

A wide-angle photograph of a lush green agricultural field at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the scene. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the field is filled with rows of young plants. In the distance, a line of trees and a few structures are visible under the bright light.

AGRICULTURAL UPDATE FEBRUARY 2024

EVENT REMINDER

MOORE ALLEN & INNOCENT

In association with

Ashbridge
PARTNERS
Finance for Growth

Invite you to their

BREAKFAST BRIEFING

Join us for a fascinating update on current farming matters, and a presentation from Martin Waite of Ashbridge Partners. Topics to be included are The Sustainable Farming Incentive, Utility Infrastructure, Agri-Commercial Diversification, Estate Planning for the Future & Current Economic Factors in the Farming World.

Date: Thursday, 7th March 2024
Time: 8.30 a.m. for breakfast rolls & refreshments for a 9.00 a.m. start
Venue: Fairford Community Centre, High Street, Fairford, Gloucestershire, GL7 4AF

Free Entry - To reserve your place, please RSVP to Lauren Horton on 01285 648106 or lauren.horton@mooreallen.co.uk.

IMPROVING FARM PRODUCTIVITY GRANT

The Improving Farm Productivity Grant is currently open to all farmers and horticultural businesses. Its aim is to improve farm and horticultural productivity through supplying funding for capital items.

The two main items eligible for funding are:

- Robotic and automated equipment and systems to aid crop and livestock production. The minimum grant available is £25,000 and the maximum grant available is £500,000. The grant will cover up to 40% of the cost of eligible items.
- The installation of solar equipment to increase energy resilience and the take-up of renewable energy generation on farm. The minimum grant available for solar equipment is £15,000 and the maximum grant available is £100,000. The grant will cover up to 25% of the cost of eligible items.

Applications for the grant close in March 2024 (date TBC). An online checker must be completed before a full application can be submitted.

If you are considering applying for the grant and would like to discuss this further, please call the team on 01285 648107.

FARMING EQUIPMENT & TECHNOLOGY FUND (FETF)

Defra has recently announced the launch of round 2 of the Farming Equipment and Technology Fund (FETF) for 2024. The fund includes three grants for improving productivity, managing slurry and improving animal health and welfare. Productivity and slurry grants are available at a rate between £1,000 and £50,000 and for animal health, between £1,000 and £25,000.

The RPA will pay between 50% - 60% based on either the average cost of the item or the actual cost paid. Grants applied for in excess of £25,000 will require three years of financial accounts and tax returns to be provided. You will also be required to provide evidence that you can finance the purchase.

The grants are competitive and will therefore be scored against each application.

For further information about the items eligible and the application process, search for FETF on the RPA website.

If you require further assistance, please contact a member of the Agricultural Team on 01285 648107.

PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE END OF CROSS COMPLIANCE

We have received various enquires in recent weeks regarding the implications of the ending of cross compliance, with effect from 31st December 2023. Despite some rumours to the contrary, farmers must continue to observe the bird nesting season (1st March to 31st August) and avoid any hedge trimming during that period, unless one of the previously available exemptions or derogations apply.

