

Agricultural Statement

Site: Renvyle Farm, Okehurst Lane, Billingshurst, West Sussex

Purpose: Clarification of agricultural activities and functional need for the proposed barn

Date: September 2026

1. Introduction

This Agricultural Statement has been prepared to provide additional information regarding the agricultural operations at Renvyle Farm and to clarify the functional purpose of the proposed barn. The farm is an established rural holding engaged in land-based activities that require secure storage, machinery housing, feed management, and operational workspace. The proposed building forms an essential component of the farm's day-to-day functioning and long-term resilience.

2. Overview of the Farm Enterprise

Renvyle Farm comprises grazing land, pasture, internal tracks, and a small cluster of operational buildings. The holding supports a mixed agricultural operation that includes:

- Seasonal hay and forage production
- Use of agricultural machinery for land maintenance
- Storage of feed, bedding, tools, and equipment
- General farm workshop activities

The farm operates year-round and requires weather-resilient infrastructure to maintain productivity and ensure safe, efficient working conditions.

3. Purpose of the Proposed Barn

The proposed barn is required to support the following core agricultural functions:

- **Secure storage of machinery and equipment** Tractors, mowers, toppers, trailers, and maintenance tools must be stored under cover to prevent deterioration and ensure operational reliability.
- **Workshop and maintenance area** A dedicated internal area is needed for machinery servicing, repairs, and safe storage of tools.

The barn is **not commercial, not for rent, and not intended for external business use**. It is solely for the operational needs of Renvyle Farm.

4. Functional Need for On-Site Agricultural Infrastructure

The building is essential to its countryside location because:

- Agricultural machinery and feed must be stored **on the holding** where they are used.
- The farm's operations cannot be relocated to a built-up area.
- On-site workshop space reduces downtime and ensures machinery is safe and compliant.
- The building consolidates activities within the existing farmstead, reducing vehicle movements and improving operational efficiency.

The barn directly supports the agricultural enterprise and is fundamental to maintaining the viability of the holding.

5. Current Agricultural Activities Requiring the Barn

5.1 Machinery Operations

The farm uses a range of equipment for topping, mowing, hedge cutting, fencing, and general land management. These machines require dry, secure storage to prevent rust, electrical damage, and mechanical failure.

5.2 Forage Production

Seasonal hay and forage are produced on the holding and must be stored in a dry environment to maintain quality and prevent spoilage.

5.3 Winter Operations

During winter, the farm relies heavily on stored machinery. The barn provides essential protection from weather conditions and ensures uninterrupted farm operations.

6. Why the Building is Necessary

The barn is required to:

- Replace lost or insufficient existing storage capacity
- Improve operational safety and efficiency
- Protect valuable machinery and feed
- Support year-round agricultural activity
- Ensure the long-term sustainability of the farm business

Without the building, the farm would face operational constraints, increased maintenance costs, and reduced resilience during winter and adverse weather.

7. Conclusion

Renvyle Farm is an active agricultural holding that requires secure, functional infrastructure to support its operations. The proposed barn is essential for machinery storage, feed management, workshop activities. It is directly tied to the farm's land-based activities and is fundamental to maintaining the viability and sustainability of the enterprise.

The development is therefore fully justified as an agricultural building serving an established rural business.