

Rural diversification  
and replacing  
buildings in the  
Green Belt

**Albury Farm**

Cheshunt, Herts



Fierce foreign competition and imported produce led to the closure of Albury Farm in Cheshunt, which for many years had produced home grown mushrooms.

The owner was left with a number of substantial, empty buildings in need of new uses and investment. The site is in the Green Belt and fronts onto the A10 London to Cambridge Road.

During 2004/2005 permission was secured to change the use of the existing buildings to storage and business uses and the first two phases were converted and fully let in 2006 to local companies.

Phase III comprised a series of concrete framed and blockwork buildings, which whilst capable of conversion, would not meet the needs of modern business which requires usable eaves and door heights in which to fit racking and storage pallets.

JB Planning Associates successfully negotiated with the Local Planning Authority an alternative proposal for replacing the old buildings with modern business and storage units. These were designed to a superior specification in terms of ridge and eaves height, improved loading bay door heights and appearance. The new buildings will be constructed to modern standards, attractive

to local companies and once let, more profitable than producing mushrooms.

Projects replacing existing buildings in Green Belt locations, rural enterprise and farm diversification are areas of planning work which JB Planning Associates have considerable experience.