



Bourne Valley Associates Ltd

Planning Statement

For

**A new agricultural building under an Application for
Prior Notification of proposals under Schedule 2, Part
6**

of

**The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted
Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended)**

At

**Shrewton Farm, Elston Lane, Shrewton
Wiltshire, SP3 4HJ**

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Project: Agricultural Building – Prior Notification
Reference: 00400-02
Date: 25th April 2026

Page 1 of 11

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Table of Contents

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Site Context.....	4
2.1.	<i>Agricultural holding and site location</i>	4
2.2.	<i>Need for the Development</i>	6
2.3.	<i>Planning History</i>	6
3.	Siting, Design & External Appearance.....	6
3.1.	<i>Design - amount and scale</i>	6
3.2.	<i>Siting</i>	7
3.3.	<i>External Appearance</i>	8
3.4.	<i>Landscape impact</i>	8
4.	Access.....	9
4.1.	<i>Site Access</i>	9
4.2.	<i>Traffic movements</i>	9
5.	Lighting.....	9
6.	Drainage.....	9
7.	Planning Policy	9
8.	Conclusion.....	10
	<i>Appendix A – Summary of compliance with GPDO, Part 6, Class A</i>	11



1. Introduction

This statement accompanies and supports an application made to Wiltshire Council seeking prior approval for a new agricultural building to be undertaken under Permitted Development rights. The application relates to a proposed new agricultural building at Shrewton Farm, Shrewton. The application is submitted by Bourne Valley Associates, acting as agent on behalf of E. Grant & Sons. The farm is owned by JE and EN Grant, although farmed by the E. Grant & Sons Partnership.

The proposal is considered, by the applicants and ourselves, to be permitted development under The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015¹ (GPDO). Under Schedule 2, Part 6 of that Order¹, the details of the proposals need to be set out to the local planning authority, which then has 28 days to determine whether prior approval is required. Amendments to the GPDO now allow up to 1,500m² of cumulative agricultural development within a period of two years on an established agricultural unit, subject to the relevant limitations and conditions. The new building is proposed to cover 722m². The remaining development will be concrete aprons serving the building and will amount to 774m², therefore the total area of development is 1,496m².

In this statement, we review only those aspects that are covered by the Order, including those that can be influenced by the local planning authority. Accordingly, we have not provided a full review of the development against policy that we would normally do in respect of planning applications. We thus principally consider whether the proposal complies with the terms and conditions as set out in Class A of Part 6, Schedule of the GPDO: whether the siting, design and external appearance of the proposed development is acceptable and whether we have provided enough information to enable the local planning authority to assess the proposed development against the criterion within the GPDO.

¹ Hereafter referred to as the GPDO.



2. Site Context

2.1. Agricultural holding and site location

Shrewton Farm is located in Shrewton within a countryside location. Figure 1 shows the application site's geographical context. The location plan is formally submitted as Drawing 00400-00-E, Sheet 01.

