

Land Girls in Selmeston, Firle and Lewes

Originally formed during WW1, women volunteered to work on the farms, helping to produce food, whilst the men were away fighting at the front. On the approach of WW2, the Government again wanted to make sure enough food was still being grown and supplied to the population. In June 1939 the call went out for volunteers to again join The Women's Land Army, and it was supplemented in later years by conscription.

By 1944 it had over 80,000 members. The Women's Timber Corps (whose members were known as 'Lumber Jills') worked in the forestry industry and also wore a distinctive cap badge. There were many volunteers for both corps in this surrounding area, and we welcome any anecdotes from former members.



Land Girls farming at Beddingham.



Women wore their land army uniform, consisting of a green jumper, twilled jodhpurs, with a wide-brimmed felt hat that had a badge on it



The photos above were taken for the News Chronicle in 1941. Two years later the farms were requisitioned by the War Department for use as a training ground in preparation for the invasion of Europe.

The photographs survive in a file of the Records of the East Sussex War Agricultural Executive Committee and the East Sussex Agricultural Executive Committee held at [The Keep](#).

Both organisations were disbanded in October 1949. Find out more at:
<https://www.womenslandarmy.co.uk/may-snapshot-in-5-sussex/>