



Farming for the historic environment

Make the most of Environmental Stewardship

www.naturalengland.org.uk/es


ENGLISH HERITAGE


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Farmers, land managers and farm advisers all have a part to play in ensuring a healthy natural environment which is essential for sustainable farming.

Your farm has environmental value

Your farm has wildlife, natural resources, farmland birds and historic features that need your protection.

You make a difference

By adopting the options appropriate to the historic features on your land you will be helping to protect our heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.

Right options, right location, right management

This leaflet helps you choose the right options and put them in the right places to make the biggest difference. If you need additional help locating or managing these options, please contact Natural England for further information.

Why is your farm important for the historic environment?

The landscape itself is the only evidence we have for most of human history. Its archaeological sites, its traditional buildings and its patterns of field, wood and parkland reflect the long and complex story of our ancestors. Every farmstead and estate in England has played its part in this story. Historic features are fragile and irreplaceable. Wherever possible, we should try to avoid damaging important sites and buildings or allowing them to decay.

As agriculture has intensified and farm machinery become more powerful, many historic sites and buildings have been damaged. Traditional field boundaries and field patterns have often become less relevant to modern farming operations. Many of these distinctive features have been lost or neglected. Nevertheless, these are still fundamental to the character of the countryside and to its appeal to residents and visitors alike.

What can you do for the historic environment?

Sites under arable management

Where archaeological sites are in cultivated land, even where buried and not immediately apparent on the ground, continued arable cultivation gradually causes increasing damage. In many cases the most beneficial management option for sites under the plough is to completely remove them from cultivation, usually by sowing a productive grass sward.

Where sites survive as upstanding islands surrounded by cultivation and where wholesale removal from cultivation is not feasible, creation of a 'buffer strip' prevents further encroachment by the plough and provides protection for buried features. The widest margin will provide the greatest protection as well as benefits to wildlife and easier field operations.

Sites surviving under arable cultivation can also be protected by reducing cultivation depth to a maximum of four inches (10 centimetres).

Traditional buildings

It is important to ensure that buildings are well maintained if their historic importance and economic potential is to be safeguarded for the future. Buildings appropriate for management under ELS are those built before 1940 using traditional materials such as brick, stone, tile, slate and timber. A little regular effort to keep buildings watertight can reduce the need for expensive repairs at a later date. If a building has a roof, then the building's future will be best assured if this covering is maintained; if there are gutters and down-pipes, these should be kept clear and working.



West Newton Fold Yards

What are the benefits for you?

Regular farm income:

Financial incentives are available through Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) to provide a six-monthly income for environmentally friendly land management that supports the historic environment.

Realise the wildlife potential of less productive areas:

Make awkward corners, small fields and wet areas of your farm work better for you by entering them into ELS options.

Be rewarded for reducing risk to scheduled monuments on your land:

The simple measures outlined in this leaflet will help you to reduce the risk of deterioration to scheduled monuments and other historic features on your land.

Contribute to Climate Change mitigation:

Those options which involve creating grass buffers and field corners in arable fields will lead to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. This is due to reduced nutrient inputs and increased temporary carbon storage within the created grassland.

Use the farm illustration overleaf to help you choose the best locations and ELS options to protect the historic features on your farm.



Arbury Banks enclosure under arable

Need further help and information?

For details of farm events in your region or further information please contact:

Natural England

Tel: 0300 060 1695

Email: farmevents@naturalengland.org.uk

Website: www.naturalengland.org.uk/farmevents

English Heritage

Tel: 0870 333 1181

Website: www.english-heritage.org.uk

Advice on farming the historic environment

Your local English Heritage Regional Office can advise you on the management of Scheduled Monuments (go to **www.english-heritage.org.uk** and click on the 'contact us' button for information on regional offices or how to make an enquiry). English Heritage have produced a series of leaflets on farming the historic environment including advice on caring for archaeological sites in cultivation and caring for farm buildings. These are available at **www.english-heritage.org.uk/farmadvice** and on the Historic Environment Local Management website at **www.helm.org.uk**.

Advice on the historic features on your land

The Environmental Information Map provided by Natural England (as part of the ELS application pack) should have identified sites on your land suited to protection under the scheme. Your land may, however, contain many more historic sites and features. If you require more detailed advice on the historic features on your land or more specific advice on site management, your local authority's Archaeological Service or Historic Environment Record can usually provide assistance in the first instance. Contact addresses can be obtained through the website of the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers at **www.algao.org.uk**.

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Archaeology under cultivation 1



Opportunities
Historic sites in arable or temporary grass leys

Archaeology under grass 2



Opportunities
Historic sites under permanent grass

Traditional farm buildings 3



Opportunities
Weatherproof traditional farm buildings built before 1940



For illustrative purposes only, to help you choose the best ELS options and the most suitable locations.

ELS Code	Options	ELS/OELS Points
1 Archaeology under cultivation		
ED2/OD2	Take out of cultivation archaeological features that are currently on cultivated land	460/600 per ha
ED3/OD3	Reduced depth, non-inversion cultivation on archaeological features (minimum till)	60/300 per ha
2 Archaeology under grass		
ED4/OD4	Management of scrub on archaeological features	120 per ha
ED5/OD5	Management of archaeological features on grassland	16 per ha
3 Traditional farm buildings		
ED1/OD1	Maintenance of weatherproof traditional farm buildings	2 points per m ²



Cropmarks suitable for reversion (O/ED2) or reduced depth tillage (O/ED3)



Ploughed and unploughed earthworks at Grovely Castle



Field byre eligible for ED1



Barrows which could be further protected by reversion of the surrounding area, reduced depth tillage and/or buffer strips