

A close-up photograph of a white cow's face, focusing on its eyes and the rope halter it is wearing. The cow's fur is white with some darker markings around the eyes. The rope halter is made of thick, light-colored rope, braided in a complex pattern. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a wooden fence or stall.

BRITISH WHITE CATTLE SOCIETY

SEPT 2026

NEWS

IN THIS ISSUE

AGM BOOKING NOW OPEN

MELTON MOWBRAY SHOW & SALE PREVIEW

BWCS SEES INCREASE IN NEW HERDS

CONTACT BWCS BREED SECRETARY SARAH COOK
01954 232796 | 07771 333303 | ADMIN@BRITISHWHITECATTLE.CO.UK



TO STAY UP TO DATE BETWEEN NEWSLETTERS, VISIT OUR WEBSITE

BRITISHWHITECATTLE.CO.UK

Follow us
on social
media for
more!



IN THIS ISSUE

- 3** AGM booking now open
- 5** Melton Mowbray Show & Sale preview
- 8** BWCS-supported native store sale
- 9** New article: BWCS sees increase in new herds
- 11** Battle BlueTongue fact checks
- 13** Cattle for sale & wanted

**10% OFF SHEARWELL TAGS
ON BACK COVER**

MEMBER NOTICES

Contribute to BWCS promotional content

We want to hear from members who can help us promote British White cattle to new audiences by sharing their experience and highlighting the breed's characteristics - get in touch!

Bluetongue Virus (BTV) updates

Keep an eye on the latest information and movement restrictions regarding BTV by visiting www.gov.uk and searching 'Bluetongue'.

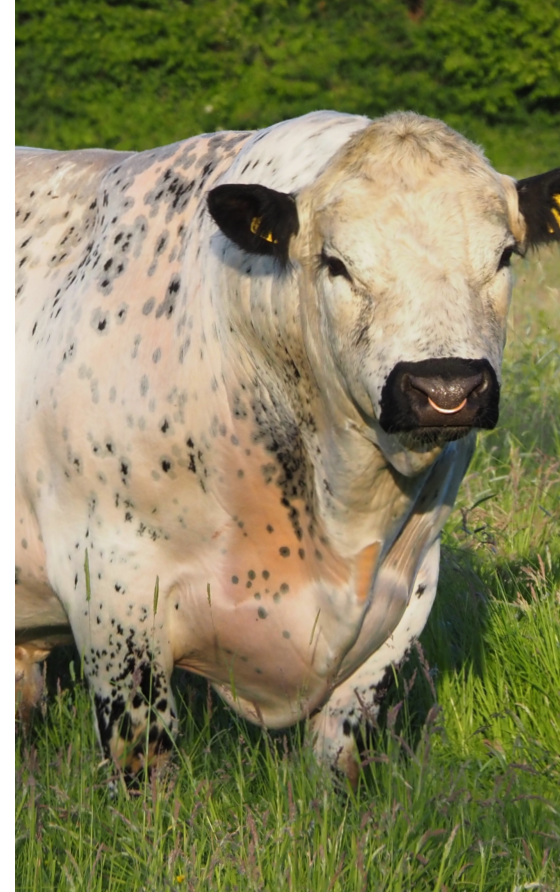
Bluetongue is notifiable disease which you are legally obliged to report to APHA, even if you only suspect that an animal may be affected.

If you suspect BTV, report it immediately by calling Defra on 03000 200 301. In Wales, call 0300 303 8268.

See page 11 for the latest advice from Ruminant Health & Welfare and APHA.

Type Classification

To book a Type Classification appointment for your herd, contact Jackie Clark at NBDC.
01923 695208 jackieclark@nbdc.uk
www.britishwhitecattle.co.uk/type-classification



TIDY UP YOUR GRASSROOTS HERD RECORD

Keep your herd record up to date in the Grassroots Online database by checking that you have completed all of the following animal information:



Births



Deaths



Castrates



Transfers

Making sure that your record is up to date will help us to complete accurate breed analysis used to determine population size, kinship, and much more, so please take a few minutes to check yours!

