

Fairfield Market

There has been a market in Dorchester for many centuries.

Formerly held at Cornhill and the Bow in the town centre, the livestock market moved here in the 1850s and the vegetable and other stalls followed later, although there are still some street stalls in the town centre. The site was laid out as a market in 1877.

As its name suggests, Fairfield was used for fairs as well as markets. Circuses and sporting events also took place here.



The market in the 1930s. Cattle auctions were held on Wednesdays and Saturdays and large numbers of sheep were traded, as can be seen here. Behind the market are James Foot's warehouses where he sold corn, seed, oilcake, hay, straw and forage. He was also a government contractor, haulier and miller. Foot's closed in the 1990s.



The Coronation Ox, 1911.

For the celebrations of George V's coronation held at Fairfield, James Foot donated an ox to roast for the public celebrations. The before and after pictures show the ox and the roasting, followed by the Mayor and Corporation tucking into the beef!



A vegetable stall in Cornhill.

Although the main market moved to Fairfield, a few stalls remain in Cornhill and operate daily.



Nat Seal (1793-1887), a well-known market character, with his dog.

Nat Seal was a drover and self-appointed market overseer. When the Corporation tried to sack him he threw a full beehive at the Beadle. He wore a hat made out of hedgehog skin to stop people patting him on the head.

Find out more...

Markets are held each Wednesday and car boot sales are held on Sundays

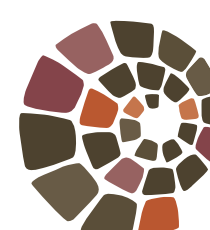
In the market there is a stone carved with 'Presented to the town of Dorchester in affectionate memory of Major Vincent Wing RHA, 25 May 1888'. It is now used for flowers, but what was it for originally?



The Dorchester Dormouse trail



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