DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

RELATING TO THE PROPOSED LEAN TO AGRICULTURAL BUILDING (PHASE II)

AT

FOREST FARM

ASHBOURNE ROAD

CALTON MOOR

ASHBOURNE

DE6 2BU

ON BEHALF OF

BIRCHWOOD PARK FARMS

Report produced by:-

C G Barks MRICS

Craig.barks@bagshaws.com

April 2021 : V1

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- This Statement has been produced to accompany a full planning application for a further lean to agricultural building at Forest Farm and will be used to provide additional livestock housing for the dairy youngstock.

- A further planning application has also been submitted for Phase I of this development (PP.09636605).

2.0 AGRICULTURAL JUSTIFICATION

- Across the three holdings, Birchwood Park Farms farmed a total land holding of 675 acres (273.258 hectares) with over 530 head of cattle.

- The farm partnership has grown over a number of years, initially started in 1991 on a 90 acres dairy farm near Burton on Trent with a herd of approximately 60 cows. In 2000, the family moved to Birchwood Park Farm, allowing the herd size to increase to 140 head.

- In 2011, the land at Moor Lane, Stockwell Heath was purchased and more recently Forest Farm in 2016. Over this period, the applicants have restructured their business to facilitate growth. By using Moor Lane Farm to house beef and finishing cattle and by housing all dairy youngstock at Forest Farm, this has allowed the dairy herd at Birchwood Park Farm to increase from 140 to 270, almost double the initial herd size. Birchwood Park Farm can accommodate a dairy herd of 300 and therefore it is their intension to increase to that level over the next 12 months.

- Commencing on the 1st June 2019, Birchwood Park Farms has achieved organic status and has been in organic conversion for two years. Milk is sold to ARLA who supply McDonalds restaurants. The organic milk market is more stable than commercial milk prices.

- Organic dairy farms operate a lower stocking density than conventional units and therefore the applicants have built up a substantial landholding to meet the certification requirements. Furthermore, the environmental objectives achieved with the organic certification complement the applicant's business.

- Birchwood Park Farms operates across three main farm units. These units can be summarised as follows:

BIRCHWOOD PARK FARMS - FARM HOLDINGS

	Acres	Hectares
Birchwood Park Farm, Roston Dairy unit housing all the milking herd	354	143.262
Moor Lane Farm, Moor Lane, Stockwell Heath Finishing unit and Licensed TB Finishing Unit, Grassland and Arable	165	66.775
Forest Farm, Swinscoe, Ashbourne Dairy youngstock and dairy heifer unit, all grassland	126.22	51.081
Land at Darlbury Lees, Ashbourne Cattle grazing	30	12.141
TOTAL LAND FARMED	**675**	**273.258**

- All dairy youngstock are homebred, breeding their own herd replacements. Dairy youngstock and dry cows are kept at Forest Farm at Swinscoe.
- The applicants have insufficient livestock housing at Forest Farm and intend to erect purpose built livestock housing to increase capacity and allow the existing agricultural buildings to be reconfigured for fodder and straw storage, machinery and younger calves.

2.0 SITING & DESIGN

- The proposed lean to agricultural building has been sited adjacent to the existing yard area. Phase I of this scheme adjoins the East elevation.
- The design and appearance of the building is a typical modern agricultural building.

3.0 ACCESS

- Access to the proposed building is gained through the existing yard area from the public highway.

4.0 VISUAL IMPACT

- The proposed lean to building has been sited adjacent to the existing yard, buildings and farm complex. In the wider landscape, the site is well screened by the topography of the land.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- The proposed lean to building is required to serve an existing established expanding farm enterprise and allows the applicants to improve the quality of the livestock housing at Forest Farm.
- The design and appearance is typical of an agricultural building of this type, style and use.
- The building has been sited adjacent to the existing farm complex.