

# The Market Report

## March 2023

## Professional Ponderings

Many of you may be following the adventures of Jeremy Clarkson on Clarkson's Farm, which apart from providing an insight into the challenges facing farmers, has also provided an insight into the challenges of the planning system. As pointed out by my colleague Peter Moore, never did we imagine that the outcome of a planning committee meeting could be such an edge of the seat cliffhanger! It does however illustrate the frustration that we often feel when looking for consistent and coherent planning determinations. The planning system always seems to be in a state of flux and that is no less true at the current time than ever before. We have reported before on the issues that we have been facing with under-resourced planning authorities failing to determine applications in a timely and reliable manner. That now seems to be compounded by a government looking to shore up its heartland vote in the wake of a looming general election. Whilst the need for new housing has not gone away, there does not seem to be a huge appetite at government level for encouraging contentious and often headline making new development in sensitive parts of the countryside. Local authorities, as a consequence, are tending to pause any new Development Plans whilst they absorb this new cautious approach.

**Agricultural & Development Consultants, Chartered Surveyors, Auctioneers & Estate Agents**

Oakleigh House, Thrapston,  
Northamptonshire NN14 4LJ

Alastair Brown: 07885 804450  
Jake Wagstaff: 07487 526803

CPH: 29/242/8000 NN14 4JU  
CPH: 43/266/8000 CV37 8LP

The current attitude of the government is best exemplified in the recent consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF sets out the government's policy on Planning and is guidance to which all local plan and decision making must adhere. Although the changes being proposed are limited, they are significant, and have caused much consternation within the development industry. Indeed, Planning Resource reported in late January that 19 authorities withdrew or delayed their local plan amid proposed changes to the NPPF. The consultation closed on 2 March, and there will no doubt have been many representations submitted. Whether this will result in many revisions is to be seen, but the overall effect of the changes will be to lessen the scope for developers and promoters to challenge a council's housing delivery and to provide a local planning authority with more control over the amount of housing that they are required to provide. The importance of Neighbourhood Plans will be enhanced and the Green Belt will become even more protected. The net outcome will be fewer houses being built, certainly in the next couple of years running up to a general election.

This will have interesting implications for the development land market, which as we reported in our January Ponderings is suffering a dent in confidence at the present time, but still has at its heart a shortage of available land. If market conditions improve as the year goes on, helped by more affordable mortgage rates, then we may find a renewed and keener interest in available sites.

Despite the apparent lull in plan making in certain authorities, a number of other authorities in our area are pressing on with the early stages of a Local Plan Review. We have highlighted before the importance of the Call for Sites Exercise which authorities will often carry out at an early stage of the plan making process. We are aware that both Huntingdonshire and Peterborough are contemplating carrying out a Call for Sites this spring and this will be an important opportunity to bring to the council's attention any land which ought to be considered for development as the plan advances. With fewer opportunities to secure speculative consents for development on unallocated sites, the importance of securing an allocation in an adopted Local Plan will become paramount. We would invite anyone with land in these areas which they would like to see considered for allocation, to contact us and we can then advise on the best way by which the land might be promoted.

Planning is often a long term process and despite the apparent current hiatus, there will continue to be a need for a pipeline of available sites in the future to meet the requirements of a growing population. Planning promotion can never start too soon, and the importance of making representations as part of these Call for Sites

exercises cannot be over –emphasised, even if it may be a future Local Plan before they bear fruit.

*Andrew Middleditch – Salaried Partner*

Contact Our Planning and Development Team Alistair Brodie,  
Peter Moore & Andrew Middleditch



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## **Thrapston Forthcoming Events**

### **Thursday 9th March**

Prime & Cull Sheep

Online Timed Auction Starts - 5pm

*See main advert for further information*

### **Saturday 11th March**

Store & Breeding Cattle, Sheep & Pigs

Hay, Straw & Fodder Sale

### **Tuesday 14th March**

Online Timed Auction Finishes from 12noon

### **Thursday 16th March**

Prime & Cull Sheep

### **Saturday 18th March**

Store & Breeding Cattle, Sheep & Pigs

*For further information on any of the sales  
please contact a member of the Market Team*

Our chaplain Rev. Eddie Smith, Church of England Minister, member of the Agricultural Chaplains Association and the Farming Community Network will be in attendance at the market on the 1st & 3rd Saturday each month for a chat, if you would like to talk.