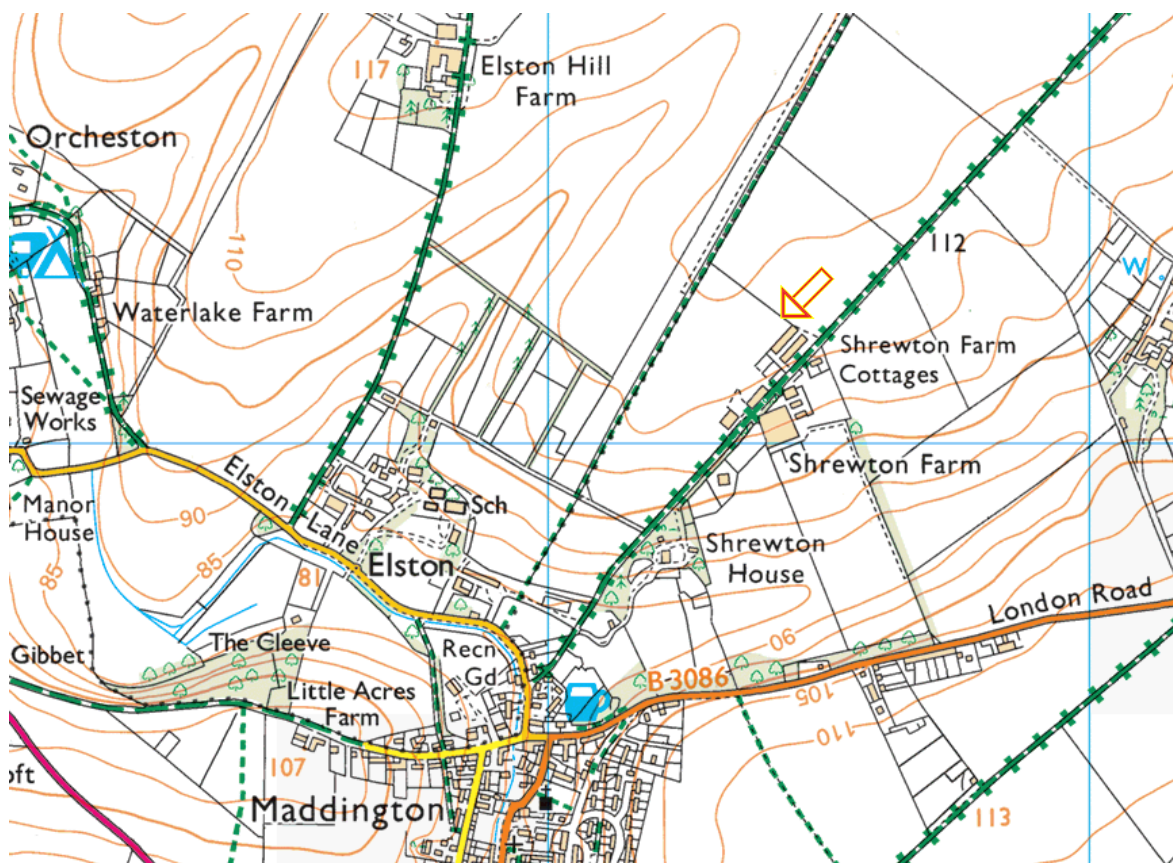


Figure 1 – Proposed Building Location

The proposed barn will be used solely for agricultural purposes at Shrewton Farm - which comprises a working farm including private land at Shrewton Farm (270ha) and a significant area of unimproved chalk grassland on Salisbury Plain: 2,273ha in all. This land is actively farmed in use for agriculture (as defined within D1 of Part 6 of the GPDO Interpretation of Classes A-C) as *'land in use for agriculture and which is so used for the purpose of a trade or business'*. The Location Plan shows that all the surrounding land is owned and used as the agricultural unit shown in Blue, which is well over the required 5ha, as required within the GPDO for the erection of new agricultural buildings. The proposed building is not located on a separate parcel of land smaller than 1ha. (Again defined within D1 of Part 6 of the GPDO Interpretation of Classes A-C) as *'agricultural land which is occupied as a unit for the purposes of agriculture, including –*

(a) any dwelling or other building on that land occupied for the purpose of farming the land by the person who occupies the unit, or

(b) any dwelling on that land occupied by a farmworker;

