

*Case Study***Ellingham chooses Satake once again**

Working with local industry specialist Plot Feeds, their latest development, a new processing line, was completed in the autumn of 2021

As the industry is finding itself increasingly challenged by market, consumer and regulatory changes, and volatile weather leads to poor harvest results, the services of grain experts such as Ellingham Grain Store become ever more essential.

Over the last fifty years, proprietor Anthony Smith has nurtured, developed and grown Ellingham Grain Store from a greenfield site to the industry respected business we know today.

With two primary sectors to their business, the first being 'Pulse Exporters,' which focuses on specialists in the production of top-quality beans and peas for human consumption.

The second is 'Agricultural Merchants' – an area that includes grain trading, growing contracts, seed supplies, game cover, maize and small seeds and commercial store keepers. Their products, services and customers rely on the consistency of their high-quality equipment and processes.

The first to be installed in the UK

Embracing new technology, new production processes and innovation is at the heart of their continued success and longevity. Working with local industry specialist Plot

Feeds, their latest development, a new processing line, was completed in the autumn of 2021. An integral part of the new line is Satake's latest Optical Sorter - Nirami, the first to be installed in the UK.

"We have worked with Satake for a long time and already have another Satake optical sorter," comments Ellingham's proprietor. "We knew we could trust that the Nirami would deliver high quality and ease of use but we were genuinely surprised and delighted by the results we have achieved since its installation.

"One example is the sort we have achieved removing ergot from malting barley, now many optical sorters can identify and reject ergot, but the Nirami went a step further and was able to reject grains with the pre-germination characteristic black spot, which only have approximately 20 percent viability in germination.

"On a recent bean sort, at a glance it looked like too much good product was being rejected, however, on inspection of the rejects we could see that the machine was correctly identifying and rejecting beans with small weevil holes, the operator was so excited to see the results that he ran through to the lab to tell the other staff about it."

"This optical sorter is the first one of its kind to be installed in the UK, making Ellingham the launch site of this new technology," says Vanessa Schofield, Senior Sales Manager for Satake Europe, when asked about the sorter.



“The Nirami efficiently removes impurities, diseased grains with darkened tips and other defects including immature and broken.”

Different grains mixed in the field, harvest or storage which are similar in colour can also be efficiently separated by the Nirami optical sorter. The Nirami features, which include shape recognition technology, infra-red cameras for foreign materials, full colour cameras to see even the slightest colour differences and high-quality ejectors, allow a wide variety of products to be sorted, from small seeds to large beans.”

Quick and easy to set up

The Satake 3S software installed on the user-friendly touch screen makes it quick and easy to set up a sort for new products and up to 50 settings can be saved for future use.

As part of this latest plant development, Ellingham Grain Store have made additional special modifications to their traditional feed system, giving them the option to manually feed small batches into a dedicated holding bin creating the facility to sort smaller batches of specialist and high value products.

“These modifications to the traditional feed system, coupled with the exceptional results we are achieving on the Nirami, give us the scope to continue to develop our traditional business and the opportunity to expand into new niche food markets,” adds Anthony Smith.