[eddie.smith@talk21.com](mailto:eddie.smith@talk21.com)

## REPORT FOR THURSDAY 2ND MARCH

### 280 Prime Hogs

Prices comparable on the week. Meat remains in demand, heavier hogs are hard sold with p/kg prices highlighting the top end trade for lighter hogs. SQQ 229.63p/kg. F & SM Stamper topped the day with a sterling run of Beltex and Beltex crosses topping to 256p/kg for 43kgs and topping in the lump with best end Texel Beltex at 53kgs to £126.

**Highlights** - Corney & Sons Ltd saw a smart trade with their 45kgs Charollais selling to £104 and 50.53kgs to £110; IS & NK Johnson saw a run of best finished big framed Texel Mules selling to £112.50 for 51kgs, with heavier 62kgs to £120.50 and 57kgs to £119; J & V Short saw a smart run of compact Texel crosses forward with best finished 42kgs selling to £100.

To		From		Average	
<i>Standards (32.1-39kg)</i>					
243p	£91.00	230p	£84.00	231.7p	£84.88
<i>Mediums (39.1 - 45.5kg)</i>					
256p	£110.00	218p	£90.00	229.5p	£100.45
<i>Heavies (45.6 - 52kg)</i>					
239p	£120.00	208p	£99.00	223.2p	£108.66
<i>Over 52kg</i>					
238p	£126.00	193p	£112.00	204.5p	£117.44

### 32 Cull Ewes & Rams

A fantastic show of ewes found a trade to match, with the goods selling themselves. All in average £109.80. Ranging from £70 to £161 from A Cook and their monstrous Charollais ewes, smaller smart ewes from the same home saw £137, the same vendor topped the Suffolks with stretchy meat ewes to £135; F & SM Stamper saw their Continental ewes to £127 for frame and meat; Grange Farm saw their Continental ewes of frame top to £120; George Thompson Farms saw £118.50 for smart Continentals.

To	From	Average
£161.00	£70.00	£109.80

### NOTICE

To ensure your entries are listed in the Saturday Store Sale Catalogue, please book in your stock by 4pm on Friday.

**SATURDAY 11TH MARCH**

**STORE & BREEDING CATTLE**

**K & S Miles - TB4**

1 Limousin x Cow

5 Years

*She is genuine in all respects and is very quiet. She is Sired by Emslies Galeleo out of a Limousin x Lincoln Red Cow. Her 18 month steer recently sold for £1585 at Thrapston. She is **Sold Empty**. Due to the lack of service from Genus Breeding Services, so they are having to give up breeding cattle.*

