

WITNESS STATEMENT OF

[REDACTED]

Relating to

**Land East of Castle End Road, Hare Hatch,
RG10 9TL**

I, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] declare that the facts in this statement come from my
personal knowledge:

1. My occupation is a full-time farmer. I have a BTEC in Agriculture from Hartpury College, Gloucester.
2. I am currently breeding ewes and rearing lambs for the protein market using a rotational system. It is important for the health and welfare of the sheep to be able to operate a rotation system and move the sheep from one field to another to prevent overgrazing of fields. This helps increase the weight of the livestock and prevents diseases. I own a field of about 11 acres at [REDACTED] and I also rent other fields at [REDACTED]
3. I am a friend of [REDACTED]. He told me that his father, [REDACTED] had purchased the Agricultural Land on the east side of Castle End Road shown edged red on the attached **Plan 1**. In early 2018, I asked [REDACTED] if it would be possible to use his fields for the grazing of my sheep as part of my rotation system. [REDACTED] explained he was planning to establish a vineyard for the growing of grapes on the land, but in the meantime he was willing to allow me to use the land for the grazing of sheep. He explained that the grazing of sheep on the land would be good preparation for the growing of grapes as the sheep would fertilise the land and keep grass and weeds under control.
4. I first moved my sheep onto the Agricultural Land during Spring 2018. I have continued to use the Agricultural Land for grazing of sheep each year since 2018. I have carried out various improvements to the land over this period including new stockproof fencing and water troughs. I also have a fenced marshalling area to be able to provide treatment and check the sheep and lambs.

5. The sheep are not on the land continuously because of the rotation system, which avoids overgrazing and allows the grass to recover before I return the sheep to the fields. Typically they are on the Agricultural Land between April and November each year. The numbers of sheep fluctuate at different times of the year and during lambing season but typically is between 100 and 200 sheep.
6. There have been several occasions when my sheep have escaped through the fencing around the Agricultural Land and onto [REDACTED] neighbour's land at Oak Tree Cottage and, through [REDACTED] I have had to contact the owner of that property to go and recover my sheep.

AND I believe that facts in this Witness Statement are true.

Signed

[REDACTED]

Dated

7/11/24

Plan 1 – Plan showing extent of Agricultural Land on east side of Castle
End Road, Hare Hatch.

