

The Constitution of the British Agricultural History Society as approved at the First General Meeting of the Society, held at the University of Reading on Monday 13 April 1953, as amended in 1960, 1966, 1973, 1975, 1979, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1997, 2000, 2016 and 2022.	
1. Name	
1.1	The Society shall be named the British Agricultural History Society.
2. Objects	
2.0	The objects of the Society shall be to promote, encourage, foster and coordinate the study and understanding of agricultural and rural history, with special reference to the British Isles.
2.1	In furtherance of the objects but not otherwise, the Executive Committee may exercise the following powers:
2.1a	the publication of the <i>Agricultural History Review</i> together with supplements and other appropriate items including a regular members' newsletter
2.1b	the operation of one or more websites providing public access to back numbers of the <i>Agricultural History Review</i> and other sources and resources respecting the agricultural history and the history of the rural history and society
2.1c	the holding of conferences in its own right and in conjunction with other organisations
2.1d	the awarding of grants to individuals, institutions and other bodies in furtherance of the objects of the Society
2.1e	the awarding of prizes for meritorious work in the fields of agricultural and rural history
2.1f	the promotion of the conservation of historically significant landscapes and the rural environment
2.1g	the promotion of the teaching of the history of agriculture, rural economy and society, and the environment, at all levels of education
2.1h	the promotion of links with societies and institutions in Europe and world-wide which have similar aims and objects
2.1i	the dissemination of information and advice to non-members, including media organisations, on matters related to agricultural and rural history
2.2	In the furtherance of these objects the society may:
2.2a	raise funds, in compliance with any relevant statutory regulation, and without undertaking any permanent trading activity
2.2b	enter into contracts, and buying, taking on lease, or hiring such equipment as it needs for the furtherance of the Society's objects
2.2c	set aside income as a reserve against future expenditure, in accordance with a written reserves policy
2.2d	remunerate such individuals as are necessary for carrying out the work of the Society, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee in accordance with the rules laid down by the Charity Commission.
3. Membership	
3.1	Membership of the Society shall be open to all persons interested in agricultural and rural history and who support the objects of the Society.

3.2	There shall be an annual subscription due on 1 February or on the anniversary of a member joining the Society. A member joining during the year shall be entitled to receive the publications and exercise the other rights of membership for that year.
3.3	The amount of the subscription shall be determined by the Executive Committee, who may set a lower subscription for those who are in full-time education and those who are registered unemployed and offer a joint membership where two members at the same address pay the same membership as one and receive separate votes at the AGM. The Executive Committee reserve the right to introduce a tiered membership system with different pricing/benefits.
3.4	Members shall exercise voting rights at AGMs and EGM; receive invitations to attend conferences, workshops and seminars run by the Society; and receive the Society's publications in accordance with their category of membership.
3.5	The Executive Committee shall set an annual rate for institutional and other corporate purchasers. Institutions and other bodies that purchase the <i>Review</i> are not considered to be members of the Society and shall not exercise any voting rights.
3.6	All members, including the Executive Committee and its officers, must adhere to the Society's Code of Conduct, as published by the Executive Committee.
4. Officers of the Society	
4.1	The Officers of the Society shall consist of a President, Chair of the Executive, Treasurer, Secretary, one or more Editor(s) and the director of LIBRAL who will be appointed by the Executive Committee.
4.2	The business of the Society shall be conducted by its Officers and by the Executive Committee.
4.3	The President shall be elected for a term of three years at the Annual General Meeting following the conclusion of the term of their predecessor.
4.4	The Treasurer, Secretary, Director of LIBRAL and Editor(s) shall retire at each Annual General Meeting and are eligible for re-election.
4.5	The duties and responsibilities of the officers shall be set by the EC from time to time. The EC may create additional officers subject to the approval of the following AGM.
5 Trustees of the Society	
5.1	The trustees of the Society shall consist of the President, Secretary and Treasurer during their terms of office and the members of the Executive Committee directly elected by the AGM.
5.2	Trustees may not benefit financially from their work for the Society as Trustees (except for reasonable expenses). A trustee with the approval of the EC in accordance with the appropriate Charity Commission regulations may be remunerated for work undertaken for the Society which does not form part of the usual work of a trustee.
6. Executive Committee	
6.1	The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers and a further twelve members of the Society elected by the Annual General Meeting, together with the co-opted members. EC members serve a standard 4 year term, with the option of a further 4 year term. After two successive terms, ordinary members shall not be eligible to stand for re-election for at least one year.

