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ROTHAMSTED
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Guide to the Classical and Other Long-term Experiments, Datasets and Sample Archive



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Foreword

Rothamsted Research

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FOREWORD

It is a testament to the foresight and commitment of Sir John Lawes and Sir Henry Gilbert, as well as others who have come after them, that field experiments established as long as 175 years ago continue to reveal new insights and important findings of relevance to today's agriculture and its interactions with our ever-changing environment. At Rothamsted, our tradition has been to not only make these unique resources available to researchers from all over the world, but also use them for answering new questions, with new scientific methods and techniques. Hence, the classical experiments and other long-term studies provide a vital reservoir for advancing science and we hope that this will continue for many more decades to come.

Managing and documenting these experiments and their associated data and archives is not a trivial task. It requires funding, rigour, adaptation, and – most importantly – people who are dedicated to them. I am grateful to Andy Macdonald and his colleagues for assembling this much revised summary of Rothamsted's long-term experiments which, I am sure, will be of great value to the scientific community and the public at large.



ACHIM DOBERMANN

Director
April 2018



By reaper-binder in 1935



Harvesting wheat on Broadbalk by small-plot combine, 2017