

Willows Farm – Owners’ statement

We attach the general description of the history of the property from a Surveyors Report by Martin and Mortimer (Attachments A-A3) issued when we originally purchased the property in 2007. The house dates back to the 16th Century and the description refers to a barn extension in 1992 - the barn was a milking barn and the property had been a dairy for many years. This is evidenced by the Dairy Herd record from 1953 which we attach here. The Martin and Mortimer report (Pages A3 and A1 refer to the Atcost Barn and the fields (around 5 acres) surrounding it and details that is a newer structure than the other buildings on the property.

Prior to 2007 when we purchased the property Willows Farm had about 25 acres of land which supported the Jersey herd. Some time around 2000 Mr Malcolm Ewen, our current neighbour and owner of Wash Farm which is one of the adjoining properties, bought Willows Farm and then rented it out. Prior to selling it to us he separated off 20 acres to retain and add to the land belonging to his property Wash Farm. It was at this point that the Atcost barn could be considered to have been “orphaned” as it had lost the land which is used to service.

As owners of the property for over 15 years now we have long felt that the barn was wasted as a building and would like to make it a structure of utility and function whilst maintaining its existing features. Since occupying the property we have cleared out the barn but, aside from storing a couple of old mowers and a potting table it has remained an unused space with no possibility of further agricultural use due to the limitations of acreage of the property and the fact that Willows Farm has now, for many years, been a residential property. We are motivated to bring this building back to useful life rather than allowing it to exist as an empty barn and, in the event of being given permission to do so, we would like to preserve the overall features of the barn and create a dwelling within the existing structure as outlined in the Architect’s statement.

Title and other documentary evidence

We also attach the following:

- 1) Title deeds received when we purchased the property (Attachments C1-C3);
- 2) An aerial photo of the property from RPS Consultants Homecheck Environmental dated 1999-2002 demonstrating the Atcost barn was in place then; (Attachments D1 and D2);
- 3) An Ordnance Survey vicinity map showing where the property and its fields sit relative to others (Attachment E);
- 4) HM Land Registry details for the property (Attachments F1 and F2)