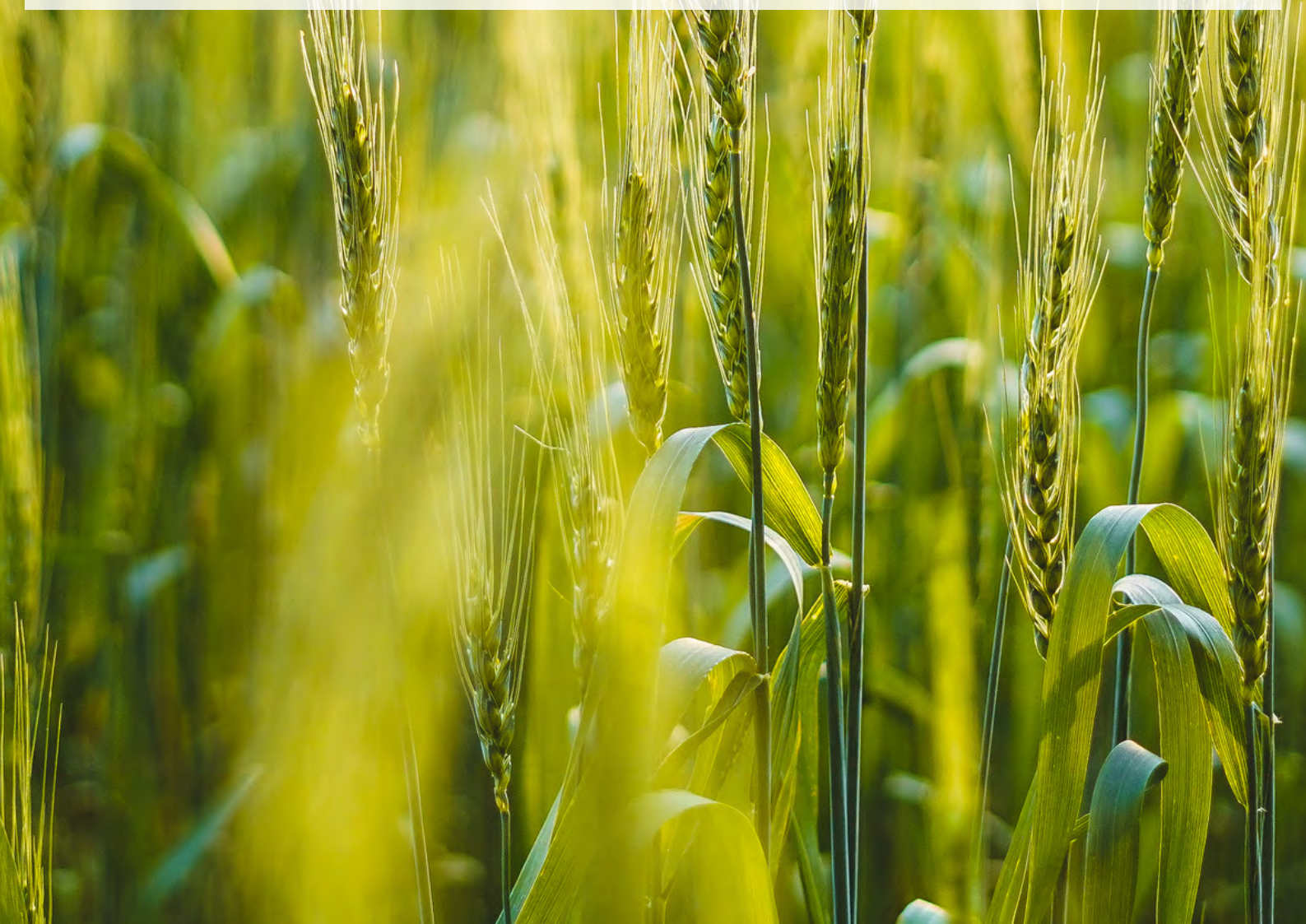
Defra has recently announced updated guidance on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. A simplified application process for a screening decision is now available. These regulations particularly apply when considering cultivating land which has not been cultivated or improved (under the definition) in the past fifteen years or seeking to alter or remove boundary features.

If in doubt, we would be pleased to assist.

TIME RUNNING OUT FOR BPS CHALLENGES

The RPA has set a deadline of 29th February 2024 to challenge any issues arising from the 2023 BPS year. The deadline is intended to wrap up any remaining issues as part of the delinking process.

If you believe this applies to you, please contact RPA as soon as possible and by midnight on 29th February or alternatively, contact a member of the Agricultural Team.



BPS REFERENCE DATA

As advised in the January Update, the transfer window for BPS reference data is now open (from 15th February) and affected applicants have until 10th May to complete the transfer of any reference data. This particularly applies where there has been a business structure change, a new SBI or a merger or split of a business. Farm sales or tenancy changes may also be affected.

The Agricultural Team at Moore Allen & Innocent is well placed to advise or assist you with this process.



AGRI-COMMERCIAL LETTINGS SERVICE

Demand is currently strong for commercial space in the region, in both traditional industrial areas and out of town rural locations.

We have applicants actively seeking the following:

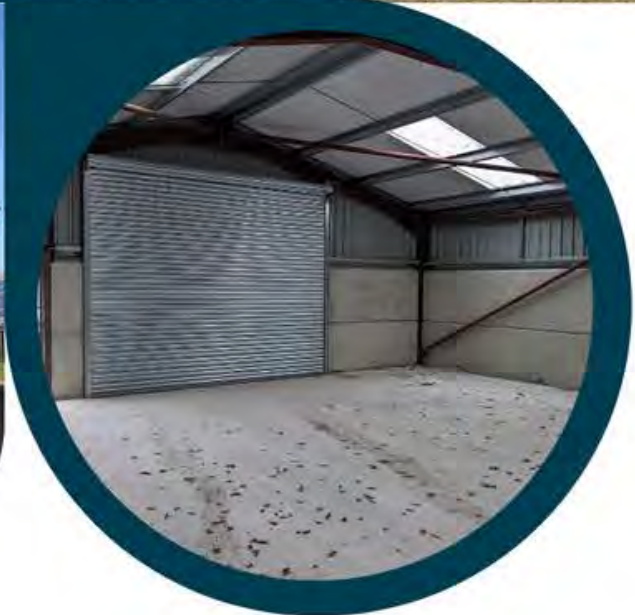
- BRISTOL/CHIPPENHAM: 2,000 Sq Ft of Warehouse space for laser manufacturing.
- CHELTENHAM: 2,000 Sq Ft unit for a dog day care.
- CIRENCESTER: 200 Sq Ft Studio for pottery classes.
- FAIRFORD: 800 Sq Ft warehouse for furniture polishing workshop.
- FAIRFORD: 300 Sq Ft for storage.
- GLOUCESTERSHIRE: 4,000 Sq Ft Light Industrial space for storage of mobile showers and toilets.
- GLOUCESTERSHIRE: Yard Space for 6 HGV Vehicles.