Grassroots Online Login Page > <https://breeds.grassroots.co.uk/BRWH>

**MELTON
MOWBRAY
SHOW & SALE
PREVIEW ON
PAGE 5**

BWCS AGM 2026

BOOKING NOW OPEN

We are delighted to invite members and friends to the 2026 AGM, kindly hosted by the Osborne family. James Osborne and his father Martin run the Woodfield herd near Stourbridge, where members will be welcomed on an afternoon tour of the farm following the morning meeting, trophy presentations and lunch.

Pre-AGM Dinner

Date Friday 2 October

Venue TBC

Meeting, Presentations & Herd Visit

Date Saturday 3 October

Venue Union Hall Farm, Compton, Kinver, Stourbridge,
West Mids DY7 5LZ

The Society's AGM is a chance to get to know new faces and catch up with old friends, to receive an annual report on BWCS matters and give your input, and to enjoy a weekend of excellent hospitality. We look forward to seeing you there!

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL!

CONTACT BREED SECRETARY SARAH COOK

EMAIL: ADMIN@BRITISHWHITECATTLE.CO.UK

CALL/WHATSAPP: 07771 333303

BOOKING CLOSES FRI 18 SEPT

PLACES TO STAY NEARBY

Premier Inn, Birmingham Street, Stourbridge DY8 1JR

Tel: 0333 321 9341

The Seven Stars, Brook Road, Stourbridge DY8 1NQ

Tel: 01384 441566

Premier Inn, Birmingham Road, Hagley DY9 9JS

Tel: 0333 003 1691

Copthorne Merry Hill-Dudley, The Waterfront, Brierly Hill DY5 1UR

Tel: 01384 482882

Travelodge, Dudley Road, Brierly Hill DY5 1LE

Tel: 0871 984 6063

The Suites Inn Hotel, 132a Pensnett Rd, Brierley Hill DY5 3YN

Tel: 07956 251553

The Laurels B&B, A458, Six Ashes, Bridgnorth WV15 6EQ

Tel: 01384 221546

Red Lion Inn, Six Ashes Road, Bobbington DY7 5DU

Tel: 01384 221237

Wolverley Camping and Caravanning Club Site DY10 3PX

Tel: 01562 850909

**SNEAK
PREVIEW**



BWCS AUTUMN SHOW & SALE MELTON MOWBRAY

 **SHOW FRI 11 SEPT**  **SALE SAT 12 SEPT**



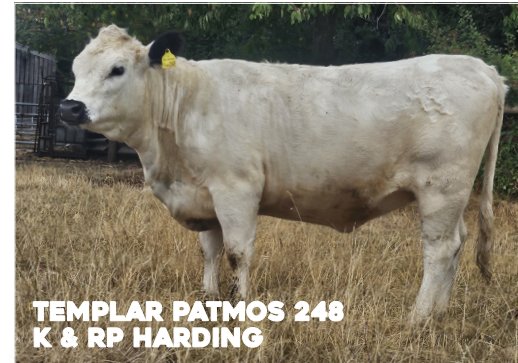
**SMALL HERD DISPERSAL FROM GM BENNETT & PARTNERS
8 COWS, 5 CALVES AT FOOT, STOCK BULL ELGANY ELGAR**



**TOLLESBURY TREASURE & REGISTERED BULL CALF THUNDERBOLT
AV & AKM ST JOSEPH & M HOWLAND**

14 FEMALES & 1 BULL

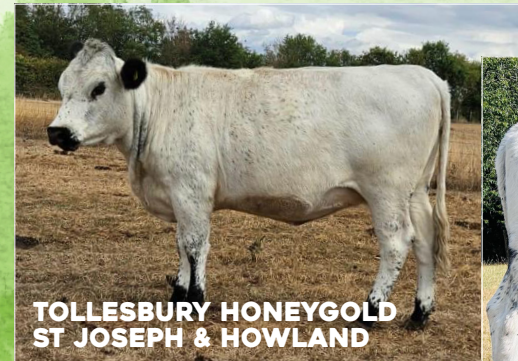
**INCLUDING COWS WITH CALVES AT FOOT, A SELECTION OF
QUALITY MAIDEN HEIFERS, AND A PROVEN STOCK BULL**



**TEMPLAR PATMOS 248
K & RP HARDING**



**ALBANY PEACH
MR L COOK**



**TOLLESBURY HONEYGOLD
ST JOSEPH & HOWLAND**



**WOODBASTWICK SLAINTE
RH FARMS**

GET YOUR CATALOGUE

**HARD COPIES AVAILABLE FROM MELTON MOWBRAY MARKET
OR VIEW THE DIGITAL VERSION ON THE BWCS WEBSITE**

BWCS CALENDAR

FEATURING MEMBERS' PHOTOS



TAKEN PHOTOS OF BRITISH WHITE
CATTLE DURING THE YEAR?

