from enforcement action. I have included some examples below of applications I have dealt with that have successfully shown this is the case, which you may wish to use for a guide. If for whatever reason you are unable to apply for the LDCE, then planning permission will be required to retain the container.

23/01042/LDCE

24/00419/LDCE

Interest in the Land

Please state the applicant's interest in the land

- ☐ Owner
- ☒ Lessee
- ☐ Occupier
- ☐ Other

If Lessee or Occupier, please give details of the owner and state whether they have been informed in writing of this application

***** REDACTED *****

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

Ben Carpenter

Date

14/01/2026