6.2	<p>The co-opted members will consist of representatives of: 1. The PhD / Early Career Researcher community; 2. The museums / heritage sector; 3. International representative; 4. The agricultural / practitioner sector.</p> <p>Co-opted members will serve a two year term with the option of serving an additional two terms (six years maximum).</p>
6.3	Six members of the Executive Committee, of whom three should be officers and three non-officer trustees, shall form a quorum.
6.4	The Chair of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the Executive Committee from amongst its members for a term of three years. The Chair shall be responsible for the day-to-day conduct of the affairs of the Society.
6.5	In the event of the Chair of the EC's second period of election to the EC coming to an end during their period of election as chair, they may be re-elected for the remainder of their term of office provided that a year off is taken at the end of their period as chair.
6.6	In the event of a vacancy arising on the EC because of death or resignation, the EC may co-opt a member of the Society to fill that vacancy until the next AGM.
6.7	The election of a member of the EC to be an officer of the Society creates a vacancy on the Executive Committee
6.8	A member of the Executive Committee who misses three successive meetings without good cause shall be held to have resigned and to have created a vacancy on the Executive Committee
6.9	At the end of their period of office, a retiring officer of the Society may offer themselves for immediate re-election to the Executive Committee.
6.10	No member of the Society may be elected to an office of the Society or to the Executive Committee if their subscription is in arrears on the day of the Annual General Meeting at which their election is proposed.
6.11	The Executive Committee may assign to members of the Executive Committee specific tasks and responsibilities or may co-opt members of the Society to fulfil specific tasks.
6.12	The Executive Committee oversees and ensures alignment with legislation and best practice all policy documentation on financial policies, data protection, code of conduct.
7. Meetings of the Executive Committee	
7.1	The Executive Committee shall meet at or before the Spring Conference within a month of 1 April, and at least two other times during the year as a fully online format.
7.2	At least ten days' notice shall be given of a meeting of the Executive Committee.
8. Power of co-option to the Executive Committee	
8.1	In the event of a vacancy in an office arising by death or resignation, the EC may fill the vacancy until the next AGM at its discretion.
8.2	The EC may co-opt for a fixed period not exceeding two years any person whose expertise is valuable for the proper conduct of the Society. There shall be no more than four co-opted members at any one time. A co-opted member of the Executive Committee has no voting rights and cannot be a trustee of the Society.

8.3	The Executive Committee may from time to time co-opt a regional conference secretary or secretaries. Such secretaries shall remain members of the Committee until the meeting following the conference which they were co-opted to organize.
9. Annual General Meeting and Extraordinary General Meetings	
9.1	The Annual General Meeting shall be held as near as possible to 1 April, normally at the Spring Conference. At least 28 days' notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be sent to members of the Society and will include a date for nominations for society offices.
9.2	Nominations, by two members of the Society and the with the consent of the nominee, for the offices of President, Treasurer, Secretary and Editor(s) and for the vacancies on the Executive Committee must be received by the Secretary not less than 14 days before the Annual General Meeting and be posted on the Society's website.
9.3	The Executive Committee may call an Extraordinary General Meeting at any time, upon 28 days' notice being sent to the members of the Society.
9.4	An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called on the written request (including a resolution for discussion) delivered to the secretary of the Society by 10 per cent of the membership of the Society, the meeting to take place within 35 days of the request being received, 28 days' notice being given to the members of the Society.
9.5	The agenda and other papers for the AGM or any Extraordinary General Meeting shall be posted on the Society's website and may be distributed to members by email, any member having the right to request that they receive a printed copy.
10. Agricultural History Review	
10.1	The Executive Committee shall make arrangements for the publication of <i>Agricultural History Review</i> and other publications. The Executive Committee in consultation with the Editor may appoint an Editorial Board.
10.2	There shall be a senior editor of the <i>Review</i> who shall have full discretion concerning the contents of the publications authorized by the Executive Committee and an editor responsible for book reviews and such other duties as shall be assigned to them. Both editors shall make reports to the Executive Committee and to the AGM.
10.3	On the recommendation of the editor, the Executive Committee may from time to time lay down regulations for the free access of readers to the <i>Review</i> , to approve forms of contract with authors and establish the terms on which third-party suppliers may make the <i>Review</i> available digitally.
10.4	The Executive Committee may, at its discretion, offer honoraria to the editor(s) of the <i>Review</i> . It may make payments for professional services to assist the publication of the <i>Review</i> as permitted in clause 2.2d above.
11 Statement of Financial Control	
11.1	All profits derived from publications which the Society may issue and all interest arising from investments which the Society may make shall be devoted to the furtherance of the objects of the Society.
11.2	The Treasurer is responsible to the EC for ensuring that the Society's accounts are compiled and filed in accordance with the Charity Commission's requirements, and that financial controls are in place and are followed.
11.3	Funds must be held in the Society's bank account or in investments. The EC will oversee and approve procedures for financial transactions from time to time.

11.4	The Executive Committee shall from time to time review the Society's investments and may appoint a committee to supervise them. It shall lay down policies for their prudent management, taking appropriate advice
12. Amendments to the Constitution	
12.1	No amendments of this constitution shall be made except by an Annual General Meeting. All proposals for the amendment of the Constitution shall be submitted in the form of a written notice of motion in time to be circulated to the members with the notice of the Annual General Meeting and arrangements made for members to vote remotely if they cannot attend the AGM in person.
13. Dissolution	
13.1	In the event of a properly constituted Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society resolving to dissolve the Society, the motion for dissolution must be approved by a ballot of the entire membership and require a two-thirds majority. Any remaining assets are, with the consent of the Charity Commissioners, to be transferred to another charity with similar objects.