SUBMIT THEM FOR A CHANCE TO BE
FEATURED IN OUR OFFICIAL CALENDAR!



SUBMIT PHOTOS
BY FRI 4 SEPT

SOCIETY-SUPPORTED NATIVE STORE SALE MELTON MOWBRAY

DATE Wednesday 11 November 2026

VENUE Melton Mowbray Market, Scalford
Road, Melton Mowbray LE13 1JY

Brand new Society-supported native store
cattle sale with prizes awarded for:

-  Best pen of up to 4 purebred British White store cattle
-  Best pen of up to 4 crossbred British White store cattle

Entry forms coming soon!



BRITISH WHITE CATTLE SOCIETY SEES INCREASE IN NEW HERDS

PUBLISHED IN THE NORTHER FARMER & FARMERS MART MAGAZINES, AUG 2026

WITH THE RESURGENCE OF MIXED FARMING PRACTICES, GRAZING AGREEMENTS, AND ENVIRONMENT-FOCUSED SUBSIDIES BEING UNDERTAKEN BY MANY, SEVERAL NATIVE BRITISH BREEDS HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCING FRESH ENTHUSIASM FOR THE GRASS-BASED TRAITS THEY CAN OFFER.

The British White Cattle Society has recently seen an uptick in enquiries, with a strong increase in the number of animals being sourced for new herds.

As a relatively rare breed – British White cattle currently sit in the ‘at risk’ category of the RBST Watchlist – the appreciation of its inherent grazing ability, strong maternal traits, and beef quality are key to strengthening numbers and taking the breed forward.

BWCS Breed Secretary Sarah Cook says: “The majority of new enquiries come to us with the priority of finding cattle which can manage pasture well and generate a high-quality beef product on top. The feedback we often get from recently joined



members is that the Society always has plenty going on, which is a great compliment. We may only be a small group compared to some, but we hold ourselves to high standard when it comes to our membership services.

“We’ve held flagship events in 2026 such as a tremendous National Show held at the Royal Three Counties, re-gaining classes at the Great Yorkshire Show, and a run of excellent Society sales held by Melton Mowbray Market for several years now, which have helped us promote the breed’s productive, grass-based traits to a wide audience.

“The next step for us is always to ensure that new members have the information they need to set up a successful herd, and that they can make plenty of contacts within the breed to source suitable cattle for their system and make good breeding decisions. We are lucky to have a superb membership network who work hard for the future of these cattle, plus the systems we have put in place to ensure its continued development.

“The focus of our committees is on maintaining the quality of the breed top to bottom, and that the unique traits of British White cattle are consistent throughout. Schemes such as the NBDC’s Beef Type Classification and the Society’s own young bull inspections are allowing us to collect data on structural correctness, frame score, and weight for age, whilst the Grassroots online database system collects birthweight and calving ease data at registration. This information has been beneficial not only to promote the breed to new customers, but also for use in educational material for our existing breeders.

“The breed is in an excellent place right now, and the number of new and growing herds is encouraging to see. I’m looking forward to seeing what progress could be made over the next few years, and how we can keep building on this recent momentum. My focus will be on ensuring that our members have all the resources needed to produce good quality cattle for breeding and for sale, and on broadening our network even further.”



BATTLE BLUETONGUE FACT CHECKS

MYTH: It's too late to vaccinate against bluetongue serotype 3 (BTV-3)

Fact: It isn't too late to vaccinate against bluetongue. Vaccinating protects your animals before disease spreads. If you have bluetongue on your farm already, you can still vaccinate your healthy animals. Talk to your vet, order your vaccine and protect your stock.

MYTH: Bluetongue vaccines cause infertility in cattle and sheep

Fact: The disease itself is the real threat. Bluetongue can cause abortions, foetal deformities and stillbirths. Vaccination is safe. There is no evidence linking bluetongue vaccines to fertility problems in cattle or sheep.

