

Annables Farm



Farmer: Ian Pigott

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Annables is a 400 acre arable farm adjacent to the M1. The farm is home to some of the most important Roman archaeological finds of recent years, as featured in the 'Time Team' television series. Using Integrated Farm Management, we follow a traditional rotation of wheat, oilseed rape, oats and spring barley. We are committed to environmental stewardship in the Higher Level Scheme.



The Farm

Annables Farm is a 1,700 acre arable business just thirty miles north of London in Harpenden, Hertfordshire. We commit a large amount of time to teaching children about food, farming and the environment. The farm is located next to junction 9 of the M1, close to St Albans.

Crops for food

We follow a rotation of wheat, oilseed rape and oats.

Our wheat supplies local mills in Hitchin and Tring, the oats to Jordans at Bedford and the oilseed rape on a LEAF Marque contract for Unilever. We endeavour to build strong links to local markets.



Conservation

The farm is in the Higher Level Scheme. Hedge and tree planting, pond scrapes and restoration, beetle banks, field margins and conservation headlands are among the conservation activities at Annables Farm, as is the beautiful bluebell wood. They all work together to create a biodiversity rich farm, with a wealth of wildlife habitats and food sources. We have always carried out our farming operations with sensitivity and adjust our activities to safeguard nesting sites.

Visits

Annables plays host to a large number of school and interest group visits each year. I am passionate about reconnecting the message of Integrated Farm Management and the benefits of a strong symbiosis between biodiversity and production agriculture. Visits can take place at most times of the year and are arranged through the LEAF office.



About LEAF Demonstration Farms

LEAF Demonstration Farms are commercial farms, which show the beneficial practices of Integrated Farm Management (IFM) to a broad range of audiences, through organised visits. They communicate an understanding of IFM in order to encourage uptake by farmers, support from the industry and political awareness of sustainable food and farming. For more information, visit www.leafuk.org.