- GLOUCESTER AREA: 600 Sq Ft light industrial unit for carbon fibre plates manufacturing.
- LECHLADE: 200 Sq Ft for storage of Classic Cars.
- OXFORD: 200 Sq Ft Studio for online Sweet Shop.
- STROUD: 1,500-2,000 Sq Ft Warehouse for a coffee roastery.
- TETBURY: 250 Sq Ft of storage space for a landscape gardening business.
- TETBURY: 1,500 Sq Ft Warehouse for pallet storage and distribution.
- TETBURY: 200 Sq Ft Studio for Artisan Baker.

Due to space constraints in this publication, this is just a small selection of the enquiries that we receive on a daily basis.

If you have a building or yard that is unoccupied that could be used or converted for commercial occupation, please call Richard Dell (01285 648112) for an informal, no obligation discussion about your options.

Agri-Commercial Lettings



Can you help?

Demand remains strong for commercial space in the region. We have applicants actively seeking containers, warehouses, office spaces, yards and workshop space.

Sought After Locations

- › Cirencester
- › Fairford
- › Faringdon
- › Gloucester
- › Malmesbury
- › Stroud
- › Swindon
- › Tetbury

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 01285 648112

 commercial@mooreallen.co.uk



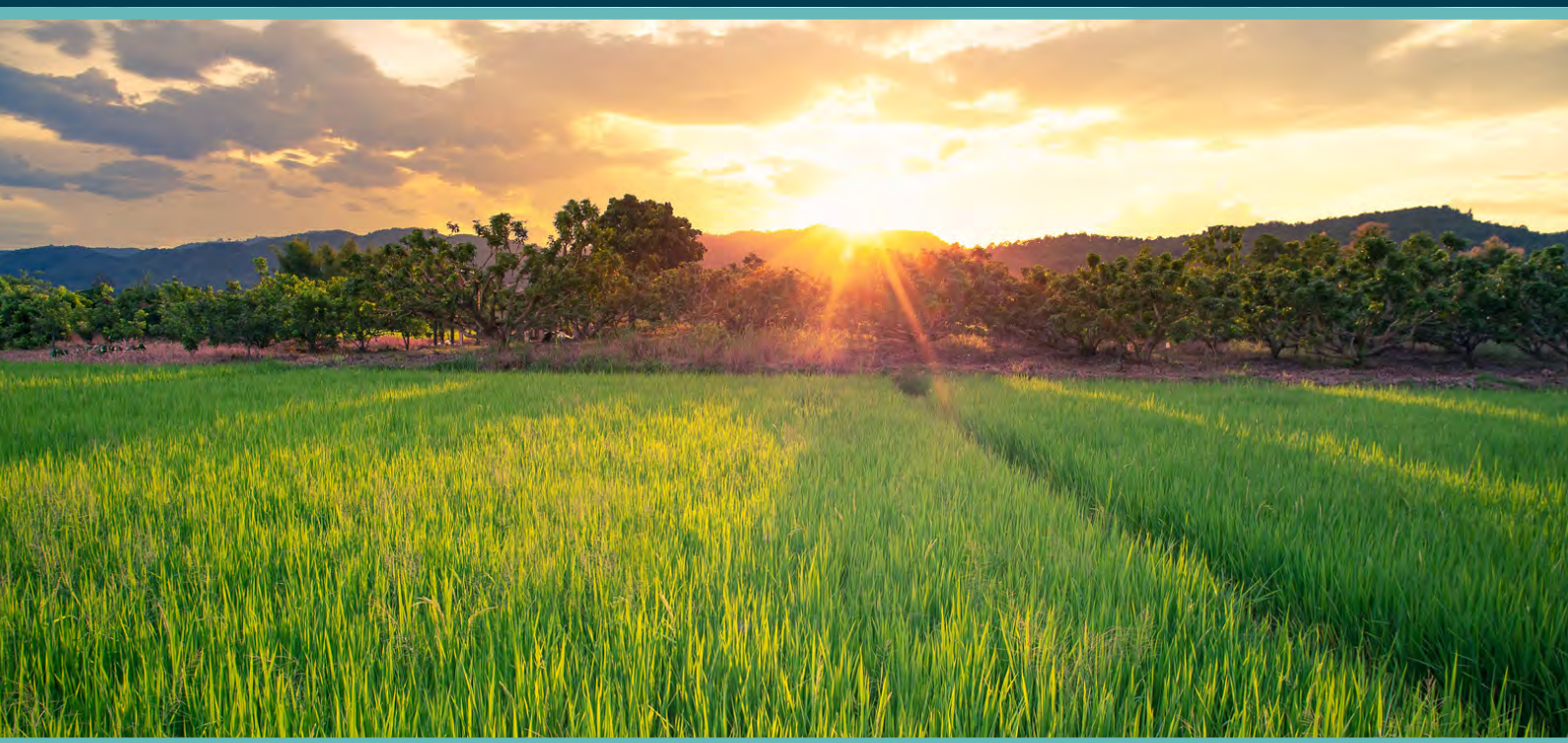
MOORE ALLEN & INNOCENT

Here for the past present and future

LAND & ESTATE AGENTS

VALUERS

AUCTIONEERS



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