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PLANNING STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF A PLANNING APPLICATION FOR CONSENT TO RETAIN A RECENTLY FORMED FARM TRACK AT **HOLLY DALE FARM** DOUSE LANE BRADNOP STAFFORDSHIRE ST13 7NF

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The farm at Holly Dale comprises a farmhouse, buildings and land used hitherto as a small dairy unit and now as an adjunct to a large dairy unit based at nearby Longshaw Farm Bradnop.

The farmhouse remains in single family residential occupation and the traditional farm buildings have been converted into dwellings.

Modern farm buildings, which were redundant, have been demolished.

The farm was purchased some 2 years ago by the applicants.

Access to the farm land and buildings was via a trackway passing in front of the farmhouse and to the side of the traditional buildings which are now converted into dwellings.

This trackway is not wide enough to be safely used by the type of large modern farm machinery deployed on the enlarged agricultural unit.

There are significant safety issues with the proximity of the this trackway to the converted barns, should it continue to be used as previously.

Because of the above concerns, the applicants formed a new trackway so as to be able to safely access the fields to the west of the farmstead. In so doing they utilised an existing field access and gateway on Douse Lane and formed a track so as extend up to an existing track which was previously accessed from the farmstead track.

The applicants have formed the new track alongside the hedgerow fronting Douse Lane so as to reduce it's intrusiveness into the landscape and have utilised previously hard surfaced areas near the now removed slurry tank.

Furthermore, the track as formed with agricultural crushed limestone chatter, will within a year or so partly grass over leaving just two wheel tracks.

The new track was formed a few months ago in the belief that it was development permitted by the General Permitted Development Order. Which indeed it would have been had they been further advised of the need to give Prior Notification of their intention before its commencement.

This current application is therefore a Full Planning Application to rectify an apparent breach of Planning Development Control.

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