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The champion from Cornwall brought a wooden plough to a tractor age

A typographic fact sheet. No photographs.

In 1956 the World Ploughing Championships came to Shillingford, Oxfordshire. The Museum of English Rural Life was there — and so was a Wiltshire horse plough with a wooden mouldboard.

The ploughman

The Museum holds a Wiltshire horse or swing plough, object 52/102, with a wooden mouldboard and an iron share. It was used in a live horse-ploughing demonstration at the championships by Mr Nelson Tamblin, a champion ploughman from Liskeard, Cornwall. The family farmed West Tuelmenna Farm, bought by his father in 1921. In May 2015 the Museum confirmed his first name with his great-nephew Rob Tamblin and his nephew Roger Tamblin. A photograph of the demonstration is in the MERL archive as 60/1475.

What else was in the showground

The Museum's marquee exhibition at the championships, the official catalogue says, "was largely concerned with tractor ploughing." A wooden horse plough was being demonstrated in front of a show that had come to look at the new age. Horse ploughing had not ended. It had a champion, a named farm, and a furrow to cut.

Source, checked 17 November 2026: The Museum of English Rural Life, Wiltshire horse or swing plough, object 52/102. This is not a MERL publication. ploughs.farmyard.im is part of the ReallyByte network, run by REALLYBYTE, based in the Isle of Man. ReallyByte — Fun. Educational. Useless.