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WATERFALLS COUNTRY ESTATE BRINGS ECO FRIENDLY, LUXURY TOURISM TO NORTHUMBERLAND

A brand new luxury holiday resort is set to be built in Northumberland, using eco-friendly methods of construction during the build.

Waterfalls Country Estate, a 14 acre site just off the A68 in Ridsdale, Northumberland, is currently going through the planning process and, if permission is granted, will be built with a sustainable design. The Waterfalls development will also help to create over 100 new jobs in the construction industry.

The development is the brainchild of North East entrepreneur Sherod Walker, 24, who has undertaken extensive consultations throughout the planning process with parties including the Environment Agency, Natural England, One North East, Northumberland Tourism, Northumberland National Parks and a number of local residents and businesses.

Sherod said: "Waterfalls Country Estate will have a positive impact on the local landscape and has been designed to blend in with the surrounding rural area. We have taken an eco-friendly approach to the build as to me, this makes good business sense. A key objective of the project is to achieve a zero carbon development through the use of a biomass boiler, solar thermal water heating, rainwater harvesting and a robust waste management system."

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Waterfalls Country Estate will comprise of 18 luxury chalets and three high quality holiday cottages, converted from existing stone barns. The resort will also house a restaurant and bar, pool and beauty spa, a state of the art equestrian centre and sporting facilities. Landscaping of the site will also include the construction of two habitat lakes and a moat around the leisure facility.

Mr Walker has worked with GWK Architects in Newcastle upon Tyne on the design of the project. GWK Architects has designed sustainable buildings in a vernacular style and contemporary chalets, using traditional materials – locally sourced timber, stone, slate and turf, along with sedum-type roofs.

To create the zero carbon development, Mr Walker is also working with sustainability consultants Gifford LLP on a number of eco friendly methods for the site. This includes integrating solar thermal water heating panels into the roof of the leisure facility block, to help produce hot water for the indoor swimming pool.

Paul Harding, technical director, at Gifford LLP, said: "Gifford is delighted to be part of the team designing Waterfalls Estate. As an engineering and environmental consultant, we are excited by the challenge of designing sustainable, carbon neutral buildings which set the highest benchmark for responsible community regeneration and development. This will be a great project."

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Sherod added: "Situated in existing woodland, the plans for Waterfalls Country Estate look fantastic, as the development will blend into the surroundings of the site beautifully.

"We look forward to the planning decision in December and, if planning permission is granted, work will start imminently on this exceptional sustainable and eco friendly development in the heart of rural Northumberland."

For further details on Waterfalls Country Estate, please visit

www.waterfallsestate.co.uk

- ENDS -

Photo caption:

Sherod Walker – headshot

Artist's impression – Chalet

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Notes to Editors:

- Waterfalls will be a unique luxury eco holiday resort in the heart of rural Northumberland. Set in a 14 acre site, it will offer a traditional country estate experience for visitors looking for a truly memorable holiday in this beautiful county.
- The exclusive accommodation will comprise 18 luxury chalets and three holiday cottages (converted from existing stone barns) designed and equipped to the



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highest standards, whilst site facilities include a restaurant, bar, pool and beauty spa. Waterfalls will also have a state of the art equestrian centre.

- Sherod Walker won the Young Businessman of the Year accolade at the Pride in Tynedale Awards in 2005 and was runner up in 2006.