

INVEST IN
**South
Lakeland**



J36 and North West Auctions

The Modern Hub of South Lakeland's
Agribusiness Network.



www.investinsouthlakeland.co.uk

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The economy of South Lakeland is one which has the farming community as its lynchpin, with much of the iconic landscape that draws visitors from across the globe being as a direct result of those who have for generations worked the land.

It stands to reason then that the farmers' auction marts where livestock, land, machinery and property are bought and sold have for centuries been a key hub of activity for this community. Aside from a place to do business, they have been as much a social gathering for the land-keepers and somewhere to keep regular contact with their compatriots.

Kendal is very much a market town and for decades its mart was such a focus for such auctions, with farmers travelling from all reaches of the district and beyond to attend the regular sales. So when plans were unveiled to relocate the auction – lock, stock and barrel – to a new purpose-built site adjacent to the M6 motorway, there were bound to be apprehensions.

Fast forward a few years and any initial concerns that may have been aired are very much a thing of the past as 'Junction 36', the new dedicated site

developed by North West Auctions, is a bustling hive of activity and a thriving agribusiness hub for the region.

North West Auctions (a division of the L&K Group, formed by a merger between The Kendal and District Auction Mart and Lancaster Farmers' Auction) are the team behind the new Junction 36 site. Established in 1900, they are an organisation comprising auctioneers, chartered surveyors and agricultural business experts who have been supporting and servicing the agricultural community, the land owner and farmer.

Katie Black is Company Secretary of L&K Group and is herself married to a local farmer: "There was quite rightly a lot of love for the old auction mart site in Kendal, not just amongst the farmers but the local community too.

Kendal is a rural town and people were used to the comings and goings, the regular auction days and the whole life around the mart which had been running on the same site and format for over 100 years."

"A number of years ago a new site was identified as a potential alternative, with the great location and easy access from across the region – the Lakes, the Dales and north Lancashire - being a primary driver."



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The first auction at the new state-of-the-art location was held on Tuesday 12th February, 2013 with over 200 livestock breeders and buyers present at the auction ring and who burst into spontaneous applause as the sale of the first lot of sheep was concluded by the auctioneer.

The Kendal Auction primarily draws stock mainly from South Lakeland, Eden, Furness, south west Cumbria, north Lancashire and North Yorkshire and each market sells prime, dairy, store and breeding stock. "We're proud to be the leading livestock operator in the North West." adds Katie.

Conference and meeting facilities are also available for hire at the modern premises with all the facilities one would expect, with the added advantages of incredibly easy access for travelling delegates and a stunning location thrown into the deal. As you would expect, Junction 36 also holds regular farmers' markets, plant and shrub sales, poultry and rare breeds which draw a new audience to the site.

What are the best aspects of living and working in South Lakeland? "The landscape speaks for itself - there is strong community here, our customers are the guardians of the countryside and it's a privilege to serve them from our new location."

Moving to the new site, something in which Katie was heavily involved, obviously ranks as a business highlight, as does the visit of HRH Prince Charles. "The royal visit was a brilliant day and having Prince Charles commenting in such glowing terms about our remarkable facility. Dare we also say it's a highlight every day when people come to our premises for the first time and to see their faces light up when they see just what we have achieved."

Business aspirations for L&K Group / North West Auctions over the next five years include replicating the success of Junction 36 by relocating their sister premises in Lancaster to a similar state of the art facility for Lancashire.



Junction 36 isn't just about farming and livestock as the site has been designed to provide offices and business accommodation for a diverse array of companies and organisations including accountants, lawyers, insurance brokers and even a hair salon, all regularly used by the farming customer and wider community.

"Agriculture will of course always be our primary concern, but the L&K Group also incorporates agricultural auctioneers and valuers as well as fine art and antiques auctioneers, land agents and farm business advisors. From the Junction 36 site we now employ 70 staff in both full and part time positions."



North West Auctions

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Welcome to South Lakeland.

A Breath of Fresh Air for Business.

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An area known globally for its astounding natural beauty and unique vibrant culture, South Lakeland is also home for a thriving and innovative business environment where companies can become established, grow and prosper.

The entrepreneurial business spirit is strongly encouraged in South Lakeland, reflected in the healthy number of fledgling enterprises setting up each year in our region, and our work also encompasses projects designed to help make the first steps to start-up as easy as possible.

The Economic Development Team at South Lakeland District Council are an inward investment service providing information and support to businesses of all sizes, covering all industry sectors, whether you are already here or are looking to locate your operations in South Lakeland.

The Economic Development Team are here to help your business uncover the exciting potential that exists here. Should you have any questions, we are on hand to assist and tell you more about the opportunities to be found in the most beautiful corner of the UK.

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