

# News

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## **Royal approval for Morgan Sindall's £5.5 million Melton cattle market**

A new livestock market in Melton Mowbray, which will secure the cattle trade in the area for a generation, has been officially opened by Princess Anne.

Morgan Sindall built the £5.5 million facility, which opened for business last year.

Morgan Sindall was selected to deliver the project by Melton Borough Council through leading public sector procurement specialist Scape Group's empa framework. The empa framework has since been replaced by Scape's Regional Construction framework, which Morgan Sindall was successfully appointed to earlier this year.

Working in partnership with Leicester-headquartered construction consultancy, Pick Everard, the project team was able to construct the new building on the existing site of the 1,000-year-old cattle market, breathing new life into the historical venue and securing its operation for the next two decades.

As the largest town centre livestock market in the country, it is a crucial asset to the regional economy, supporting both the 2,500 farming customers, and 350,000 visitors which make use of the site annually.

The new facilities, which include replacement cow sheds and pens, will ensure that the market remains safe, competitive and compliant with Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs requirements.

The Princess Royal spent around an hour touring the new building and meeting members of the project team, along with leader of the Council, Joe Orson, staff, farmers and local business owners on Wednesday 7 March during the official ceremony.

She praised the design of the building and that Morgan Sindall had been able to redevelop the market on the original site.

Morgan Sindall's area director, Richard Fielding, said: "Melton Mowbray's cattle market has been integral to the town for centuries. We were pleased to be able to build on the existing site and to receive the royal seal of approval for our design is particularly gratifying.

"The new facility provides the local businesses who rely on the industry with the modern environment needed to support the livestock trade for a generation. Through our construction work we were able to provide a number of employment opportunities to local people and the finished market will leave a lasting legacy."

Victoria Brambini, managing director of Scape Procure, added: "It is a momentous occasion to have the project officially opened by Princess Anne. The Cattle Market has an important place in the local community and the project enables its continued operation. A number of job and training opportunities were created throughout the lifetime of the project, delivering a positive boost to the local economy."

Property, construction and infrastructure consultancy, Pick Everard, provided cost and project

management services for the scheme.

Matt Hall, director at Pick Everard, said: "We're delighted to see this fantastic facility up and running, continuing to develop Melton's position as a premier rural food and drink destination.

"The redevelopment did present some challenges which required careful negotiations in terms of excavation, land contamination treatments and drainage. These were all overcome successfully and we managed to remain on budget and complete this incredibly important project within the proposed timeframe."

Councillor Joe Orson, said: "This visit from Her Royal Highness celebrates the collaborative work between the Council and the market operator, Gillstream Markets Ltd, in successfully bringing this expansion to the town's landmark facility.

"As other markets are closing - we are growing. This new building is a significant step in securing our economic future and reputation as the Rural Capital of Food."

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