

We have identified a market for a glamping pod business in our area of Northumberland for the following reasons:-

~ Otterburn now has a massive attraction for wedding parties with beautiful wedding venues in situ . Our research shows that these wedding venues have more guests than they can accommodate and are happy to recommend us to their guests. (

~ We are situated in the Clear Sky area and there is a market over the winter months for star-gazing evenings .

~ We have amazing birds and wildlife here, the National Park is at present doing a bird count and have discovered Curlew, Golden Plover, Lapwing, Oystercatcher, and Snipe and many others. We feel this would be a big attraction to the pods.

~ There are very few glamping pods in Northumberland that offer a pod with built in bathroom and kitchen facilities.

The Northumberland National Park Pre-Planning Report was returned to us with positive recommendations.

Troughend West Tofts is a rural hill farm based at Otterburn in the Northumberland National Park. Our business proposal is for three Chalet Pods with ensuite facilities and a BBQ Hut for cooking and socialising as well as a hot tub for relaxing.

We hope to achieve a welcoming, relaxing place which, whilst giving a nod to camping will attract visitors who like the glamorous side of Glamping with a bathroom, kitchen and BBQ hut as well as being a safe and fun environment for families. We hope to create 3 part-time positions by the middle of the 2018 season and to achieve 2 FTE by the summer of 2019.

We will have BBQ packs supplied by a local butcher on offer, a Goodies basket made on site and with products purchased from the local shop.

We believe that there is so much to offer in this area that the pods will be pretty much full all year round and therefore not just "seasonal" (although we are being more conservative in our budgeting.)

Although the family farm and the glamping business are under completely separate legal and practical ownership, the two enterprises taken together make each other mutually more sustainable.

Otterburn has had a major boost with lovely wedding venues, Le Petit Chateau and Woodhill Hall which cannot cope with the amount of guests to accommodate. There has also been a big interest in Dark Skies over the winter months and we are in the Northumberland International Dark Sky Park. We also have an amazing array of birds and wildlife as outlined by the recent National Park Bird Count.. Again, accommodation is in short supply in this area for the amount of visitors.

Northumberland Tourist Board research and the national trend for Staycation and Glamping is rising and the way forward, locally I am aware of high occupancy rates. I have already been approached by a website designer and our accountant who both have weddings in Otterburn next year, asking if they can book in advance.