

Design and Access Statement

Peninnis Farm Safari Tent Replacement

Background

In 2011 we gained planning permission for seven serviced safari tents on the farm which, by condition, had to be removed for the winter. However, due to the time involved in emptying, dismantling and then reassembling the tents in the spring we soon realised this was not viable as it took three staff five weeks to take them down and three staff five weeks to put them back up again.

In 2014 we applied and were successful in removing the condition that the tents had to be taken down for the winter months.

However, Storm Imogen in February 2016 caused much damage with two tents needing to be replaced (see photos below). We are now in a position where we do not have enough time or man power to remove the tents each year yet it's not economical to have to replace them each year after any winter storms.



Our new glamping business has been successful and has allowed us to reinvest and expand the farm which was one of the primary aims. The tents have proven themselves to be popular and we have very good bookings throughout the season with many of our guests being first time visitors to Scilly. However, the tents are very susceptible to the wind due to their large size and many guests have mentioned how noisy they are in even mild winds.

The Proposal

The intention of this proposal is to take forward the success we have had with our safari tents and to enhance the visitor experience on offer. Based on what we have learnt and had fed back from our guests over the last four seasons this new Glamping "cabin" will keep us and Scilly in the forefront of the farm stay market.

We have put a lot of time and thought into what could suitably replace the tents and feel that we have come up with a sympathetic and practical design of a "pod cabin" which will withstand winter storms and be more comfortable for guests in windy and cold weather which will enable us to extend the glamping season.

The Design

We have, along with input from the Duchy and our designers tried to replicate the imagery and feel of the tents but reduce the negative aspects experienced by guests and our own concerns particularly of cold weather and or high winds.

The change from tents to “cabins” does not involve any change to any of the infrastructure that exists to serve the tents. The cabin footprint remains the same as the tents while the loss of guide ropes and poles will give an appearance of more simplicity and a reduction of overall size.

Larch timber will be used for the cladding which has the benefit of ageing to a subtle silver grey with time which is similar to many of the islands farm buildings while giving a more refined finish. Windows and doors will be double glassed and aluminium.

Services and Access

All of the “pod cabins” will sit on the existing timber platforms and be serviced by the existing utilities.

No new access is required into or around the site.

The number of bed spaces remains unchanged.