

Newbury & District Agricultural Society Ploughing Match 2026

A celebration of competition & agriculture

Visitors can enjoy the tradition of ploughing, featuring the latest state-of-the-art machinery, vintage tractors, working steam engines and the horse-drawn ploughs.

Ploughmen from across the UK, as well as young home-grown local talent, welcome with a chance to win top spot in each of their classes.

Top machinery firms will be demonstrating their latest, most up-to-date and powerful multi-furrow ploughing units used by today's farmers.

As well as the Ploughing Match, the hotly contested domestic competitions will take place with an array of homemade cakes and hedgerow liqueurs. Anyone can enter and all exhibits are auctioned off at the end of the day and proceeds go to charity.

What3Words location: TBC

17/10/2026 09:00

Horse Ploughing **Start At: 17/10/2026 09:00**

Field Layout

1) Tramlines: Plots will be ploughed at 90 degrees across tramlines where possible.

2) Plot sizes applicable to Vintage
Length - Max 100 metres; Min 60 metres.
Width - Max 16 metres; Min 12 metres.

3) Headland width will be a minimum of 15 metres

IMPORTANT NOTICE

All competitors are responsible for the safe working of their machinery. Appropriate insurance must be held by every competitor which must include Third Party Liability Insurance.

RULES FOR PLOUGHING

1. TIME ALLOWED

- a) Horse ploughing - 4 hours to complete the plot
All horse ploughing must be finished by 2pm
- b) Penalty for failing to finish plot at finishing signal - 10 points per minute or part minute.

2. START

- a) Horse ploughing - start to consist of 8, 9 or 10 furrows.

3. FINISH

- a) Conventional, vintage and horse ploughing - finish to consist of last 18, 20 or 25 furrows.
- b) In conventional, vintage and horse ploughing - the last furrow to be ploughed towards competitor's own start.

4. DEPTH

- a) Depth to be reached on completion of start and adhered to until commencing the finish.
- b) Horse ploughing - minimum depth 13 cm.

5. ONE-WAY PLOUGHING - REVERSIBLE PLOUGHS

The competitor should make a scratch for his last 18, 20 or 25 furrows whilst openings are being judged.

- a) After the opening split has been judged, the competitor proceeds to:
- b) Plough 8 or 9 furrows towards the lower numbered plot.
- c) Start at the next highest number and complete his 'butts'.
- d) Complete the last 19 or 20 furrows.
- e) Alternate bodies to be used at all times. Each run to be completed before the plough is turned over.
- f) The use of sighting poles at the start of the butts is not allowed.
- g) When ploughing the butts, competitors cannot travel to the end of the plot to turn.

NOTE: When ploughing the joining furrow, attachments are not allowed, but it is permissible to show one or two full furrows on the first run.

8. VINTAGE & CLASSIC PLOUGHING

- a) Plough bodies must be made for the plough at the time of manufacture.
- b) Skimmers and tailpieces optional.
- c) Tailpieces should not be adapted to manipulate the furrows or scratches.

9. GENERAL

- a) All ploughmen must start at the same end, as designated by the organising committee.
- b) The first and second runs next to the neighbour's plot will be allowed as straightening furrows and will not be judged.
- c) Three sighting poles only (one can be placed on the headland) - assistance to set and remove is allowed. No other assistance allowed - including no assistance

by signal, radio contact, mobile phone or any other method.

d) Handling, treading or shaping of scratches or furrows is not allowed. Except in horse ploughing where scratches can be handled but not removed.

e) Only the competitor is allowed to clean the plot of straw, stones, etc. Clearing of stubble is not allowed and will be penalised.

f) Any abuse or dispute by a competitor with an official or a fellow competitor is not acceptable. Penalty 20 points deduction.

11. FINAL DECISION

Any questions arising and not provided for in these rules shall be decided by the Executive Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding.

REGULATIONS

1. SAFETY POLICY

All competitors must adhere to the NADAS Policy at all times. Failure to do so - disqualification.

2. PLOUGHING ON THE SITE

a) The plough must not be in the ground on the site other than the competitor's plot. Penalty - disqualification.

b) When not ploughing, all mounted ploughs must be lowered to the ground.

c) If any tractor is left unattended, the keys must be taken out and cabs locked.