MYTH: Vaccinating bulls and rams make them infertile

Fact: There is no evidence to suggest that bluetongue vaccines have a negative effect on fertility. While it is good practice to vaccinate males outside of the breeding period, completing vaccine courses three weeks before mating maximises immunity and won't cause any detriment. The real risk is bluetongue itself, which can severely impact fertility in bulls and rams and can cause long-term infertility.

MYTH: You can't vaccinate pregnant animals against bluetongue

Fact: The BTV-3 vaccines can be used during pregnancy. There is no evidence that bluetongue vaccines increase the risk of abortion any more than other vaccines given during pregnancy. The disease itself is the real risk as it can cause abortions and deformities if pregnant animals become infected. Speak to your vet to plan the best time to vaccinate.

MYTH: Bluetongue is only an issue for some areas of England

Fact: There are hotspots of cases, for example in the South West of England. However, bluetongue cases are increasing and likely to spread to many other areas. Vaccination remains an important option for all farms to consider.

MYTH: Bluetongue isn't serious, so there's no need to vaccinate

Fact: Bluetongue is deadly and vaccination is vital. In the 2026 calving season, some farmers only had 50% of their cattle producing a viable calf. We have seen a rapid rise in cases in 2026 compared with previous years and an increase in the severity of clinical signs. Vaccination helps protect animal health, welfare and your livelihood.

MYTH: Sheep dips, insecticides and repellents stop bluetongue infection

Fact: These products are not licensed for this purpose. There is no evidence that they kill Culicoides midges quickly enough to prevent infection or protect against onward transmission. Using these products also has potential environmental, ecological and resistance impacts – see the SCOPS website for more information. Vaccination is our only defence – speak to your vet.

MYTH: If I live in England, my farm will face restrictions if I have a positive case of BTV-3

Fact: There are no restrictions on the sale or purchase of animals from a BTV-3-positive premise in England, provided the animals are not showing clinical signs and are not under restriction for some other reason.

MYTH: This is a new, more severe serotype

Fact: This is the same serotype and strain of BTV-3 that was confirmed in 2023, 2024 and 2025. It is not new, but we are seeing more severe clinical signs in livestock. The temperature has been optimal for the virus, and it is circulating at a high level in livestock-dense areas, thus contributing to the severity seen.

MYTH: Not shearing your sheep will protect them from bluetongue infection

Fact: Leaving sheep unshorn cannot be relied on to protect them against bluetongue. Research has shown that unshorn sheep suffer a similar rate of attack from midges as shorn sheep. Some species of midge will target areas with little or no wool, such as the flanks, head, legs and underbelly. Vaccination is the only effective and proven way to protect your animals against bluetongue.

BLUETONGUE CLINICAL SIGNS

Sheep

- Ulcers or sores in the mouth and nose
- Discharge from the eyes or nose and drooling from mouth
- Swelling of the lips, tongue, head and neck and the coronary band (where the skin of the leg meets the horn of the foot)
- Red skin as a result of blood collecting beneath the surface
- Fever
- Lameness
- Breathing problems
- Abortion, foetal deformities and stillbirths
- Death

Lambs

- Lambs born small, weak, deformed or blind
- Death of lambs within a few days of birth
- Stillbirths



Ulcers or sores in mouth



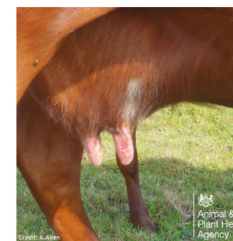
Nasal discharge, crusting, swelling of face

Cattle

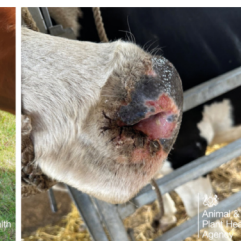
- Lethargy
- Lameness
- Crusty erosions around the nostrils and muzzle
- Redness of the mouth, eyes and nose
- Reddening of the skin above the hoof
- Nasal discharge
- Reddening and erosions on the teats
- Fever
- Milk drop
- Not eating
- Abortion, foetal deformities and stillbirths

Calves

- Calves born small, weak, deformed or blind
- Death of calves within a few days of birth
- Stillbirths



Lesions on teats



Crusting around the nostrils



See the **BLUETONGUE VIRUS HUB** for more information:
ruminanthw.org.uk/bluetongue-virus-hub

THERE IS SUPPORT AVAILABLE TO FARMERS AND VETS



To find contact details for mental health charities and further information on our tools and resources, scan the QR code or visit
ahdb.org.uk/bluetongue



© Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board 2026. All rights reserved.