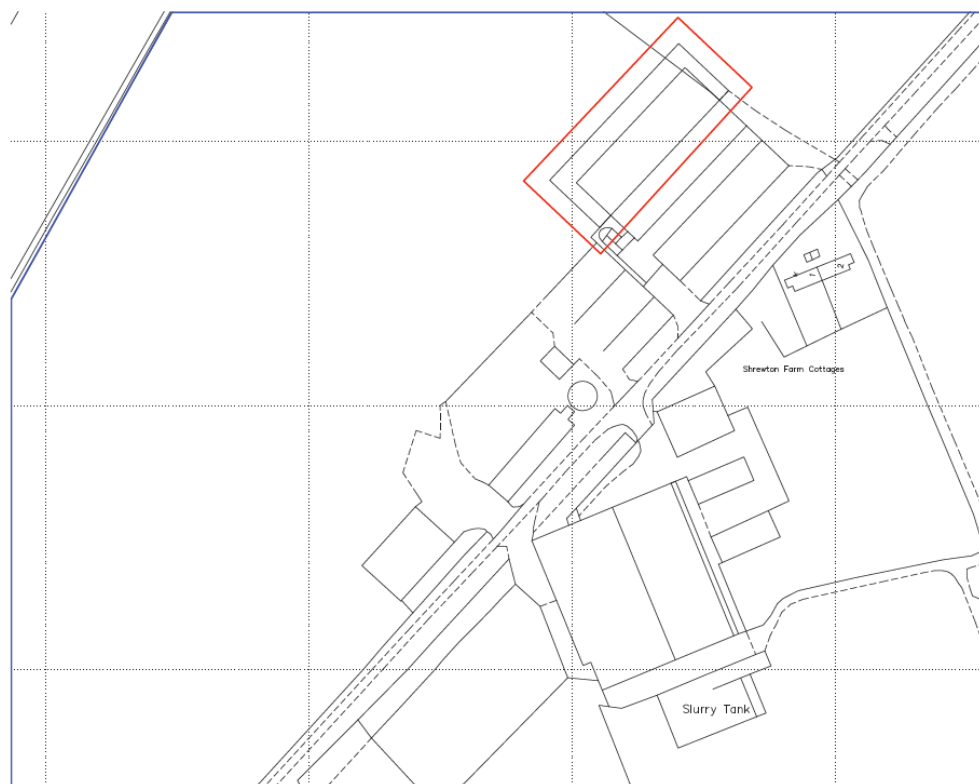


Figure 2 - Agricultural Holding

Figure 2 above, is a clip of the Location Plan showing the land owned by the applicant in blue. The estate ownership is wider than the plan allows for, and amounts to approximately 270 hectares. Figure 3 below, is an aerial photograph of the site, showing its relationship with the surrounding agricultural unit.

