



**SUPPORTING STATEMENT IN RELATION TO THE
ERECTION OF A REPLACEMENT AGRICULTURAL BUILDING**

AT

OX HAY FARM

GUN HILL

MEERBROOK

NR LEEK

ST13 8SL

ON BEHALF OF

MR P NADIN

Report produced by: -

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1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- This Report has been produced to support a Full Planning Application to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council in relation to the erection of a replacement agricultural building to serve the existing farm business at Ox Hay Farm.
- The applicant farms approximately 80 acres of land in the locality, the majority of which is around Ox Hay Farm. Part of the land is grazed during the winter period only.
- A livestock business is operated comprising a pedigree sheep flock and pig enterprise under Livestock Holding Number 37/067/0177.
- A flock of approximately 19 pedigree Bleu du Maine and Beltex ewes are owned by the applicant producing pedigree ewe and ram lambs. Ram lambs are reared and sold to other pedigree and commercial breeders. Ewe lambs are reared for either flock replacements or sold to other breeders. In total, there are around 45 head of pedigree sheep on the holding.
- All of the ewes lambs inside in January which produces a 'well grown' lamb for the Autumn breeding sales. Usually rams are sold at Penrith Auctions.
- Due to the weather conditions at that time of year and the breed qualities and value of the sheep flock, it is essential that suitable housing is available to meet welfare requirements.
- The pig enterprise comprises 11 breeding Welsh sows, 1 boar with approximately 36 store pigs at present. When all breeding sows have litters, there can be up to 90 piglets or store pigs on the farm.
- In addition, cattle are kept in the buildings over the winter period. The majority of the cattle are youngstock and breeding heifers which are kept on a B&B arrangement with another farmer. This practice is quite common between farmers where accommodation / labour is short on larger farms.

2.0 PROPOSED BUILDING

- The proposed building will be used mainly for livestock housing and divided into two sections internally.
- Half of the building will be used for the pig enterprise with 6 permanent internal pens which are straw bedded. There is also a feed/ scraping passage running the length of the building. A straw loft is proposed over the pens. This housing will be used for store and finishing pigs. The building has been designed to provide suitable ventilation below the eaves and design to accord with high welfare standards for housing in the pig sector.
- The second half of the building will be used for the sheep flock to provide suitable housing for in lamb uses and space for pens during lambing. When not in use for permanent sheep housing, the building will be used as a covered handling area for the sheep flock.
- The proposed building will replace the existing dilapidated structures on the site.
- Full elevation and site plans have been included providing design detail.