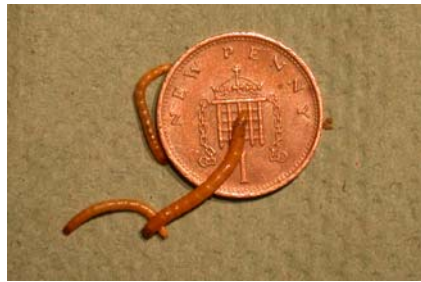


WIREWORMERY

Wireworms are the larvae (immature stages) of several species of `click beetles` (Coleoptera: Elateridae) which naturally inhabit grassland.



Wireworms
(Photo: Pat Haydock)



Click beetle
(Photo: DEFRA)

The Nematology and Entomology Group at Harper Adams are undertaking research to reduce damage by these pests.



Construction of `wirewormery`
(Photos: Pat Haydock)

Wireworms are pests of arable agriculture and are a particular problem for potato growers as they burrow into the tubers and make them unmarketable.



Potato with holes caused by wireworm
(Photo: British Potato Council)



Wireworm damage to cereals
(Photo: Natalie Dustan)

This `wirewormery` is a facility to breed populations of wireworms for use in the experimental programme. This type of facility is unique in the UK.

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