

Buying a recorded Hampshire Down



Why invest in Signet recorded rams?

Investing in rams with superior genetics can be worth an extra £800 over their lifetime.

With potential gains of £4 per lamb, commercial producers should source Signet recorded rams with high estimated breeding values (EBVs) for traits of importance to their flock.

Interpreting EBVs when buying a ram

EBVs are presented on sale cards, breeding charts and published in ram sale catalogues; as well as being displayed online at www.signetdata.com

Accuracy values indicate how much is known about an animal for a specific trait and the degree to which EBVs might change over time.

Table 1. Hampshire Down breed benchmark for 2025

Estimated Breeding Value	Average	Top 25%	Top 10%
8-week weight	0.99	1.46	1.89
Litter size	0.04	0.07	0.10
Maternal ability	0.10	0.32	0.51
Scan weight	3.31	4.77	6.09
Muscle depth	0.48	1.00	1.47
Fat depth	-0.22	0.00	0.19
Lean weight	0.20	0.37	0.52
Fat weight	-0.16	0.00	0.15
Gigot	0.38	0.79	1.16
Terminal sire index	187	228	266
Maternal index	159	189	216

Breeding values for Abattoir traits

AHDB recently updated the Terminal sire evaluation to provide more accurate breeding values for carcass traits.

Table 2. Hampshire Down breed benchmark for Abattoir traits 2025

Estimated Breeding Value	Average	Top 25%	Top 10%
Days to slaughter	-6.28	-8.95	-11.36
Carcass weight	0.26	0.43	0.58
Carcass confirmation	0.07	0.28	0.47
Fat class	-0.05	0.15	0.32

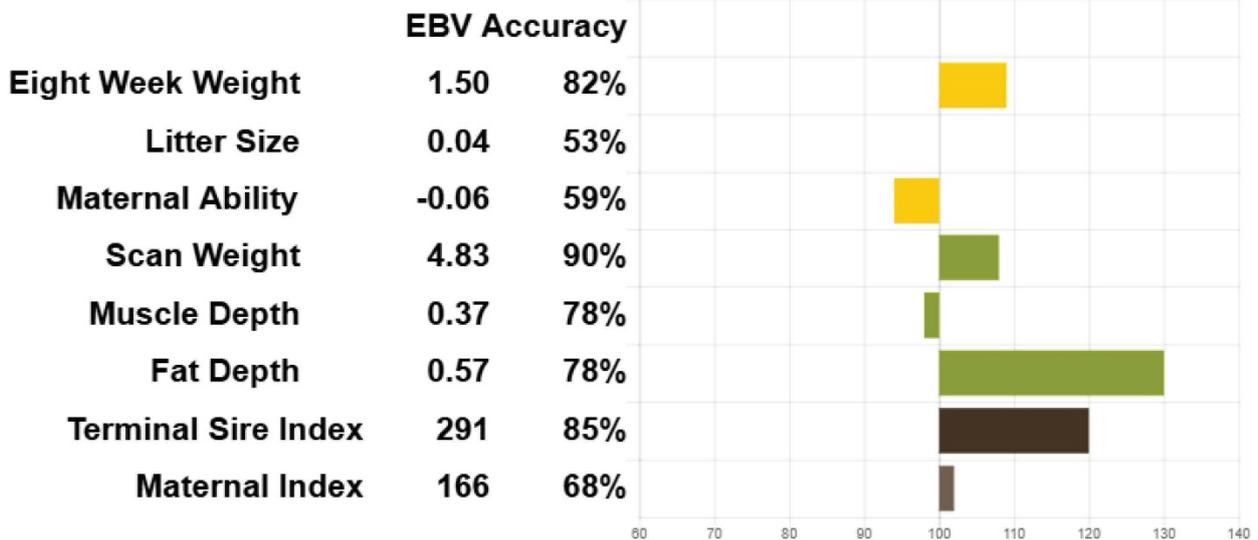


Breeding charts

Breeding charts are more informative, showing where a ram's genetic potential sits within the breed for a range of traits.

The centre line indicates the average for that breed. Bars to the right of the centre indicate above-average breeding values, meaning progeny are likely to have faster growth rates, more muscling and be fatter. Bars to the left indicate a below-average value for those traits and leaner progeny.

LOT:	SIGNET WALTER FBN: SIG2294660 Sire: SIGNET VANISH SIG2192651	DOB: 02/04/2022 Scanned: Y Dam: SIGNET SIG1985125	
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