SUPPORTING STATEMENT

To accompany the submission of an application for full planning permission to install a new agricultural gateway onto Highway

On behalf of Mr & Mrs M Weaver of
Whychurch Farm
Malmesbury
Wiltshire

1. Background

Mr & Mrs Weaver, who farm in partnership at Whychurch Farm, Malmesbury, run an extensive farming business at their home farm. Their farming business is mixed. Some of their land is let to tenants. Mr and Mrs Weaver recent purchased a block of arable farmland at Manor Farm in Milbourne Malmesbury equating to approximately 230 acres. The previous owner retained the farm buildings which was the main access to the field. A new gateway will allow better access to the land and avoid continuous large farm machinery traffic through the village of Milbourne as the field links up with other land on the Charlton Road where the main access can be taken from.

2. The Site

The proposal is situated on the outskirts of the village of Milbourne near Malmesbury along Milbourne Lane. The surrounding area is predominantly farmland. The arable fields are cropped. The are no known footpaths that cross the proposed application.

The proposed application is not situated in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Special Protection Area, Special Area of Conservation or a Priority Habitat.

According to the Environmental Agency's Flood Map for Planning (see below) the proposed application is not located within an area of risk of flooding and is not in the vicinity of a main river.



Environment Agency Extract

Below are photographs showing the splays left and right and an existing agricultural access on the opposite side of the road.







3. Proposal

The submission of an application for full planning permission to install a new agricultural gateway with hardcore and concrete splays.

4. Design

The agricultural access will have two 12ft gates with posts either side set back from the highway edge to allow vehicles to pull off from the highway. New hedging will be planted to accommodate the setting back of the gateway from the highway and to mitigate the small section of hedging lost. Against the new hedge will be post and rail wooden fencing to keep the land secured. The splays will be constructed of hardcore to match the existing access the opposite side of the road. Below is an extract showing the distance of the visibility splays east and west.



5. Landscape and Ecology

A small section of hedge will be removed to allow for the new access. The removal of the hedge will be undertaken outside the bird nesting season. There will be no visual impact of the new access.

There is very little ecological impact. The surrounding area is arable cropping which has very low ecological value.

6. Reasons for the application

- Allows access to a field.
- The application is opposite to an existing access into the applicant's field.
- Good visibility splays east and west.
- To reduce carbon emissions by not having to drive tractors and other farm machinery around the village being further in distance.
- To improve safety in the village of Milbourne by reducing farm traffic through a residential area.
- Forms part of a project for the farmland to introduce herbal leys as part of a Countryside Stewardship application submitted to Rural Payments Agency. The access will allow livestock equipment to obtain access to the field to graze the herbal leys.

7. Policies

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The NPPF supports development in the countryside. Under the new NPPF Section 6, Building in a Strong Competitive Economy states that "significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth and productivity taking into account both local business needs and wider opportunities". The application will assist in allowing other more environmental farming methods such as the planting of herbal leys and the introduction of livestock.

Other paragraphs of the NPPF support this application including Para 9 – Promoting sustainable transport, Para 11 – Making effective use of land and Para 14 – Planning and flood risk.

Wiltshire Core Strategy

Wiltshire's Core strategy - Policy 34 aims to support the rural way of life through the promotion of modern agricultural practices and support sustainable farming and food production through allowing development required to adapt to these modern agrocultrual

practices. The application will assist in allowing other more environmental farming methods such as the planting of herbal leys and the introduction of livestock.

8. Conclusion

The proposed application does not result in any harm to the surrounding area and helps boost the local rural economy, ensure reduced co2 The application itself is supported by the NPPF and therefore we cannot see any reason why approval should not be granted.