

## Statutory Declaration

Statement of Mrs Ruth Costin

Subject: Confirmation as to the use of an agricultural barn located at Brook Hall Farm, Long Lane, Aston, Hertfordshire, SG2 7HE.

Full name: Ruth Costin

Address:

Brook Hall Farm

Long Lane

Aston

Hertfordshire

SG2 7HE

Date: 15/12/2022

1. I, Mrs Ruth Costin write in respect of the agricultural barn which is subject of the resubmission of a Class Q Prior Approval Planning Application which is being made to East Herts District Council for the conversion from agricultural to a residential dwelling.
2. Brook Hall Farm has been in the ownership of [REDACTED]
3. Prior to 1982, Brook Hall farm was intensively worked as a livestock holding, predominately as a cattle enterprise, poultry rearing and sheep. During this period the barn was used for cattle until our purchase of the property. Following the purchase, the barn was cleared and subsequently used for the storage of our farm equipment which included a tractor, harrow, fencing materials and livestock (sheep).
4. Since 1982, the barn has been in use for the storage of the agricultural equipment associated with our land. In addition to this, the barn has been used to store hay, feed and to house sheep.
5. Since 2002, in conjunction with a local sheep farmer (Mr Palfreyman), the land has been used to graze sheep and the barn has been in use as both a lambing shed, feed and agricultural store and has been so for twenty years.
6. Since 1982 we have maintained our land by working alongside local farmers but for the last thirty years, we have worked with a local agricultural contractor (Mr Dodson & Son). Hay making is carried out on a seasonal basis and the hay is cut, baled, and stored in the barn.
7. Working the land through these partnerships has been a long established way of life and one which enables all to benefit from it. Our sheep grazing provides nutrients for the land which in turn produces hay, which is either sold, used as feed and/or bedding during lambing. Our agricultural contractor helps to maintain the land once