

Environmental Stewardship

Case study: Manor Farm

NATURAL
ENGLAND

Name:	David Hutchinson
Region/County:	East Midlands Northamptonshire
Address:	Manor Farm Northamptonshire
Farm Size/Type:	302 hectares
Cropping:	Milling and feed wheat, malting barley, oil seed rape and grass
Stocking:	Flock of breeding ewes on a grazing licence
Land Features:	Permanent and wet grassland, hedgerows, woodland, in field trees, range of archaeological features
Key objectives:	Management of field corners; Permanent grassland with very low inputs; reduced depth on archaeological features and take archaeological features out of cultivation; 6 metre buffer strips on cultivated land; Wild bird seed mixture.



David's management at Manor Farm, although profit led, is influenced by a 'respect for the past' and a desire to protect the environment and a drive to integrate his farming system more with local habitats and the landscape. He has developed a whole farm plan, which not only looks after farm profit but also farm sustainability and nature conservation.

The farm is also participating in the Natural England Demonstration Farm Project, which provides an important training resource for other land managers and farmers in the East Midlands region.

David has upgraded some access furniture to enable more people to enjoy these landscape views. The old pasture fields sited on the medieval village of Strixton have been enlarged and parts of the arable fields have been returned to grass, this has protected the historic landscape.

Benefits to business:

David uses his ELS options to enhance his productivity on the farm. The buffer strips enable him to straighten out his hedges boundaries, making machinery operations much quicker. He also uses the buffer strips to manage his LERAPS regulations. David has also found that he can increase his productivity in the centre of the field by not managing the edges. The money that ELS brings in to the farm substantially increases his yearly farm income.

“I really enjoy managing these options, after each year I see more and more wildlife on and around the farm”, he also adds “The ELS scheme enables me to have a steady cash flow every six months, this in turn keeps my bank manager happy!” – David Hutchinson (2011)

“Mr Hutchinson is an adaptive farmer and business man, he has positively engaged with the ELS scheme and it’s environmental benefits, and has shown great adaptability in the way he manages the options alongside his other farming operations” – Julian Key (HLS Adviser)

Where can I find out more?

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