3. PLOTS

a) The competitor is allowed to clear the plot of straw, stones, etc. but must not have any help to do so.

b) All ploughmen must start at the same end, as designated by the organising committee.

4. TRACTORS ON SITE

After completion of ploughing, all tractors must be taken directly back to the Marshalling Area and must not be driven around the site. Failure to do so will be penalised.

5. TIES

Should there be a tie for a place in any class, then the 'countback' system will be used by the scrutineers.

8. ADMISSION TO SITE

Trucks carrying equipment together with the truck driver will be admitted free of charge. Trucks and cars must be parked in the appropriate parking places.

9. INSURANCE

All competitors must hold adequate insurance including Third Party Liability Insurance.

Judges Method of Scoring

Conventional Ploughing

OPENING Well cut, uniform and straight 20

START 11 or 12 furrows uniform and straight 20

SEED BED Weed control and soil made available 20

FIRMNESS Firm well packed furrows, no holes 20

UNIFORMITY Clearly defined uniform furrows and no pairing of furrows 20

FINISH Uniform and shallow 20

INS AND OUTS Neat, accurate and regular 20

STRAIGHTNESS Straightness of the whole plot 20

GENERAL APPEARANCE Workmanship and general appearance of the whole plot 20

Reversible Ploughing

OPENING Well cut, uniform and straight 20

START (8 or 9 furrows), uniform and level 20

SEED BED Weed control and soil made available 20

FIRMNESS Firm, well packed furrows, no holes 20

UNIFORMITY Clearly defined, uniform furrows and no pairing 20

JOINING FURROW AND BUTTS Neat, accurate with no dips or mounds 20

FINISH (last 19 or 20 furrows) Uniform and shallow 20

ACCURACY OF FINAL FURROW Close to first furrow with no unploughed or 20

Reploughed land

INS AND OUTS Neat, accurate and regular 20

STRAIGHTNESS Straightness of the whole plot 20

GENERAL APPEARANCE Workmanship and general appearance of the whole plot 20

Ring: Ploughing

Judges

To Be Confirmed (Judge)

Number	Name	Description
1	Horse Drawn - General Purpose	
2	Horse Drawn - Novice (must not have won a prize at a recognised competition)	

Tractor Ploughing Start At: 17/10/2026 09:00

Field Layout

- 1) Tramlines: Plots will be ploughed at 90 degrees across tramlines where possible.
- 2) Plot sizes applicable to Vintage
Length - Max 100 metres; Min 60 metres.
Width - Max 16 metres; Min 12 metres.
- 3) Headland width will be a minimum of 15 metres

IMPORTANT NOTICE

All competitors are responsible for the safe working of their machinery. Appropriate insurance must be held by every competitor which must include Third Party Liability Insurance.

RULES FOR PLOUGHING

1. PLOUGHS
 - a) Tractor ploughs to be fitted with skimmers.
 - b) Tailpieces are allowed. In reversible and conventional ploughing - the maximum size to be 26cm long and 22cm wide. The end of tailpiece to be no more than 32cm from the end of the mouldboard.
 - c) Plough bodies can be raised or lowered.
 - d) All plough bodies must be used when ploughing the finish.
 - e) Extraneous attachments that manipulate the furrows or scratches are not allowed.
 - f) In vintage hydraulic and classic ploughing, only one plough wheel allowed.

2. TIME ALLOWED

- a) Tractor ploughing - 20 minutes for opening. Penalty for failure to finish opening on time 2 points per minute or part minute.
- b) Tractor ploughing - 40 minutes to judge opening.
- c) Tractor ploughing - 3 hours to complete the plot.
- d) Vintage and horticultural ploughing - 3 hours to complete the plot.
All tractor ploughing must be finished by 1pm
- e) Horse ploughing - 4 hours to complete the plot
All horse ploughing must be finished by 2pm
- f) 15 minutes extra time for any cast-off done after the ploughing has commenced.
- g) Penalty for failing to finish plot at finishing signal - 10 points per minute or part minute.

3. OPENING

- a) Conventional and horticultural ploughing - double opening - no land shall be left unturned.
- b) Reversible ploughing - single furrow opening with right-hand bodies.
- c) In vintage ploughing on grassland only - there is no opening.

