

Proposal for new residential accommodation at Hillside Farm, Bryher.

Supporting Statement.

We are proposing to convert the timber framed agricultural building behind the current farmhouse into our permanent dwelling. Our reasons for this conversion are noted below.

- With two holiday cottages, as it has been since we took on the tenancy, the income this provides does not allow for any personal savings and the winter months become very lean months. Our plan is that once we are living in the Barn Flat, we will rent out the farmhouse on a permanent basis which will allow us to save for our future, whilst continuing to invest in the farm which requires and deserves constant investment. We feel the quality of our family's lives and the long-term sustainability of the farm would be negatively affected without the ability to generate a more reasonable and supportive income and we would have to reconsider our continuation of the tenancy.
- Our eldest son has been accepted into agricultural college and currently his plans are to one day return to Bryher to carry on the farm. If this situation occurs there would be a need for housing to accommodate him and ourselves. If he decides he doesn't want to take on the farm, and in years to come Graham and I need to retire from the farm but don't want to leave, or have other commitments that mean we can't leave Bryher, having the Barn Flat will allow us to relinquish the tenancy whilst still having somewhere to live. These situations have been discussed at length with the Duchy and both scenarios are ones they are happy to support.
- Hillside Farm is an integral part of Bryhers community, ecology and scenery. It provides food to islanders and visitors, supports the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust with conservation grazing, path clearing and wildlife education and engages with the schools and public in providing education about wildlife and farming. It has recently grown to include Scilly Chilli, a business that has the potential to grow, aiding the farm to be sustainable into the future.

We feel the development of the barn is essential to the progress and sustainability of the farm and makes best use of a current building, converted sensitively, without placing further pressure on the island's current resources. Using the farmhouse for visitor accommodation will return the farm to the three-cottage business that it once was and help to support Bryhers tourist industry (that in recent years has lost several letting options) at a time when demand for accommodation is far higher than supply.

Yours Sincerely Ruth and Graham Eggins