

Planning Department  
Cherwell District Council  
Submitted via Planning portal

Mr Matthew Platt  
Alkerton Oaks Business Park, Unit 5  
Stratford Road, Shenington  
OX15 6EP  
26<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Sirs,

**Re: Application for Planning Permission for the erection of a 15m x 25m agricultural barn on Spring Field, Sibford Road, Epwell.**

Please find attached a planning application in respect of the above matter, comprising of the following:

- Planning application form
- Site location plan at 1:2,500 scale
- Proposed site plan at 1:500 scale
- Elevation and floorplans of proposed barn at 1:100 scale
- Planning application fee of £96 (paid via the planning portal)
- This explanatory letter

#### **Background and proposal to this application**

##### **Planning History**

A permitted development application, 20/03328/AGN, was submitted, and withdrawn, in December 2020, followed by a very positive pre planning advice report which was issued to us on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021. The proximity of Shenington Airfield, an aerodrome within 3km, has meant a full planning application is required.

##### **The Proposal**

This application is seeking planning permission for the erection of a 15m x 25m (375 sqm) agricultural storage barn with a ridge height of 7.2m. Since the summer of 2019 we have been growing lavender plants on our 5.75 hectare field. As there is no barn on the site, there is no storage for our machinery and equipment which we need to operate the site effectively. The requirement of the barn would ensure a safe, secure and weather-proof store for all our equipment.

Following the pre planning advice process, we have decided to change the size of the barn to 15m x 25m and we have also followed the advice given and relocated the barn to the north west corner of the field. We operate a grass covered perimeter road around the field for vehicles and so we have sited the barn in its shown location to allow for this perimeter road to still work effectively.

We are coming up to our 3<sup>rd</sup> year of lavender growth, and we would like to begin an annual harvest to produce lavender oil. Once harvested, there is a very small window in which to distil the lavender to ensure a high-quality oil is extracted and so we would also like to install a still within the barn to facilitate this process.

**Location of the barn within its local surround.**

Spring Field is located to the south of the village of Epwell, please see fig.1 below showing its location within its local surrounds.

**Fig. 1**



Whilst the barn will be visible from a public footpath, on the opposite side of the field, we believe that the barn will fit well within its surroundings due to its design and colour, and with a mature hedgerow behind it.

From the roadside, the barn will be well screened by the mature hedgerow, and will not be visible from the field gateway. Should the planning officer feel that more screening is required then we are happy to discuss which options are best to accommodate that.

**Access**

Access, into the field to the barn, would remain unchanged and would be using the existing field access point as shown on the accompanying site location plan.

We hope that you have all the information that you need however, please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information as we are very happy to discuss this application with you.

Yours faithfully

Matthew Platt