

Module 6

Farming & the wider environment

Historic England

- Responsible for historic heritage in England
- Traditional farmsteads and buildings are heritage assets

Pre-application assessment, conversion and maintenance

- National Farmstead Assessment Framework
- The Adaptive Reuse of Traditional Farm Buildings
- Adapting Traditional Farm Buildings
- The Maintenance and Repair of Traditional Farm Buildings

Historic Environment Ridge & Farrow

- Pattern of ridges and troughs created by a system of ploughing used in Europe during the Middle Ages, typical of open-field system.
- Also known as rig and furrow, mostly in the NE England and Scotland.
- Created natural divisions used as boundaries when tenants drew lots for a small strip of land within a particular field.
- In a wet year, crop growing on top of the ridge was likely to survive, while in drier weather a good crop could probably be harvested out of the furrow.

What are the criteria for national importance?

- Period
- Rarity
- Documentation/Finds
- Group value
- Survival/condition
- Fragility/vulnerability
- Diversity
- Potential

Min-till or no-till on historic features

- Know location & extent of any historic features on your land.
- Register and request an SFI Historic Environment Farm Environment Record to [learn more about historic features on your land](#).
- Historic features best protected by [converting them to grassland](#).
- You may be able to use min-till (to a depth of 10cm) on some buried features.
- Other buried features & above ground features like earthworks must only use direct drilling (no-till).
- Check your Conservation of Scheduled Monuments in Cultivation Assessment
- Follow its advice about suitable management for your land.
- If you don't have a COSMIC assessment - must use direct drilling farming.
- If you have previously been advised by Historic England to use min-till on buried features, you should continue to do so.
- You must [find out if you need consent for work on a scheduled monument](#).

Arable Reversion

- Arable reversion involves reverting cultivated land to natural habitat.
- It offers an opportunity to extend and link up existing habitats of high conservation value.

Habitats that can be created include:

- wet grassland,
- heathland,
- chalk grassland,
- flower-rich meadow
- woodland and scrub

Maintenance of designed/engineered water bodies

Where to use this option

It's available for CS Mid Tier and Higher Tier on:

- water bodies with an artificially retained area of open standing water
- the banks of the water body and buffer strips around associated features (such as leats and culverts)

Where this option cannot be used

- To include areas of water - only land can be included in a claim
- For field ponds dug to below the water table
- For water meadows (both bed work and catch meadow systems)
- For water bodies that are covered by the [Reservoirs Act 1975](#)
- For raised water bodies that are deemed at high-risk by the Environment Agency under the [Flood and Water Management Act 2010](#)

Archaeological features and water meadows

- Historic monuments: earthworks, masonry, brickwork, clay linings and timberwork
- Other structures: islands, bridges, causeways, landing stages, defences and ornamental features
- Craft and industry: retting flax and hemp, tanning and metalworking
- Food production and cultivation: irrigation systems, aquaculture (e.g. fisheries and hatcheries, watercress beds)
- Ritual and religion: votive offerings and sacrifices
- Lost items: weapons, tools, coins and personal effects
- Secondary use/s: wells and cess pits, refuse and demolition debris
- Biological: pollen, seeds, leaves, wood/ charcoal, diatoms, insects (including beetles and midges), bones, molluscs, ostracods, parasite remains
- Non-biological: spheroidal carbonaceous particles, sediment stratigraphy, isotopes, pH

Conserving Historic Water Meadows

- Field observation – identify earthen ridges and channels
- Examination derelict channels & existing watercourses
- Changes in vegetation – clues to presence of buried structures
- Documentary sources – 19th century OS maps, estate plans, tithe and enclosure maps or aerial photographs.
- Recording the historic features, including taking photographs.
- Establishing locations of earthworks and structures as accurately as possible on maps will be needed for their management.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act)

Normally gives a public right of access to land mapped as ‘open country’

- mountain,
- moor,
- heath and down
- registered common land.

These areas are known as ‘open access land’.

Much of the [coastal margin](#) that’s being created as part of the work to implement the King Charles III England Coast Path is also open access land.

Know the signs and symbols of the countryside

Round brown symbol with a person walking over hills - Open Access, you can explore away from paths.

