

# Design Statement

## Polytunnels, Havenhills Farm, TF11 9NR

### General:

As a new venture at the farm, we have just started a company: **Havenhills Field & Kitchen**. The business has two aspects: the growing of organic fruits and vegetables, and the preparation of mainly vegetarian meals using the produce grown. These products will then be sold to lucky customers in the local community.

In order to raise some of the less hardy crops and to extend the growing season in some crops to 12 months, we need to invest in polytunnels to provide a protected controlled environment. We have calculated that 2 tunnels of the size indicated should be sufficient for our purposes. Without the tunnels the viability of the project in terms of providing full time employment and year-round product is put into doubt.

We have already employed one full time member of staff (a horticulturalist) who will take charge of the growing operation. In the harvest season we shall require 4 additional part time paid staff taking the total to 3 full-time equivalent staff over the year. These are important jobs to provide in a rural area such as this. In addition we shall offer volunteer positions to local people and aim to work with local mental-health providers to offer therapeutic volunteering sessions on the farm.

The farm already has sufficient parking and facilities to handle the extra parking and we don't envisage a significant increase in vehicular traffic.

Locally grown food is a business that can provide multiple benefits to the area: reducing food miles; retaining money in the local community; improving health outcomes for customers; providing health and wellbeing benefits to volunteers.

We are investing over £20,000 in the project (this is not grant-funded) and will work to ensure that that investment delivers the goods that we are promising.

### Siting:

The siting has been specifically chosen for a number of reasons:

- The site is shielded from the neighbouring house (Haven Lodge) by a 1.98 m high garden fence
- Haven Lodge has no windows directly facing the polytunnels other than toilet and rear utility room. These are shielded from the tunnel by the fence noted above and a high hedge.
- The site is over 75m from Havenhills Cottage. This house also has no windows overlooking this location
- The site is not in the direct line of site of the front of Havenhills Farmhouse (shielded by trees) and is over 75m from the house
- The siting is further than 25m from the main Road (Brockton to Ryton)
- Although the site is on a hill, the area can only be seen from the Bridgnorth Road (A442) over 2km away The site will not be seen from the approach road from Brockton because of the existing wooden fence and the fact that the tunnels are over the brow of the hill.

- The site is sheltered from the prevailing South Westerly winds by the wooden fence (see photographs)

**Drainage:**

We are installing guttering around the periphery of the polytunnels and aim to use the rainwater collected for irrigation within the polytunnels and on the adjacent horticultural beds.

**Description/Schedule of existing uses on the site:**

For the past 50 years the site has been used for grazing animals – sheep, horses and occasionally pigs

**Description of the range of development envisaged in terms of scale and uses**

The specific polytunnel site will be used for the protected cultivation of plants for the **Havenhills Field & Kitchen** business. The total covered area will be 330m<sup>2</sup> (2 x 27.43\*6.1m polytunnels). The tunnels are 2.84m high

These tunnels will be covered in Diffuse white Supertherm Plastic Sheet.

The tunnels will be supplied by First Tunnels ([20ft Wide Commercial Poly tunnels From First Tunnels Poly tunnels](#)) A range of photographs of the tunnels is shown on this link.

November 2021