

Dear Tisbury

I wanted to post a quick note for the community to introduce myself and let everyone know what I am going to be doing with a farm many of you will know. My name is Neil Harley and I am a farmer from Chitterne, where I run my family farm. As of this year we will be farming much of the ground between Weavelands Farm (behind the Nadder Centre) and the Beckford Arms pub.

There will be some changes (which I hope many of you will agree) will be for the better. I will be entering the farm into environmental schemes and converting the arable land we are taking on to organically farmed pasture. The farm will be going half way to rewilding with the reintroduction of flower and herb rich meadows and a hands-off approach to nature. The idea is to use these meadows to produce 100% pasture-based beef from our herd of Aberdeen Angus cows that graze the herb rich downs of Salisbury Plain.

To do this we will be fencing the farm and putting gates in certain places. I know many people currently use the footpath and bridleway across the land and it is always nice to see the people out enjoying the countryside. I will please ask that anyone who does walk across the farm ensures that they stay on the proper rights of way and close any gates they use on those rights of way. Always behaves responsibly, taking litter home with them, keeping their dogs on a lead and cleaning up after them. This is both to ensure that cattle do not get upset or pick up any diseases, so other people can enjoy the outdoors and that the areas we leave for wildlife conservation remain as undisturbed as possible.

I hope that once the coronavirus is behind us that I can come and speak to the parish council and anyone in the community who would like to know more about the farm and what we are doing. If anyone would like to get in touch in the mean time my email address is; neilharley@harleyfarms.co.uk.

Yours Sincerely,

Neil Harley