**G T H Bailey**

20 Aberdeen Angus - 11 Steers & 9 Heifers

20-21 Months

*Named Sire, TB 03.03.23*

**C E Hancock & Son**

33 Store Cattle

15-25 Months

**S A C Holgate**

39 Store Cattle

17-27 Months

**STORE & BREEDING SHEEP**

**M Wright**

5 Continental Store Lambs

2 Charollais x Feeding Ewes

**Soggy Bottom Field**

5 Store Lambs

**GOATS**

**M Wright**

7 Boer x Nanny Goats

6-12 Months

3 Boer x Nannies - *Run with the Billy*

**SATURDAY 18TH MARCH**

**STORE & BREEDING CATTLE**

**A R Adams**

20 Aberdeen Angus Steers & Heifers

10-12 Months

*Suckler Bred*

**CALVES**

**A R Adams**

1 Aberdeen Angus Heifer

6 Months

*Named Sire*

## SATURDAY 11TH MARCH

### HAY, STRAW & FODDER

- Lot 1**     **40 x 7'x4'x2'4" 6 String Bales of 2022 Hay**  
**Lot 2**     **20 x 8'x4'x2'4" 6 String Bales of 2022 Hay**  
*Lot 1 - no chemicals, mixture of seeds & permanent pasture*  
*Lot 2 - no chemicals, permanent pasture*  
*Stored Undercover*  
*Loading Facilities for Large Lorries & Assistance with Loading*  
*At Banbury, Oxon (B1024)*
- Lot 3**     **100 x Conventional Bales of Meadow Hay**  
*Stored Undercover*  
*Will be on a trailer in the Market*  
*Thrapston, Northants (C7)*
- Lot 4**     **100 x 80x70 KRONE Multipack Bales of Wheat Straw**  
*8' long in three sections, about 200kg each*  
*Stored Undercover*  
*Loading Facilities for Large Lorries & Assistance with Loading*  
*At Harrold, Beds (C401)*
- Lot 5**     **40 x 4 String Mini Hesston 2022 Barley Straw**  
*Stored Undercover*  
*Loading Facilities for Large Lorries & Assistance with Loading*  
*At Cottenham, Cambs (J191)*
- Lot 6**     **500 x Conventional Bales of Wheat Straw**  
*Stored Undercover*  
*Loading Facilities for Large Lorries & Assistance with Loading*  
*At Brigstock, Northants (M307)*

### NOTICE

Please ensure Entry Forms and all relevant paperwork accompany your entries when bringing livestock into the Market.

Entry Forms can be found on our Website, in the Market Office or alternatively please contact the Main Office.

### NOTICE

If you would like your stock to be included in the weekly report presale, please contact the office before 12 noon on Monday.

## **REPORT FOR SATURDAY 4TH MARCH**

### **Store & Breeding Cattle**

***Store Cattle - Heifers to £1930, Steers to £1470, Bulls to £1100***

**Cows & Calves** – Sold to £1600 for a 6 year old Limousin cow with a 4 month Limousin heifer calf at foot, and £1400 for a 4 year old Blue cow with a 4 month Limousin calf at foot.

**Cull Cows** – Sold to £1930 for a 5 year old Limousin heifer from K & S Miles (***Just to note, on a Deadweight sales this heifer was over fat and NOT Farm Assured, what would they have given on the deadweight grid? About £500 less***). SELL LIVE & THRIVE. Other cows sold to £1820 for an 8 year old Hereford cow from ATC Lepper & Son, with others to £1570 and £1420; IS & NK Johnson sold a 13 year old Beef Shorthorn cow to £1200 and a 16½ year old Friesian cow to £900.

**Store Cattle** – C Purse came through the ring first with two Lincoln Red males, an 18 month rig sold to £670 and a 28 month steer sold to £640; David Self sold his 11 month Limousin steers to £1080 and a 22 month to £1075, his Limousin heifers 19-22 months sold to £1005; TEW Farming sold a 12 month Aberdeen Angus steer to £1000 and his 10 month old steers sold to £910 from £850; R Munns sold two Simmental steers 21-24 months for £1300; ATC Lepper & Son entered twenty-four Limousin and Angus dairy bred steers and heifers 15-17 months, which sold to £1210 for their steers and £780 for their heifers, to average £873.75; SGC Hill sold five Saler steers 11-12 months for £1030; F Baker sold two Belted Galloway bulls 18-19 months which sold to £850 from £750; Mrs A Gates sold Continental steers and heifers aged 7-11 months to £890 from £570; IS & NK Johnson sold a 14 month Limousin steer to £1220 and a 14 month heifer to £965; J Millbank entered eleven Simmental steers 15-21 months which sold to £1370 from £965 and a 26 month bull at £1100; PT Harris & Son sold two Continental steers 21-22 months to £880; SJ & RE Helliwell sold two Limousin steers 13-14 month for £1065; AJ Day & Son sold four Limousin heifers 22-26 months to £1265; JA Wilson sold 10-11 month Limousin steers to £1470 and others to £1255 and a 34 month heifer to £890; RA Ford entered twenty-one South Devon and Aberdeen Angus steers 10-12 months which sold to £970 for the South Devon and £880 for the Angus, to average £867; J & D Bavington sold three Holstein steers 23-25 months for £700.

**Calves** – Sold to £285 for a 3 week old British Blue bull, other 2-3 week old Blue bulls sold to £260 and two Aberdeen Angus heifer calves sold to £90 all from JEG James.

**Pigs** – Sold to £57 for 60kg coloured boars with other similar sorts to £54 and £50, from the same home black pigs sold to £43, all from GWM Farms Ltd; small weaned pigs 20kg sold to £30 from PA Woodward who also had an old boar which sold to £10.

