

Supporting wildflower seed harvesting at Goren Farm

Project overview

Location: Goren Farm, Stockland, near Honiton

Grant award: £12,784

Items funded: Brush harvester and wildflower seed cleaning equipment

Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) themes: Nature, People, Place

Goren Farm is a well-known supplier of high-quality wildflower seed across the South West and beyond. Its impressive wildflower meadows also attract many visitors during the summer.

Julian Pady, who runs the farm, approached the Blackdown Hills Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) team to discuss ways of responding to the growing interest in wildflower meadows amongst his customers and visitors. He wanted to explore new approaches to meet the increasing demand for locally sourced wildflower seed – beyond what can be produced on his own land.

More landowners are looking to restore traditional meadow flora on parts of their land and generate economic value from existing flower-rich meadows and pastures to support their management. This project links the demand for seed with the opportunity to harvest from existing meadows, creating both ecological and economic benefits.

The funding from Farming in Protected Landscapes has enabled the purchase of a brush harvester and wildflower seed cleaning equipment. The brush harvester is hosted by Goren Farm but available for hire on a not-for-profit basis by other landowners with a hire agreement. However, it can only be operated by trained individuals using their towing equipment.

The separator and indented cylinders can be used to clean and sort seed, enabling Goren Farm to offer more refined seed products to its customers. This machine will also allow the farm to expand its services by welcoming local landowners to bring their meadow arisings for processing—extracting key species for meadow creation. At the same time, Goren Farm will be able to supply purer seed or tailored multi-species mixes to its own customers.

What was funded

Brush harvester

A Logic MSH420 brush harvester was purchased. This lightweight, towable machine can be used on small, wet or uneven sites, making it ideal for the Blackdown Hills landscape. Unlike Goren Farm's existing tractor-mounted harvesters, this model is accessible to more landowners.

The harvester will be:

- Hosted and maintained by Goren Farm
- Available for hire on a not-for-profit basis
- Operated by trained individuals using their own towing equipment
- Supported by a hire agreement and basic instruction

This approach enables local landowners to harvest seed from their own meadows, helping to restore and sustain wildflower habitats.

Seed cleaning equipment

The project also funded a Separator and Indented Cylinders to clean and sort seed from the harvested material. This equipment:

- Separates seed of eight key species from raw arisings
- Removes chaff and debris
- Enables creation of tailored seed mixes for different soil types

This will allow Goren Farm to:

- Offer more refined seed products to customers
- Support other landowners by processing their meadow arisings
- Enhance both commercial and community value

Photos:



