

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STATEMENT

Site Address:

Afal y Graig Orchard
Neath Road,
Fforest Goch,
Rhos
SA83EB

Proposed Development:

Construction of single storey detached building for the washing processing and pressing of fruit into cider.

Retrospective application for the raising of ground level at site by approximately 300mm to create an area of level surface and retrospective application for widening of vehicular access. Please see planning reference number **P2023/0833**

Site Description:

The site is currently agricultural ground, with an established orchard with an agricultural building.

The field itself boundaries Neath Road, an SSSI bog and neighbouring agricultural land. The specific development site would be located at the Northern part of the orchard.

Surrounding Area Description:

Application site is located on Afal y Graigs orchard that boundaries Neath Road Neath, nearby there is a pony club and fields used for equine use.

The orchard is located in Fforest Goch which is in between the towns of Pontardawe and Neath.

Development Impacts:

Proposed development to be constructed on existing agricultural land, 100m² section of agricultural land to be removed to accommodate proposed development. Trees and existing hedge boundaries will remain unaffected. There is a separate document to demonstrate impact to the neighbouring SSSI bog (**Bog Ecology report, 1**)

Biodiversity Enhancements Proposed/carried out:

50 bird boxes, 2 owl boxes, numerous bug hotels, 2 bat boxes, 600 saplings of native species,

60 apple tree, 6 bee hives, 8 pear trees and 500 laurel plants have all been added to the site in expectance of an approval of the application. 60 more apple trees are proposed to be introduced.

Conclusion.

The proposed development would allow for onsite production of their harvested fruit, without the need to send it elsewhere for processing and packaging.

It is considered that subject to the above, the proposed development would maintain and/or enhance biodiversity. Building resilient ecological networks and deliver net benefits

For biodiversity by using recycled materials where ever possible. As well as using natural materials and energy efficient appliances and fittings.

All the while compensating the loss of agricultural land by nurturing new habitats for wild life, whilst ensuring any adverse environmental effects are avoided/minimised/mitigated, compensated for.