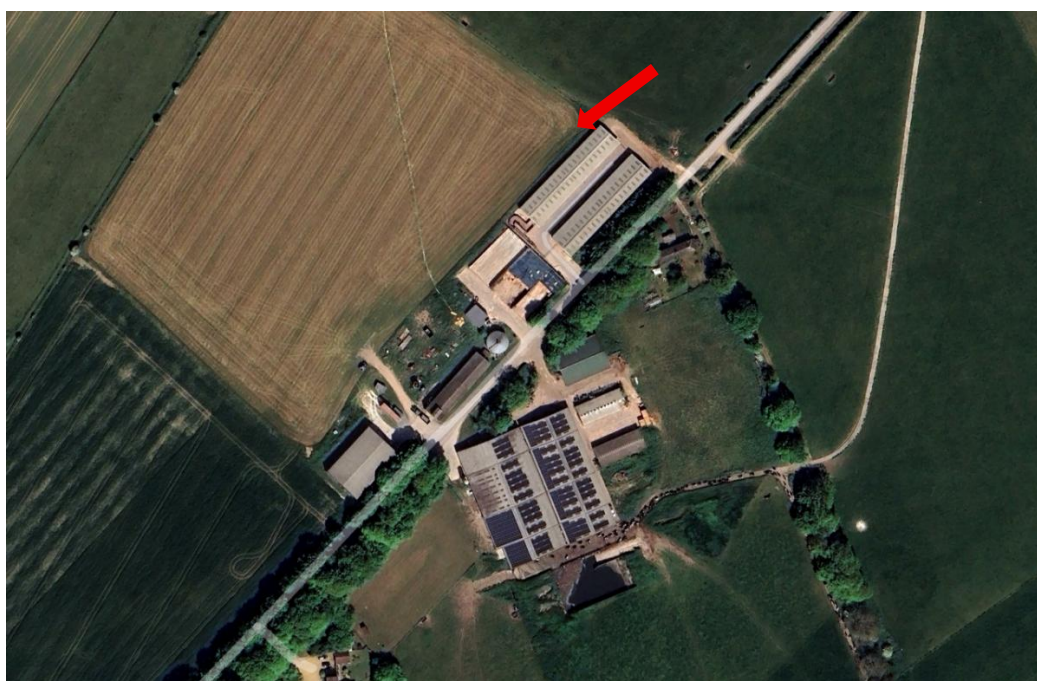


Figure 3 - Aerial photograph of the proposed site



2.2. Need for the Development

The proposed building is reasonably necessary for the purposes of agriculture on the holding.

The farm is a mixed dairy beef and arable enterprise. There are approximately 1700 cattle, which have an important role in maintaining the SSSI grassland through managed grazing.

The new building is needed to improve facilities for young calves until they are ready to be put out to grass. It will also allow more cattle to be brought in during wet winters, which appear to be becoming more frequent and problematic. It does not represent an increase in stock numbers.

The cattle will be bedded on straw and the resulting manure will be valued as fertiliser on the arable area of the farm.

The development therefore represents a necessary improvement to the operational infrastructure of the agricultural unit.

2.3. Planning History

15/02152/FUL	Construction of two new steel portal frame buildings for housing cattle	Approve 2015
S/2013/0398	Demolish existing farm units and erect new farm dairy units	Approve 2013
S/2012/1508	Construction of a silage clamp	Approve 2012
S/1983/0512	Grain storage silo	Approve 1983
S/2012/0491	Construction of a grain store	Approve 2012

There have been no applications for development on the site within the last two-year period.

3. Siting, Design & External Appearance

3.1. Design - amount and scale

The dimensions of the proposed agricultural building are shown in the Floor Plan and the Proposed Elevations Drawing 00400-02-A Sheet 01. The building will be steel portal-framed with a fibre cement roof sheets. A typical agricultural form and constructed using materials commonly used for modern farm buildings. The proposed building is positioned within the existing farmstead area and in close proximity to other agricultural buildings associated with the holding.

Locating the building within the established cluster of farm buildings ensures that the development reads as part of the existing agricultural complex rather than as an isolated structure within the wider countryside. This siting is operationally efficient and minimises visual impact when viewed from the surrounding landscape.



The siting has also been selected to sit alongside the existing built form to allow convenient access to allow the efficient movement of cattle between the buildings and the surrounding farmland.

The proposed building will comprise a simple rectangular structure measuring 60.15 metres in length and 12 metres in width. The eaves would be 4.97m high with height to the ridge being 6.68m.