**Goats** – Sold to £600 for a Pygmy Nanny with a Nanny kid at foot from P & KF Chapman; RD Masters sold a Nanny with a Kid to £360 with others to £190; and Pygmy Billies from P Grey sold to £90 and £60.

### **197 Store & Breeding Sheep**

Trade steadied on the whole with many now rethinking stocking rates.

**Store lambs** - all in average £62.93. RJ Lee topped the day with a sterling show of Dutch Spotted ram lambs selling to £152 and £118; AJ Day & Son topped the commercials with Charollais crosses in forward condition selling to £83.50; S Gawthroup penned a quality run of Charollais cross ewe lambs reaching £70; PA McDonald penned a tidy show of Suffolks selling to £68. Longer term lambs were seen in the £50's.

**Ewes & lambs** - GK Doyle topped with full mouth Blue Texel ewes with single lambs selling to £160 for the outfits, with older types at £73. Badger ewes with Texel lambs saw £51 a life or £153 overall.

**Feeding ewes** - prices continue on the same level with an average of £70.24. RJ Lee topped with Texel ewes to £112 for the heaviest types, with their Suffolks to £90; PA McDonald also saw their Suffolk ewes at £90. Smaller framed ewes with meat were in the high £70's with leaner sorts in the £60's, longest term rare bred types were sub £50.

**Working Dogs** – A Plumber Terrier bitch sold to £425.

### **FOR SALE**

#### **Working Border Collie Puppies**

Black & White Collie puppies from working parents – Dam can be seen  
Wormed, all vaccinations, micro-chipped.

Born 2nd November 2022 - ready to go to their new homes.

2 x dogs available.

Contact: Rose Smith 07951 286856  
Near Stow-on-Wold, Gloucestershire





## Smallholders Sale

Another fantastic day with hundreds of people at the sale having travelled for many miles, to include Scunthorpe, Derbyshire, Essex and Hereford, as well as many local customers.

An entry of trees and shrubs forward this month that exceeded all expectations of the vendor and the Auctioneers, with Victoria Plum trees selling to £35, Cherry trees selling to £28, Apple trees to £28 and mixed hedging to £40 for a bundle of twenty-five.

**Sundries** – You name it, we sold it, to include: Wooden Fence Posts, Gates, Electric Fencing Wire, Petrol Generators, Pressure Washer, Strimmer's, Hedge Cutters, Lawnmowers, Poultry Feeders and Drinkers, Hutches, Runs and Cages, Various Feed, Plant Pots and much more, come and see for yourself next month!

**Hatching Eggs** – Chinese Goose eggs to £2.20 each; Goose eggs to £1.80 per egg; 6 x Splash Brahma to £8.50; 12 x Blue Andalusian Bantams to £10.50; 6 x Speckled Sussex to £8; and 6 x White Silkie to £8; 6 x Cream Legbar to £5; 12 x Barred Wyandotte Bantam eggs to £11; Blue Laced to £12; Silver Laced to £17.50; Gold to £7.50; and Mixed Silkie to £16.

**Ferrets** – Just short of twenty on offer. A Black Eyed Jill sold to £18 and young Jill's to £32 from £22.

**Hamsters** – Only eight on offer this month with a selection of Silver coated hamsters selling to £5 from £4.

**Guinea Pigs** – Over 100 on offer to include all types of colours, sizes, long haired and short haired are on offer. A sow with two youngsters sold to £14; two pregnant sows sold to £14; and three to £21; Two boars sold to £11.

**Rabbits** – Over 100 on offer with all sorts to choose from, selling to £36 for an Argent doe, with prices to suit any pocket from £2 to £30. Come and have a look what we have on offer next month.



