DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

RELATING TO

THE ERECTION OF ADDITIONAL LIVESTOCK BUILDINGS (PHASE I & PHASE II)

AT

BLAKELEY FARM, BLAKELEY LANE, WHISTON, STOKE-ON-TRENT, ST10 2HB

ON BEHALF OF

DR & BA COTTON

1. Background

- Blakeley Farm comprises a range of traditional and modern portal frame buildings, being the base of a substantial dairy enterprise.

- The range of agricultural buildings are divided by the minor road which runs through the farm. The main cubicle housing, silage clamps and manure storage is located to the West of the road. To the East is the youngstock buildings.

- DR & BA Cotton farm approximately 283.48 acres (114.722 hectares) with 215.67 acres (87.280 hectares) owned and a further 67.81 acres (27.442 hectares) rented on long term arrangements.

- With the family farming at Blakeley Farm for approximately 61 years, the applicants are well established and have strong connections to the land which they farm.

- Blakeley Farm has evolved over a number of years and adapted to changes in practice in the agricultural sector. Blakeley Farm is now the base of a modern substantial dairy unit with herd genetics and breeding program which exceeds the national average breeding high quality and yielding dairy cows.

- The dairy herd comprises approximately 315 head of stock with 180 cows and heifers within the milking herd and 135 youngstock. The milk produced is under contract with Tesco.

- Below is an aerial image of the farm complex.

Aerial Image of Blakeley Farm complex



2. Proposed Livestock Buildings

- Planning permission is sought for the erection of two buildings which adjoin on the end gable.

- The overall scheme (Phases I & II) will provide enough additional housing space to increase the milking herd from 180 cows to 240 cows.

- Phase I (PP-08573953) seeks to erect a 4 bay building nearest to the road.

- Phase II (PP-08573955) seeks to erect a 5 bay building which joins the above building on the end gable.

- Both schemes adjoin the existing parlour and cubicle housing on the North elevation.

- Both buildings will be used to house livestock, providing additional cubicle housing for the dairy herd.

- Details of the external finishes is provided on the submitted plans.

Ian Harvey Fabrications Limited. **11th March 2020**