

**Statement prepared by Haygrove providing more information regarding labour requirements**

Seasonal workers accommodated at Haygrove Farm work the majority of their time at Haygrove Farm. They are also used to work at Whitehouse Farm, Newtown Farm, Lower House Farm, Hill House Farm, and Redbank.

Whitehouse Farm is mainly farmed as raspberries and strawberries. The workers are occupied at various times of the year in production and picking tasks. If workers were based at Whitehouse Farm they would have to be transported back to Haygrove Farm to work regularly.

Lower House Farm is farmed as cherries. The majority of the work requirement for the cherries is associated with picking the fruit. The fruit is picked for approximately between mid-July and mid-August and therefore it would not be realistic for the workers to be accommodated at Lower House Farm for such a short period of time. Therefore workers are transported from Haygrove Farm for the picking season and any other production tasks outside of this time.

Hill House Farm, owned by Alastair Young, is likewise cherries which we harvest in July. We do little outside this period.

Newtown Farm has been farmed as berries and flowers in recent years but the flowers have proven uncompetitive in costs with Holland so we have ceased this business. Newtown has accommodation for 140 workers, up to 70 workers live off site (in the local towns, etc.), and a number are accommodated at Sandyway Nurseries, Newent. This has proven sufficient the majority of the time but with the demise of flowers and replacement of that area with fruit we will be applying for an expansion of accommodation at Newtown Farm to meet the increasing labour requirement.

It must be remembered that the worker requirements for the whole business vary throughout the year, with crop yields (which range by 25% around annual estimate), weather (which can move harvest dates 2 weeks and easily add or subtract 30% to picks), new technology (e.g. training methods on healthy raspberries have been revolutionised in recent years adding yield – and work – substantially), and staff efficiency (which can easily vary 20%). We have to juggle constantly in the labour intensive fruit business and need flexibility to succeed.

The ability to move staff to where the work is enables success – for the staff and the business. 10% of 500 people is quickly a bus load.

Haygrove Ltd  
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