Occam Farm - Land Opposite Nightingale Farm, Leckhampstead

What is it? The project is to grow wildflowers on the Company's own land and land managed by the project. The project will involve farming the crop, drying it within 48 hours of harvest, seed cleaning, viability analysis then bespoke seed blending.

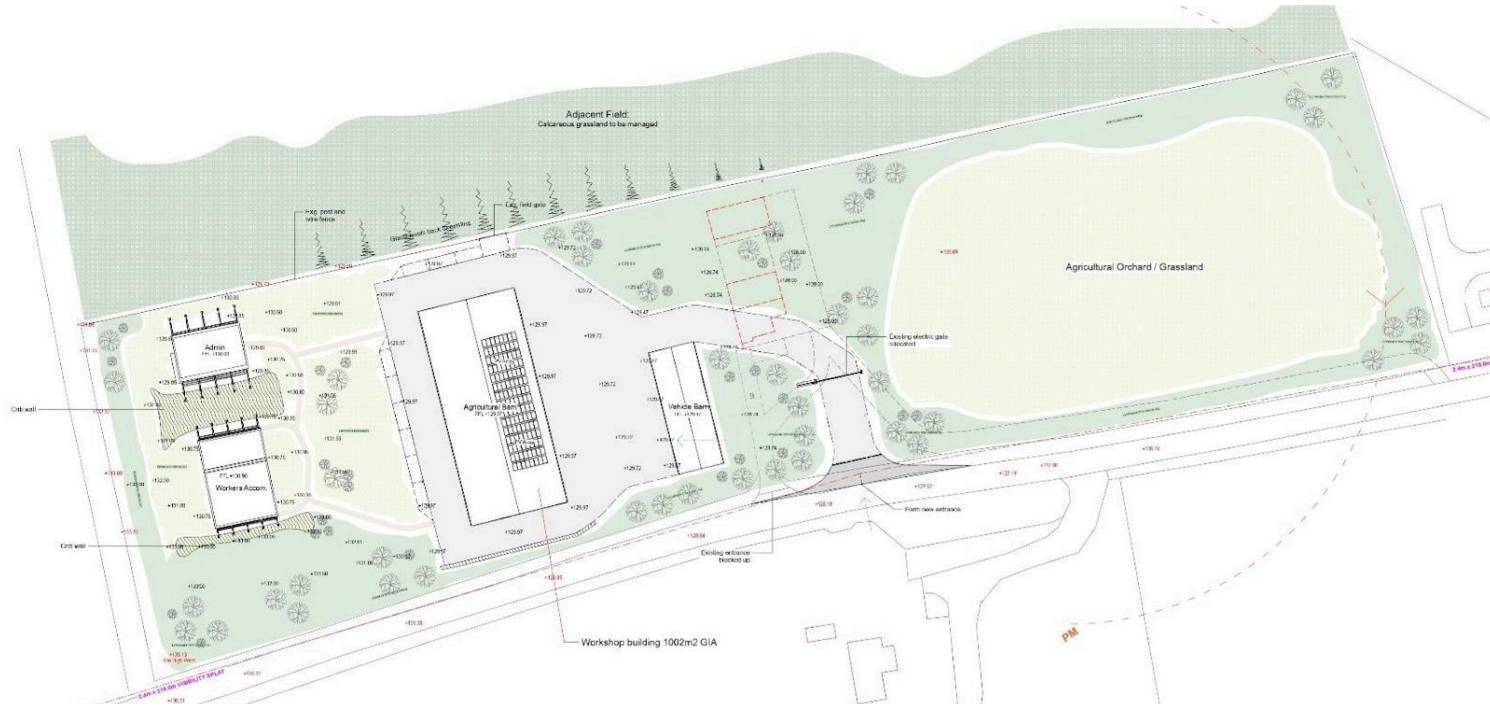
Why? In the long term, CYO has identified that changes to arable farming practices mean that there is a threat to its current primary revenue stream. The Wildflower Seed operation is climate change resilient for all involved and is a huge benefit to the environment now and in the future so would become the main operation over time for CYO.

Local farmers (CYO's current customers and potential new customers) are looking for alternative, secure and viable income streams given the current farming climate. Wildflower fits the role and is also beneficial for the North Wessex Downs AONB.

The Company already has expertise and parts of the jigsaw, they just need arranging. This means the project can run alongside the current arable seed cleaning operations, utilising some of the equipment and process, and the staff. In addition, creating new local jobs, educating local farmers in new practices and securing a long term livelihood for farmers.

Why the site at Leckhampstead? The site at Leckhampstead would include the on-site wildflower fields, farm machinery, a laboratory and administration building, and drying, processing and storage facilities for the new project. Four seasonal workers and one permanent worker's accommodation is required for multiple reasons including security of invaluable equipment to the business and local farmers as well as work processes and health and safety requirements.

It is essential that the facility is clustered alongside current administration, process and resources to ensure the harvested wildflower seeds are processed in short operating windows, potentially under adverse weather conditions. Many of the processes and equipment will be shared and integrated with existing resources, including personnel. In addition, fields and farms are our workshop and being close to them is extremely important for sustainability, time and accessibility reasons.



What are the other benefits?

- **Rural Economy** – The project will generate the requirement for additional labour such as agronomist and ecologist services as well as more general agricultural labour to assist with harvesting and processing. In addition, the project will provide local farmers with a sustainable farming process for years to come alongside contributing to the local economy in terms of the packaging, marketing and sale of the product.
- **Environmental** – The project will have significant environmental benefits for biodiversity, AONB, climate change and wildlife. These grasslands are in dire need within the North Wessex Downs AONB.

- **Social/Education** – In addition to increasing awareness by farmers and landowners through its production of site specific management plans, the project will also offer non-commercial benefits such as opportunities for volunteering, school visits and free seeds.