BULL FOR SALE, RATHBOURNE HERD

Very successful bull, covering everything first time, has produced quality, healthy offspring. Excellent temperament and has bred many retained females, now looking to sell or swap him. Born 2019, Sire De Beauvoir Plaza EX93, dam De Beauvoir Blizzard VG89. Weighed approx. 1.2t at turnout, frame score 6.5, BTV vaccinated.



Colin Amos, Derbyshire
Tel: 07710 087050

HEIFERS FOR SALE, HORWOOD HERD

Maiden heifers Horwood Annie and Horwood Alice, both born May 2025 and sired by Tollesbury Sir Percival. Only for sale as we would like to keep Sir Percival, and these heifers will be ready to go to the bull in spring 2027.



Alex Campbell-Hill, South Glos
Tel: 07828 453038
Email: campbell-hill@outlook.com

BULL FOR SALE, CADARN HERD

Cadarn Dominator, born March 2025. Sire Carthy Chief VG88, Dam Castleton Flash EX91. A smart young bull with good length and very blue skin, halter broken and has been shown.



Mark Kennett, Ceredigion
Tel: 07399 883937
Email: cadarn.cows@gmail.com

BULL FOR SALE, FRILSHAM HERD

Stock bull De Beauvoir Sergeant Bilko, born May 2020, sired by Castleton Brenin EX95 and out of De Beauvoir Starzie. Excellent temperament, only for sale due to daughters coming into the herd.



Tom Phillips, Berkshire
Tel: 07787 952970

BULLS FOR SALE, TOLLESBURY HERD

Three young bulls sired by Castleton Brenin EX95. Tollesbury Hero (top) born 25 Feb '25 from a very milky cow line, he was Junior Male Champion at the 2026 National Show. Tollesbury Trojan (below) born 21 Mar '25, a slightly smaller, compact bull, he was Junior Champion at the Royal Norfolk Show 2026. Tollesbury Prince born 31 May '25, a smart young bull, his dam Peach was the winner of the BWCS Virtual Show 2021. High Health herd, BVD Free, John's Level 1, TB4 area (last test 2025), BlueTongue vaccinated.



Vivien St Joseph, Essex
Tel: 07747 847431
Email: vivienstjoseph@gmail.com

BULL FOR SALE, BULBY HERD

Bulby Holm Oak (VG88), born July 2022, sired by Frilsham Cow Parsley and out of Bulby Hebe (VG85). Fit and ready to work, Society inspected and Type Classified.

Contact Sue Beavan, Lincolnshire
Tel: 07791 976044
Email: susanbevan@btinternet.com

FEMALES FOR SALE, SCOTTOW HERD

Selection of 2025 heifers available, sired by Salhouse Eigg and Scottow Emperor. Also considering selling some cows with calves at foot, which should be in calf again, along with a few in-calf heifers sired by Leverington Columbus and Scottow Emperor. All of the cows and heifers are currently running with Salhouse Eigg.



Simon & William Shaw, Norfolk
Tel: 07831 859194 (Simon)
Email: williamshaw217@gmail.com

FEMALES FOR SALE, SHOBY LODGE HERD

Four Hevingham cows, born 2021, three of which are in-calf to an Aberdeen Angus bull, the other one has an AAX bull calf at foot born Nov 2025.

Contact James & Lucinda Lomas, Leics
Mobile: 07970 278529 / 07919 890205
Email: lucindalomas@gmail.com

MEMBERS ADVERTISE HERE FOR FREE! JUST CONTACT BREED SECRETARY SARAH COOK WITH DETAILS AND PHOTOS TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT TODAY, FREE OF CHARGE TO BWCS MEMBERS.

Shearwell Data

Livestock Systems

British White Cattle preferred tag supplier



Supplying ear tags
for **over 30 years**
You can rely on us for

**10% OFF
all cattle
tags***

SMALL **MEDIUM** **LARGE**

*Membership number required at time of ordering



Quality products



Excellent customer service



Speedy turnaround

Call 01643 841611



Full range online, including BVD & EID shearwell.co.uk