This includes many areas of:

- Mountain
- Moorland
- Heath
- Down
- coastal margin
- registered common land
-

Check the Open Access website (<http://www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk/>) for maps, information and any access restrictions.

What people can do on your land

People can normally access your open access land on foot.

They can:

- walk
- sightsee
- bird-watch
- climb
- run
- There's a general rule that visitors using their open access rights must keep dogs on a short lead of no more than 2 metres between 1 March and 31 July each year (except in the coastal margin) and at all times near livestock.
- In the coastal margin, dogs must be under effective control at all times.
- In some circumstances you can exclude people with dogs completely from small lambing fields and grouse moors.

What people cannot do on your land

- ride a horse or bicycle
- drive a vehicle (except mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs)
- bring an animal, other than a dog
- camp
- play organised games
- hang-glide or paraglide
- use a metal detector
- run commercial activities on the land such as:
 - trade or sell
 - charge other visitors for things they do on your land
 - film, photograph or make maps
- remove, damage, or destroy any plant, shrub, tree or root with intent
- light, cause or risk a fire
- damage hedges, fences, walls, crops or anything else on the land
- leave gates open, that are not propped or fastened open
- leave litter
- disturb livestock, wildlife habitats with intent
- post any notices
- commit any criminal offence

The CROW Act excludes the right of access to land known as 'excepted land'

- buildings and their curtilage, such as courtyards
- land within 20 m of a dwelling or building containing livestock
- parks and gardens
- land covered by structures like electricity substations, wind turbines or telephone masts
- quarries and other active mineral workings
- railways and tramways
- golf and racecourses

- aerodromes
- land being lawfully developed in one of the ways above
- land ploughed for the growing of crops or trees within the past year
- temporary livestock pens
- racehorse training gallops – at certain times
- land under Ministry of Defence byelaws, such as most military training areas

Rights of way and accessing land

You have the right to access some land for walking or certain other leisure activities.

You can:

- use public roads and pavements or [public rights of way](#), for example footpaths or bridleways
- [use your right to roam](#) on open access land including mountains, moors, heaths, downs, common land and some land around the England Coast Path
- If neither of these apply, you may still be able to access [private land](#) if:
 - the land was used as a public right of way in the past - check old maps and documents
 - the land was accessed by the public for at least 20 years and nobody has asked them to stop
 - the landowner has given permission ('permissive access')

Know the signs and symbols of the countryside Permissive Path

- Local sign on a post or gate - permissive path.
- Follow advice on local signs as landowners voluntarily provide access to these paths and choose who can use them.
- Some open access areas are also made available in the same way
- Where permission is given for people to access private land as a linear route or a defined area.
- This type of access is normally for walking, cycling, or horse riding, and is not a public right as provided through Public Rights of Way or open access

Know the signs and symbols of the countryside

- An acorn symbol - National Trail, created for walking, with horse-riding and cycling possible on some trails.
- Users with limited mobility can visit the National Trail (<http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/>) website to check trail suitability.
- This website also contains maps, trip planning tools and information on trail diversions.
- This symbol marks 16 long distance routes in England and Wales including the England Coast Path.

The Countryside Code: Applies to England and Wales

Respect everyone

- be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside
- leave gates and property as you find them
- do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking
- be nice, say hello, share the space
- follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available

Protect the environment

- take your litter home – leave no trace of your visit
- do not light fires and only have BBQs where signs say you can
- always keep dogs under control and in sight
- dog poo – bag it and bin it in any public waste bin or take it home
- care for nature – do not cause damage or disturbance
- Enjoy the outdoors
- check your route and local conditions
- plan your adventure – know what to expect and what you can do
- enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory

The Countryside Code: Applies to England and Wales

Rights and permissions

- This code sets out information about the rights of different users.

For some activities you may need to get permission from the landowner, including:

- Camping
- freshwater swimming
- freshwater fishing

Enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory

The Country Trust in the UK

- UK's leading national educational charity connecting children from areas of high social & economic disadvantage with land that sustains us all.
- Through food, farming & countryside experiences aim to empower children to be confident, curious and create change in their lives so that they and society can thrive.

