

Additional Planning Statement

Sustainability, Circular Economy and Ancillary Site Activities

Since the site commenced operating in June, a number of additional sustainability initiatives have naturally evolved from the day-to-day operation of the business. I considered it would be helpful to provide the following update in support of the planning application.

One of the most significant outcomes has been something entirely unexpected.

Every day we prepare freshly squeezed orange juice using whole oranges sourced from a local Sussex supplier. This inevitably produces a substantial quantity of orange peel. Rather than treating this as waste, we have adopted a circular approach whereby every peel is reused in an environmentally beneficial way.

Consistent with our sustainability objectives, nothing goes to waste.

We have identified three practical uses for the orange peel:

- incorporating it beneath future tree planting to help naturally enrich the soil;
- using it in the development of natural cleaning products for use around the site (currently at the experimental stage); and
- naturally drying the peel before grinding it into a fine powder, using electricity generated from the site's solar energy system, to produce a natural garden insect deterrent marketed under the PeelPower™ brand.

Figure 1 below illustrates the proposed product label for PeelPower™, demonstrating one practical example of how a by-product from the site's principal activity is being responsibly reused rather than discarded.



This activity has arisen solely because of the fresh orange juice operation already taking place on the site. It is entirely incidental to the principal leisure use and demonstrates our continuing commitment to reducing waste and promoting environmental sustainability.

More broadly, the operation of Goring Gap® has been developed around a number of sustainability principles.

Fresh orange juice is produced from whole fruit rather than concentrates. Coffee is sourced from a Sussex roaster. Beers, wines, spirits, soft drinks and many other products are supplied by Sussex businesses wherever reasonably possible, helping to reduce transport miles whilst supporting the local economy.

Food and drink are served in compostable Vegware packaging to reduce unnecessary plastic waste. Renewable electricity generated from the site's solar energy system powers essential equipment including the juicing machine, coffee machine, smoothie blenders, refrigeration, hot water system and ice machine, with surplus electricity stored in battery storage for later use. By reusing previously installed solar equipment wherever practicable, we have sought to reduce waste whilst improving the environmental performance of the business.

The project also provides employment opportunities for local young people. This summer we have employed local teenagers, many experiencing their first paid employment, allowing them to gain valuable customer service, teamwork and workplace skills whilst contributing to the local economy.

Taken together, these initiatives demonstrate that the proposal is about considerably more than simply providing refreshments.

It is about creating a sustainable visitor destination that:

- minimises waste through reuse and recycling;
- supports local Sussex businesses and producers;
- promotes renewable energy;
- creates employment opportunities for local people;
- encourages responsible environmental stewardship; and
- enhances the visitor experience in a manner consistent with the wider objectives of sustainable development.

The PeelPower™ initiative also demonstrates how the operation continues to evolve through innovation and the responsible reuse of materials that would otherwise become waste. It reflects our wider commitment to the principles of the circular economy and illustrates how relatively small businesses can make a meaningful environmental contribution through practical day-to-day decisions.

I trust this additional information assists in demonstrating the wider environmental, economic and community benefits arising from the proposal, and I hope it can be taken into account as part of the overall assessment of the application.