# Bletsoes

— EST. 1881 —

## ONLINE TIMED AUCTION

### A Complete Dispersal Sale of Engineering Machines & Tooling

Starts: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 5pm

Finishes: Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March from 12 noon



#### Briefly to Include:

Company Van Fleet, Road Bike Collection, Mills, Lathes, Tooling  
Brake Press, Welding Equipment, Metal Saws, Plasma Cutter  
Face Grinder, Consumables, Work Benches, Gear Boxes  
Workshop Tools & Equipment

**on behalf of D Troisi of CMC Equipment UK**

**Wellingborough, Northamptonshire**

**Contact Jake Wagstaff 07487 526803**

**Viewing Day  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup>  
March**

# Bletsoes

— EST. 1881 —

## COLLECTIVE SALES OF HAY, STRAW & FODDER

# 2023

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April

In the main cattle sale ring

All types of Hay, Straw, Silage & Haylage required.  
Please forward your entries as soon as possible,  
for advertising & cataloguing purposes

For Entry Forms & Catalogues, visit [www.bletsoes.co.uk](http://www.bletsoes.co.uk)

Alastair Brown 07885 804450 / Jake Wagstaff 07487 526803



**STOCKMANS**  
**ANNUAL DINNER**  
**FRIDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2023**  
7pm for 7:30pm meal

Kindly Sponsored by....



Welcoming as guest speaker



Star of TV's  
"The Yorkshire Vet"



**Starters**

- Leek and potato soup served with warm ciabatta. (V, VE, GF option available)
- Chicken liver and brandy pate served with onion chutney and toasted brioche. (GF option available)
- Smoked mackerel and beetroot salad with horseradish dressing. (GF)
- Pan fried mushrooms with garlic and herb butter served on grilled ciabatta. (V, VE, GF option available)

**Main course**

- Roast topside of beef served with Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes, honey glazed roasted carrots and parsnips and seasonal greens. (GF option available)
- Fish pie topped with mash potato and breadcrumbs served with seasonal greens. (GF option available)
- Chicken chasseur served with new potatoes and seasonal vegetables. (GF)
- Vegetable lasagne served with salad and garlic bread.

**Desserts**

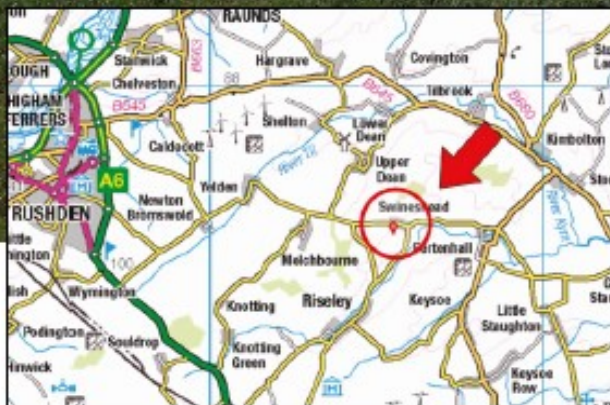
- Apple crumble served with custard. (GF option available)
- Sticky toffee pudding served with toffee sauce and vanilla ice cream. (GF option available)
- Profiteroles with Chantilly cream and chocolate sauce.
- Fresh fruit salad

To book please contact  
Lucy: 07590 982319  
Email: stockmans1963@gmail.com



Payment via BACS or cheque to:

St Neots Stockmens club  
Acc: 01326044  
Sort Code: 30-94-47



## Land off Swineshead Road, Swineshead, Bedfordshire

Approximately 7.13 acres (2.89 hectares) of arable land

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Oakleigh House, Thrapston, Northamptonshire, NN14 4LJ

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- Straw and Hay Baling (Grass and Straw wanted)
- Hedge Cutting and Verge Mowing
- Flail Mowing and Heavy Duty Topping
- Muck Spreading / Carting / Yard Clearance / Muckspreader Hire
- Umbilical Slurry Application c/w 12m dribble bar and GPS

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College Farm, Oakley, Bedford  
[saunders.agricul@btinternet.com](mailto:saunders.agricul@btinternet.com)

   @HSaundersAg

## COLLECTIVE MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT SALE

Haldens Parkway, Thrapston

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 10.30am**

For Entry Forms please visit our website  
Or Contact the Main Office on 01832 732241

Important, entries must be returned by  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March to be included in the catalogue

Auctioneer in Charge: Alastair Brown 07885 804450

# Bletsoes

EST. 1881

## An Auction



**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 1.00pm**

*At Thrapston Livestock Market*

Entries by Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April

**NO** entries will be accepted after this date

For further information contact Beth Kitchener