4. START

- a) Conventional ploughing - start to consist of 11 or 12 furrows.
- b) Reversible ploughing - start to consist of 8,9 or 10 furrows.
- c) Horse ploughing - start to consist of 8, 9 or 10 furrows.
- d) Horticultural ploughing – start to consist of first 6 furrows.
- e) Competitors to cast towards the next highest number plot.

5. FINISH

- a) Conventional, vintage and horse ploughing - finish to consist of last 8 furrows.
- b) Reversible ploughing - finish to consist of last 18, 20 or 25 furrows. Incorrect number of furrows - penalty 20 points deduction.
- c) Horticultural ploughing – finish to consist of last 6 furrows.
- d) In conventional, vintage and horse ploughing - the last furrow to be ploughed towards competitor's own start.

6. DEPTH

- a) Depth to be reached on completion of start and adhered to until commencing the finish.
- b) Reversible and conventional tractor ploughing - minimum depth 20 cm
- c) Classic vintage tractor ploughing - minimum depth 17 cm.
- d) Trailing and hydraulic vintage tractor ploughing - minimum depth 15 cm.
- e) Horse ploughing - minimum depth 13 cm.

7. ONE-WAY PLOUGHING - REVERSIBLE PLOUGHS

The competitor should make a scratch for his last 19 or 20 furrows whilst openings are being judged.

- a) After the opening split has been judged, the competitor proceeds to:
- b) Plough 8 or 9 furrows towards the lower numbered plot.
- c) Start at the next highest number and complete his 'butts'.
- d) Complete the last 19 or 20 furrows.
- e) Alternate bodies to be used at all times. Each run to be completed before the plough is turned over.
- f) The use of sighting poles at the start of the butts is not allowed.
- g) When ploughing the butts, competitors cannot travel to the end of the plot to turn.

NOTE: When ploughing the joining furrow, attachments are not allowed, but it is permissible to show one or two full furrows on the first run.

8. VINTAGE & CLASSIC PLOUGHING

- a) Plough bodies must be made for the plough at the time of manufacture.
- b) Skimmers and tailpieces optional.
- c) Tailpieces should not be adapted to manipulate the furrows or scratches.

9. GENERAL

- d) All ploughmen must start at the same end, as designated by the organising committee.
- e) The first and second runs next to the neighbour's plot will be allowed as straightening furrows and will not be judged.
- f) Rolling with the tractor wheels in not allowed. Penalty - 20 points deduction.
- g) Twin tractor wheels not allowed.
- h) Three sighting poles only (one can be placed on the headland) - assistance to set and remove is allowed. No other assistance allowed - including no assistance by signal, radio contact, mobile phone or any other method.
- i) Handling, treading or shaping of scratches or furrows is not allowed. Except in horse ploughing where scratches can be handled but not removed.
- j) Only one tractor and plough wheel mark allowed at the finish in tractor ploughing.
- k) The use of Global Positioning Technology, laser beams, or any other electronic or computerised measuring devices are not allowed.
- l) Only the competitor is allowed to clean the plot of straw, stones, etc. Clearing of stubble is not allowed and will be penalised.
- m) Any abuse or dispute by a competitor with an official or a fellow competitor is not acceptable. Penalty 20 points deduction.

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- c) If any tractor is left unattended, the keys must be taken out and cabs locked.

3. PLOTS

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5. TIES

Should there be a tie for a place in any class, then the 'countback' system will be used by the scrutineers.

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Judges Method of Scoring

Conventional Ploughing

- OPENING Well cut, uniform and straight 20
- START 11 or 12 furrows uniform and straight 20
- SEED BED Weed control and soil made available 20
- FIRMNESS Firm well packed furrows, no holes 20
- UNIFORMITY Clearly defined uniform furrows and no pairing of furrows 20
- FINISH Uniform and shallow 20
- INS AND OUTS Neat, accurate and regular 20
- STRAIGHTNESS Straightness of the whole plot 20
- GENERAL APPEARANCE Workmanship and general appearance of the whole plot 20

Reversible Ploughing

- OPENING Well cut, uniform and straight 20
- START (8 or 9 furrows), uniform and level 20
- SEED BED Weed control and soil made available 20
- FIRMNESS Firm, well packed furrows, no holes 20
- UNIFORMITY Clearly defined, uniform furrows and no pairing 20
- JOINING FURROW AND BUTTS Neat, accurate with no dips or mounds 20
- FINISH (last 19 or 20 furrows) Uniform and shallow 20
- ACCURACY OF FINAL FURROW Close to first furrow with no unploughed or 20
- Reploughed land
- INS AND OUTS Neat, accurate and regular 20
- STRAIGHTNESS Straightness of the whole plot 20
- GENERAL APPEARANCE Workmanship and general appearance of the whole plot 20

