

Portgate Farm
North Molton
South Molton
Devon
EX36 3EJ

SMDC Planning Department
Moorlands House
Leek
Staffordshire
ST13 6HQ

5th September 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

Application for a Goat Meat Rearing Unit

I write in support of the application made by John and Laura Foster of The Grange, Whiston, Stoke-on-Trent, ST10 2JB.

My wife and I, along with business partners run a goat dairy herd at our farm in Devon. We have been developing our herd for over 10 years and reproduce from our stock in order to maintain milk quality and to obtain nanny goat kids to rear as future replacement stock. On average 50% of the kids born are female.

The goat milk industry is stable, however the other 50% of male goat kids born within a herd in the UK are a by-product; despite goat meat being particularly lean and flavoursome.

Goat meat is the most commonly eaten meat in the world as goat populations are much higher in developing countries than they are in the UK. That said there is definite demand in areas of the UK, particularly in the midlands and in other diverse communities across the country. There are currently very few outlets for this product due to lack of rearing facility. As a country it is apparent that the UK population is becoming more health conscious and the demand for both goat milk and goat meat is constantly emerging.

John and Laura's application was born from several visits over the years to our farm during kidding season. Both enjoyed seeing our goats and working with them closely. Both displayed natural stockmanship skills and compassion during what is a very busy and demanding time.

Since purchasing The Grange and its curtilage it has been evident that John's passion to farm goats has been growing. An enterprise for goat milk is not viable at this location due to lack of space for a parlour and associated unit as well as stock housing and a bio-secure kid

rearing shed, 'set up' cost is also unattainable. However, a meat rearing unit alongside the existing attached farmland and open pole barn is realistic.

John has put a lot of thought into erection of a purpose-built stock shed; his design ensures a high standard of goat welfare alongside efficiency and bio-security.

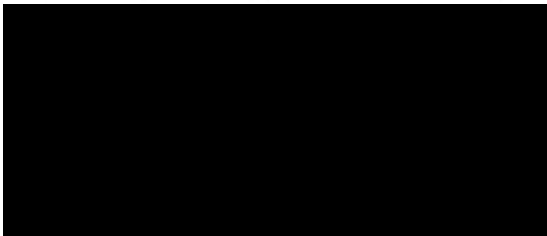
Investigation into potential local outlets for goat meat reared at The Grange has been carried out. John has received warm interest from several butchery's indicating a definite 'gap in the market' and demand for this product in the area.

We have no doubt that John and Laura will benefit the UK goat industry with this venture and wholeheartedly support their application in order to prevent euthanasia of so many male goat kids. We will happily offer any advice we can, drawn from our own experiences working with goats.

Yours Faithfully

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of James Verney.

James Verney

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Laura Verney.

Laura Verney