

Mr Ian Frank Williamson
Staffordshire Operator Training
Mill Farm
Gratton Lane
Endon, SOT
ST9 9AG

15th Aug 2023

Re: Tractor Implement Shed at Mill Farm, Gratton Lane, Endon ST9 9AG

Dear Shaun,

The applicant, my daughter Nicole Williamson whom is currently working in Devon has asked me to categorise & substantiate the validity of the tractor implement shed at Mill Farm.

The land in question was purchased in the 1920s by my great grandfather and was originally part of "Gate House Farm". My father, the late Mr Fred Williamson inherited Mill Farm 12 acres, including 18 acres on the A53 & 6 acres opposite totalling 36 acres. My father farmed the land, until his death in 2014. We did continue with the farming practice for the benefit of his spouse, an up to the present day the tractors in the attached photos provided are currently used for muck spreading & fertilising of the land. Although he did allow myself, in 2002 with the support of a DEFRA grant to establish a Training Centre for individuals to learn how to operate Heavy Plant Machinery.

Planning was approved by SMDC but were adamant there needed to be a clear divide between what was used for farming and that of the training business. There was to be no farming practice, equipment /implements used for haymaking & storage to be kept in the training building.

Subsequently, planning was obtained to rebuild the large hayshed due to fire & the NFU Insurance stipulated that no hay or combustible materials due to fire risk could be kept together so again permitted approval was obtained for a purpose-built tractor/implement shed.

SMDC carried out an inspection of this along with an enforcement officer to ensure this division was maintained. Including two visits by Jane Prince from the VOA (Rates Assessor), who determined this was an agricultural building of which an accurate plan was implemented to determine a clear division between the training & agriculture. This could be substantiated by the VOA.

Upon the death of my father & the training business now a success the farming side took a steady decline and hay making ceasing completely. The land is now used for silage and grazing by the farmer next door of which we fertilise as described above. The tractor shed is currently holding farming equipment, it is an agricultural building.

As regards the access, there are three road access points to the property. One on the boundary with our neighbour's field, one opposite Endon Mill but for safety reasons & the increased traffic we use the wider and safer 16 feet gateway.

Please find attached planning evidence & current photos of the interior of the tractor shed.

Yours Sincerely,

Frank Williamson