

Wessanen invests further in its future at Beaminster

Wessanen, the natural and organic food company that owns Clipper Teas, has made a major investment in new equipment at its Beaminster tea factory.



Creating more jobs on site, the new line is part of a sizeable in-sourcing project that will produce an additional 100 million tea bags at speeds of 350 tea bags per minute.

The investment, worth £1.25 million, will enable Wessanen to produce another of its tea brands at the Dorset site and increase its manufacturing capabilities.

The investment has resulted in an additional five full-time positions created as Wessanen continues to be committed to the local Dorset area where Clipper's operations have been based since 1984.



Daniel Parr, Wessanen UK Project Manager for Piramide Insourcing and Head of Technical and R&D, comments:

“We have an excellent and passionate team at Wessanen UK that has worked tirelessly together with our Piramide friends and colleagues to make this a success. It has been a complex project to improve and integrate such a wide range of excellent quality Organic Teas and Infusions into the Beaminster site and we are very pleased with what we’ve achieved. We will have continuing work to do but seeing the new production line in action is a huge milestone in the project.”

— Daniel Parr, Wessanen UK Project Manager for Piramide Insourcing and Head of Technical and R&D

The extra capacity and capability that the new production line brings is part of overall expansion plans to develop the tea factory and support future company growth.

Earlier this year, the company started a major redevelopment project to consolidate its factory operations to one site – resulting in more jobs and housing for local residents.

Tony Buckton, Wessanen UK Factory Manager, adds:

“This new tea line supports the incredible growth we’re seeing for tea and infusions across Europe. The decision to invest in the Beaminster Factory, here in Dorset, is aligned with Wessanen’s ambition to make the factory their ‘Centre of Tea Excellence’ across all their brands.”

— Tony Buckton, Wessanen UK Factory Manager

In recognition of the excellence of its manufacturing capabilities, last month Wessanen was awarded a top trophy in the food and drink manufacturing industry’s Oscars – the Food Manufacture Excellence Awards – for its Clipper Teas factory for the second year running.

ABOUT WESSANEN UK

About Wessanen UK – www.wessanenuk.com

Wessanen UK is a natural and organic food company, with pioneering, healthy brands in expanding market segments: **Clipper Teas** produces a wide range of hot drinks including the #1 organic and white tea brands, and the first Fairtrade-accredited tea; **Kallo** makes market-leading, organic rice cakes, as well as other savoury snacks, stocks, gravies and cereals; **Whole Earth**, best known for its peanut butter, manufactures organic spreads, cereals and drinks; **Mrs Crimble’s** makes joyfully, wholesome and deliciously gluten-free macarons, cakes, biscuits and nibbles, for all to enjoy, and **Almond Breeze**, the increasingly popular, healthy milk alternative.

Wessanen UK employs around 130 people in Camberley and Beaminster. Wessanen UK is CarbonNeutral certified and, either directly or through its subsidiaries, accredited by or a member of a range of industry bodies and associations including; the Fairtrade Foundation; the Soil Association; the UK Tea & Infusions Association, and the Organic Trade Board.



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