Ring: Ploughing

Judges

To Be Confirmed (Judge)

Number	Name	Description
3	Tractor - Vintage trailed	
4	Tractor - Vintage mounted	
5	Tractor - Conventional ploughs. Mounted or semi mounted ploughs	
6	No Class	
7	Tractor - Reversible Ploughs (National Rules)	
8	Novice Ploughman - not to have won more than one match previously	
9	Match ploughs. Conventional Ploughing - World Style (2 or more furrow ploughs)	For any make of semi-digger conventional plough. Minimum depth of furrow - 20 cm (except at opening and finish). Skimmers must be used. The winner of this class can go forward to the National Championship.
10	Entry Competition for beginners (aged 13 - 20 years)	Competitors must have experience of handling a tractor, but do not need to have ploughed before. Tractor and plough will be provided for this competition.

Domestic Competitions **Start At: 17/10/2026 09:30**

General Rules

All exhibits to be delivered to the ploughing match site by 09:30 hours.

Entries to be accompanied by a list of ingredient used.

All produce to be covered in cling film.

ALL Produce will be auctioned off prior to the prize giving on the day, funds donated to the Presidents chosen charity.

The judge's decision is final.

Ring: Ploughing

Judges

To Be Confirmed (Judge)

Number	Name	Description
11	Sloe Gin (min amount 250ml)	All exhibits to be delivered to the ploughing match site by 09:30 hours. Entries to be accompanied by a list of ingredient used. All produce to be covered in cling film. ALL Produce will be auctioned off prior to the prize giving on the day, funds donated to the Presidents chosen charity. The judge's decision is final.
12	Hedgerow Liqueur (min amount 250ml)	All exhibits to be delivered to the ploughing match site by 09:30 hours. Entries to be accompanied by a list of ingredient used. All produce to be covered in cling film. ALL Produce will be auctioned off prior to the prize giving on the day, funds donated to the Presidents chosen charity. The judge's decision is final.
13	Chocolate Cake	All exhibits to be delivered to the ploughing match site by 09:30 hours. Entries to be accompanied by a list of ingredient used. All produce to be covered in cling film. ALL Produce will be auctioned off prior to the prize giving on the day, funds donated to the Presidents chosen charity. The judge's decision is final.
14	6 Sausage Rolls	All exhibits to be delivered to the ploughing match site by 09:30 hours. Entries to be accompanied by a list of ingredient used. All produce to be covered in cling film. ALL Produce will be auctioned off prior to the prize giving on the day, funds donated to the Presidents chosen charity. The judge's decision is final.
15	Jam (any flavour) (min 300g jar)	All exhibits to be delivered to the ploughing match site by 09:30 hours. Entries to be accompanied by a list of ingredient used. All produce to be covered in cling film. ALL Produce will be auctioned off prior to the prize giving on the day, funds donated to the Presidents chosen charity. The judge's decision is final.
16	1 Bakewell (min 7"/20cm diameter)	All exhibits to be delivered to the ploughing match site by 09:30 hours. Entries to be accompanied by a list of ingredient used. All produce to be covered in cling film. ALL Produce will be auctioned off prior to the prize giving on the day, funds donated to the Presidents chosen charity. The judge's decision is final.
17	8 Cheese Straws	All exhibits to be delivered to the ploughing match site by 09:30 hours. Entries to be accompanied by a list of ingredient used. All produce to be covered in cling film. ALL Produce will be auctioned off prior to the prize giving on the day, funds donated to the Presidents chosen charity. The judge's decision is final.
18	6 Cheese Scones	All exhibits to be delivered to the ploughing match site by 09:30 hours. Entries to be accompanied by a list of ingredient used. All produce to be covered in cling film. ALL Produce will be auctioned off prior to the prize giving on the day, funds donated to the Presidents chosen charity. The judge's decision is final.
PL5	Best Trade Stand	Judged between trade stands on the day - entry not required
PL9	Home Produce Trophies x 2	