Linking Environment & Farming (LEAF)

- Working to engage, inspire and motivate young people through experiential learning, to equip future generations with balanced and informed insight into food production, farming and the environment.
- Work across the education and agricultural sectors to mobilise farmers and educators to bring food production, farming and the environment into a learning context and embed an appreciation of farming into everyday life

Farmers

- Provide farmers with knowledge and support to build their confidence and ability to deliver educational experiences including on-farm visits, in-class activities.
- Accredited training for farmers
- Regional networking opportunities
- LEAF Open Farm School Days

Teachers

- LEAF Education provides training and classroom resources to deliver the curriculum through food and farming experiences.
- Accredited Initial Teacher Training (ITT)
- Continuing Professional Development
- Key stage/subject-specific training days
- Countryside Classroom resources

Open Farm Sunday

- LEAF Open Farm Sunday, is one of farming industry's success stories.
- Since 2006, over 1600 farmers across the UK have opened their gates to over 2.7 million people onto farms for one Sunday each year.
- For everyone, young & old, to discover what it means to be a farmer producing food, enhancing countryside, goods & services farmers provide.
- Each event is unique based around the farm's individual story.
- Activities may include a farm walk, nature trail, tractor and trailer rides, demonstrations, pond dipping, activities for children, a mini farmers market or farm show

Farmer Time

- Free fortnightly video calls between farmers and classrooms.
- Bringing the countryside to life.

NFU

Welcome to NFU Education

As a small team of former teachers, we understand the challenges faced by the profession, so all our resources and initiatives have been designed with three main goals in mind:

- To save teachers time and reduce workload
- To spark learners' passion and enthusiasm for STEM subjects
- To convey important messages about food, farming, and nutrition through a cross-curricular, project-based approach

Farm diversification

Set up a local farm shop

- One of the simplest, most common ways to [diversify your farm](#) is by setting up a farm shop selling your local produce.
- Most farms already possess all the ingredients to run a successful farm shop - fresh produce on tap, authenticity and often well-established within the community.
- This increase revenue and make more of your existing products, but can also create jobs within the local community as well as cross-selling opportunities with other businesses and charities

Rent your space for storage

- Does your farm have unused buildings
- These are ideal for diversifying your farm and increasing your income as they can be rented out as storage.
- From local sports teams requiring extra room, to local businesses needing a space seasonally, making use of unused barns and buildings can benefit the local community as well as your farm.

Start a B'n'B

- One of the most financially impactful farm diversification ideas
- Isn't always necessary to build new accommodation, existing spare rooms or annexes on your farm can suffice.
- Sites like [Airbnb](#) are ideal for advertising.
- This diversification depends on how much money you're willing to invest.
- Can also be a great opportunity to boost local economy by sending tourists to other businesses and creating relationships with them.

Experiment with new off-shoots

- If there are some spaces within livestock and crops that you haven't ventured into, this could be the perfect opportunity to do so.

Glamping and camping

- Farmers with land and space, offering glamping and camping to the general public is a great way to diversify your farm.
- Adding facilities for glamping like shower blocks, electricity and drinking water will enable you to charge more for guests looking to stay on your land, as well as offering a longer-term diversification solution.
- Be sure to contact your local authority to check planning permission and licenses.

Protecting your workforce

- Workers are a key part of expanding a business it's essential to protect them.
- Robust and up to date health and safety procedures in place is essential .
- [Employers' Liability](#) Insurance. Provides cover for damages and costs you're legally liable to pay should your employee become injured or die, as a result of their employment with you.
- Minimum legal requirement is £5m, but most insurers, provide £10m of cover. Check this would be sufficient to meet your needs.
- Can be classed as an employee even if you don't pay them a wage

Keeping customers safe

- If venture involves selling directly to the public, then it could mark the first time that you bring paying visitors onto your farm.
- [Public Liability](#) Insurance should be a key consideration. It protects your business if it's held responsible for accidental injury to customers or the wider public, or damage to their property.
- Some Farm Insurance policies such as [Farm Essentials](#), provide Public Liability cover as standard.
- Worth thinking about whether your diversification will require [Product Liability](#), which protects your business if it's held liable for the death, injury or property damage to third parties caused by the sale or provision of products.
- Always check with your insurer that you're appropriately insured for your diversification.