

Saltash Monitor Farm Meeting report

Launch meeting

Date: 10 June 2019

Location: Smeaton Farm, Pillaton, Saltash, PL12 6RZ

For more information, visit: cereals.ahdb.org.uk/saltash



Smeaton Farm Facts

- 180ha Duchy tenancy
- 70ha Arable, 50 suckler cows, 220 lambing mules and diversification enterprises including arable contracting
- Winter wheat, barley and oats, spring barley and maize. 8 ha let for potatoes. Temporary grass and red clover
- Medium loam over shillet to clay soils
- Plough and Combi disc drill based establishment system
- All own machinery except baling
- Straw mainly baled
- Grain stored on farm and marketed through Openfield

Ashley's Monitor Farm Programme objectives

Ashley has challenged himself, the group and the Monitor Farm programme to the following:

- Continue to be an active farmer as primary activity
- Double the current arable area - profitably!
- Generate extra profit to replace BPS
- Developing a marketing profile for the farms contracting services
- Ensure farming and expanded farming activities are complimentary and not detrimental to existing diversification activities

Smeaton Farm 'PESTEL' Analysis

What are the threats and what to address at Smeaton Farm?

- Political – Brexit / Government policy – loss of BPS
- Economic - market volatility - drive down cost of production eg feed wheat at £100/t before rent and finance. Review balance and profitability of mixed enterprises on farm.
- Social – public image of farming , spotting and coping with stress
- Technological - drones, gene editing – can more use be made of them? Managing soil variability better.
- Environmental – New ELMS – threat or opportunity?
- Legal – loss of chemicals and other operational restrictions. Lower input farming for margin. Is yield still king?

Arable Business Group – Benchmarking



If you are interested in benchmarking your figures against Ashley and other local producers, please contact:

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Winter meeting dates

6 November 2019

18 December 2019

12 February 2020

11 March 2020



For more information contact:

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