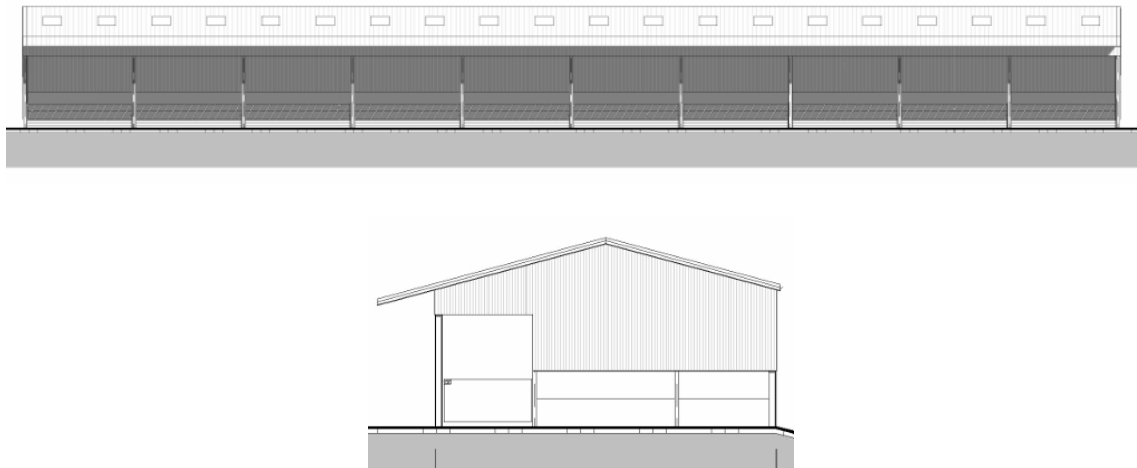


Figure 4 - Proposed Plans

Shrewton House is the only property within close proximity which is not owned by the farm, this property is a 'protected building' (permanent buildings which is normally occupied by people or would so be occupied, if it were in use for purposes for which it is designed) however this property is just over the 400m from the proposed cattle building.

3.2. Siting

The proposed layout for the agricultural building can be seen in the proposed Block plan, see Drawing 00400-00-E, sheet 02. It shows the position of the proposed building sited sensitively in close proximity to the other built form within the site for screening. The dwellings located to the South East are farm cottages in the ownership of the farm.

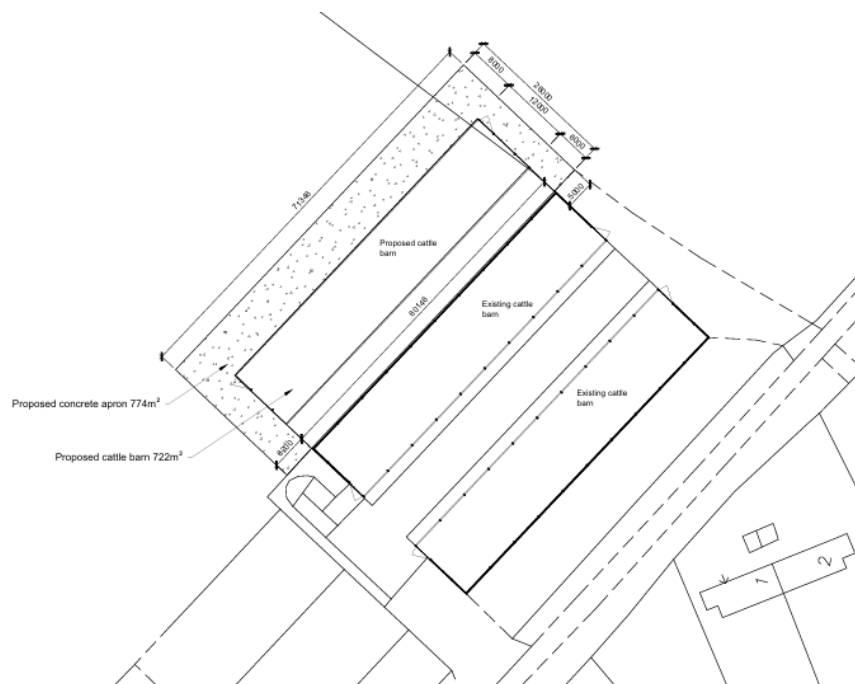


Figure 5 - Proposed Site Plan

The land in which the new building is proposed has no designations such as Conservation Area/Nature Conservation/AONB(National Landscape).

3.3. External Appearance

The new building will be constructed of materials typical of agricultural buildings, which are 'fit-for-purpose' in terms of design and appearance. The walls will be pre cast concrete panels with timber space boarding above, galvanised steel gates and feed fence. Roof – fibre cement roof sheets, colour natural with 10% GRP roof lights.

3.4. Landscape impact

The site lies within undesignated landscape. However landscape impact has been a strong consideration and the siting and design of the building have been carefully considered in this context.

The proposed building will be located adjacent to existing built form. As a result, the building will be viewed in the context of the established agricultural complex rather than as a new isolated structure within the open landscape.

