

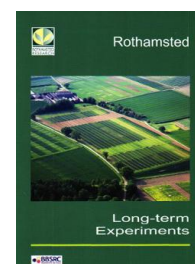
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The Long Term Experiments

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St Saxmundham

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AT SAXMUNDHAM

The soil at Saxmundham is a heavy sandy clay loam, which can be difficult to cultivate; it provides a further contrast to the soils at Rothamsted and Woburn. Two long-term experiments were started at Saxmundham in 1899 by the East Suffolk County Council. Each consisted of four blocks so that a typical Norfolk four-course rotation could be grown, with each crop present each year. On Rotation I there was a test of combinations of N, P and K plus bone-meal and FYM treatments. Rotation II sought to determine how limited amounts of FYM, sodium nitrate and superphosphate could best be used over the four-course rotation. When Rothamsted assumed responsibility for the site in 1965 the experiments were reviewed and modified. The Rotation II experiment has been used to look at the responses by various crops to fresh and residual P. The critical level, above which there is no further response to fresh P, is much higher and more variable on this heavier soil than on the better soil at Rothamsted (see Exhaustion Land above). The Rotation I experiment continues to look at crop responses to both P and K and their interactions with N, particularly where much fertiliser N is being applied to high yielding cultivars of wheat with the aim of achieving bread-making quality.