

What is the challenge?

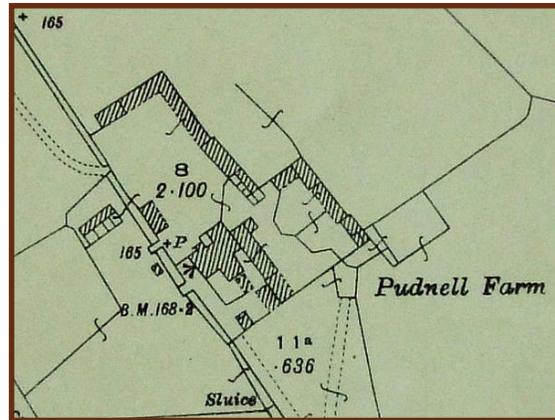


The farmstead (the range of buildings making up a farm complex) is very much a part of the English landscape and this is particularly true of Wiltshire. However, there are enormous pressures on farming and we are losing historic farm buildings very rapidly. In many cases, they no longer meet the needs of modern agriculture and they are expensive to maintain. The result is that many are being converted to other sustainable uses or are simply falling down.



What can be done?

The Wiltshire Buildings Record, with the support of a number of other bodies, is undertaking a major project to record farmsteads in Wiltshire.



This will involve recording the farmstead using photographs, sketches and written descriptions as well as documentary research into its history and the part it plays in the local community.

We look at the building methods, the materials used, how the farmstead was laid out and what factors in the history of the farmstead were important in its development.

In addition, we want to place the farmstead in the local as well as the regional context and to try to understand why farmsteads evolved in different ways in various parts of Wiltshire.

What will we do with the information?

We are using a nationally-developed approach which is already used in other counties. The information which we collect will be archived at the Wiltshire Buildings Record and linked to a computer based information system.

We want the evidence we obtain and the conclusions that we draw to be widely accessible, in order that the best information is available. This will be a valuable tool for those interested in local history, historic buildings and conservation matters.



Whilst of value within the County, our aim is to make this resource more widely available as part of a national database, so that the development of farmsteads throughout the country can be understood more fully.

How to get started?

If you are interested and want to find out more, please contact the Wiltshire Buildings Record at:

Wiltshire Buildings Record (F-S)
Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre
Cocklebury Road
Chippenham
SN15 3QN

T: 01249 705508

E: wbrfarms.south@gmail.com

W: www.wiltshirebuildingsrecord.org.uk/farmstead.html

What can I do?

We need volunteers.

If you are interested in your local environment, historic buildings, research or photography, then you could help. By becoming a volunteer you will help create a record of Wiltshire's farmsteads for future generations.

You require no previous experience or particular knowledge. We can cater for a wide range of interests and abilities and you will learn new skills and meet like-minded people.

We will provide an information pack to get you started and guidance along the way.

Come and join us!

Help record our farmsteads



Farmsteads Project

Information for volunteers