The scale, form and materials of the building are typical of agricultural development and are appropriate to its rural setting. The use of subdued agricultural cladding and roofing will reduce visual prominence.

Given the relationship of the proposed building to the existing farmstead and the agricultural character of the surrounding area, the development will not materially harm the character or appearance of the National Landscape.



4. Access

4.1. Site Access

The development will utilise the existing farm access and internal farm tracks that currently serve the agricultural unit.

4.2. Traffic movements

The proposed building will support the existing agricultural use of the land and will not result in any material change in traffic movements beyond those normally associated with the operation of the farm. No new access points are required and the existing access arrangements are considered adequate to serve the development.

5. Lighting

There is no lighting required for the proposed building.

6. Drainage

The drainage at the site will not be altered from the existing situation. The application site lies in Flood Zone 1 and is thus not subject to a flood risk assessment because the proposed works are below the threshold for assessment, and the site is well away from rivers or streams. The underlying geology is chalk, which provides excellent soakaway drainage.

7. Planning Policy

The application is submitted as a Prior Notification under Schedule 2, Part 6, Class A of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended).

Development falling within this class constitutes permitted development subject to compliance with the limitations and conditions set out within the GPDO. The role of the Local Planning Authority is therefore limited to determining whether prior approval is required in respect of the specified matters set out within the GPDO, including siting, design and external appearance.

This statement demonstrates that the proposed development complies with the relevant limitations and conditions of Class A. In order to summarise our interpretation of the accordance of the proposals with these criteria, Appendix A is set out in a simple table.

There are no conflicts with the criteria. The works are clearly “reasonably necessary” for agriculture, and they relate to the activities at Shrewton Farm only.



8. Conclusion

The wetter winters require cattle to be housed in during poor conditions, requiring a further cattle building. The proposed cattle building is required to house the existing cattle numbers over winter not to increase cattle numbers at the holding. This will support the ongoing operation of the established agricultural unit at Shrewton Farm.

The development complies with the relevant limitations and conditions of Schedule 2, Part 6, Class A of the GPDO and is reasonably necessary for the purposes of agriculture within the holding.

The building is appropriately sited within the existing farmstead, will utilise existing access arrangements, and will be constructed using materials typical of agricultural development.

For these reasons, the proposed development represents permitted development and the applicant respectfully requests that the Local Planning Authority confirms that prior approval is not required.



Appendix A – Summary of compliance with GPDO, Part 6, Class A

Is the farm unit over 5ha in area?	<i>YES – over 270 Ha</i>
Is the building reasonably necessary for agriculture?	<i>YES, see rationale in statement for cattle housing</i>
Is the proposal on a separate parcel of less than 1 ha?	<i>NO the proposed land to which the new building relates is centrally located within the agricultural holding</i>
Does the building satisfy agricultural needs for this unit only?	<i>YES. It will be used to accommodate cattle</i>
Has development under Class Q or Class S of Part 3 been carried out on the established agricultural unit within the previous 10 years?	<i>NO</i>
<i>Have other works taken place in the last 2 years within 90m of the proposed development that exceed 1500m²?</i>	<i>NO</i>
Do the works relate to a dwelling or non-agricultural use?	<i>NO</i>
Would any works or structure for accommodating livestock or any plant or machinery arising from engineering operations; or any building erected or extended or altered by virtue of Class A exceed 1500 square metres?	<i>NO, under 1500sqm</i>
Is there an aerodrome within 3Km?	<i>NO</i>
Is the height of the building over 12m?	<i>NO</i>
Is the development within 25m of a trunk or classified road?	<i>NO</i>
Would the building be used to accommodate livestock, or for the storage of sewage or slurry and within 400m of a protected building?	<i>NO – Shrewton House is just over 400m</i>
Is the proposal associated with fish farming?	<i>NO</i>
Would the building be associated with biomass production/storage or for anaerobic digestion	<i>NO</i>