AHDB RECOMMENDED

AN ELSOMS' ARABLE PERFORMANCE GUIDE

Bamford

WINTER WHEAT

The UK's most marketable soft wheat

elsoms SEEDS

Unlocking the power of plants

Contents

AHDB RECOMMENDED

1 VARIETY OVERVIEW

Bamford leads the way in Group 3 soft wheat

In 2026 Bamford continues to impress, retaining its position as the most widely grown Group 3 wheat across the UK and building on its reputation as a high-performing and trusted choice for growers.

Since setting a new benchmark for yield when it joined the RL in 2024, it has consistently proved itself to be competitive and reliable.

Its success is built on a well-balanced combination of reliability, straightforward agronomics and broad market appeal.

From establishment and crop development through to disease resilience and end-use flexibility, Bamford offers growers a variety that performs consistently across a wide range of farming situations.

"Given the importance of soft distilling wheat in Scotland, we are delighted to see Bamford continue to perform on-farm and in the market, bringing a great package of yield, quality and disease resistance."

LAURA BEATY
Seed Grain Director,
Simpsons Malt

Pedigree

Moulton x EW129

Bamford is another successful variety delivered through Elsoms' long-term investment in wheat breeding and is derived from the cross Moulton x EW129.

Key Features

Profitable
Established as the most marketable variety in the UK.

Flexible
Meets quality criteria for distilling, milling, export and for feed.

High-yielding
Delivers across all growing regions of the UK.

Resilient
Strong disease resistance package and excellent agronomics.

Robust
Competitive advantage against grass weeds demonstrated in independent trials.

2 YIELD

Reliably consistent

Consistent high performance across regions means Bamford is a wheat variety which can be relied upon to deliver, whatever the season demands.

Bamford delivers high yields in every region and has been a consistent performer in AHDB trials.

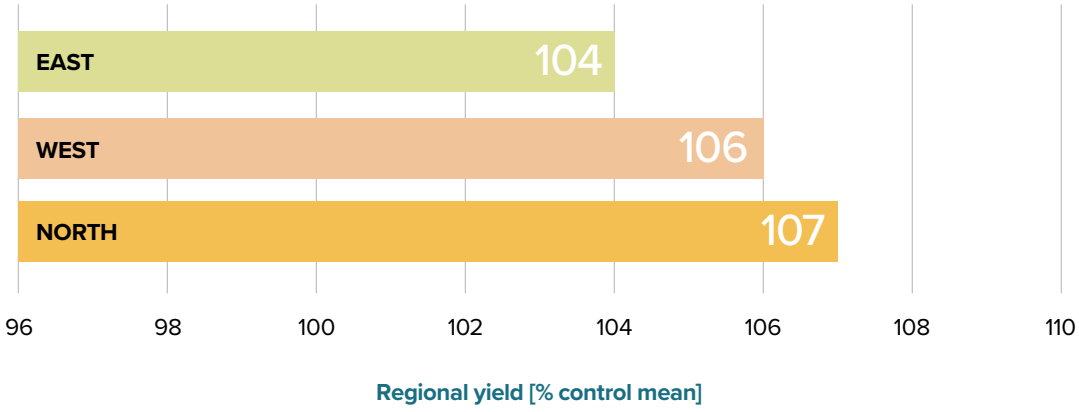
With a UK yield of 105% it offers high potential to all growers across the country; East 104%, West 106% and North 107%.

105%
BAMFORD UK YIELD

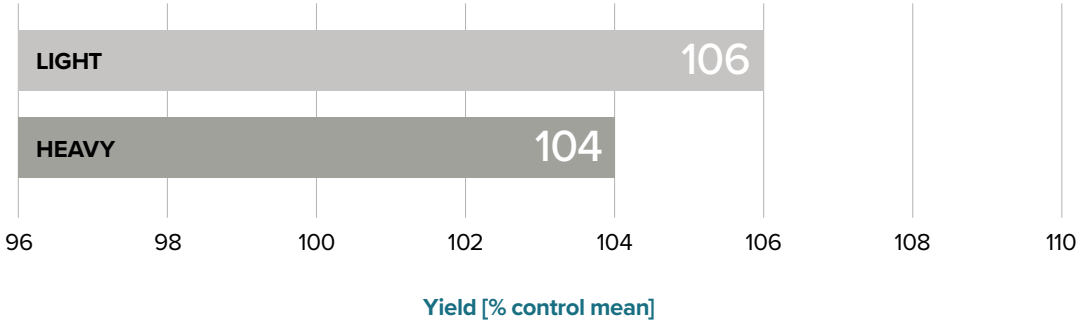
Soil performance

Bamford is very consistent in its performance irrespective of soil type, yielding 106% of controls on light soils and 104% of controls on heavy land.

Bamford regional performance treated yield



Bamford performance by soil type



All yield figures are calculated as a % of treated controls from the official AHDB RL 2026/27 data, unless stated otherwise.

3 DISEASE RESISTANCE

Use a proven variety

While many factors influencing crop health are outside your control, variety choice is not. Selecting a proven variety like Bamford provides a reliable starting point for any integrated pest management strategy.

Resilience

When trialled, Bamford has consistently been the highest yielding variety across a range of fungicide treatments.

The farm standard treatment, which included a T1, T2 and T3 spray, yielded the highest results for each variety.

T0 and T1 fungicide timings are not always easy to achieve in practice. The trial opposite shows that Bamford maintains high yield performance even with reduced early fungicide input.

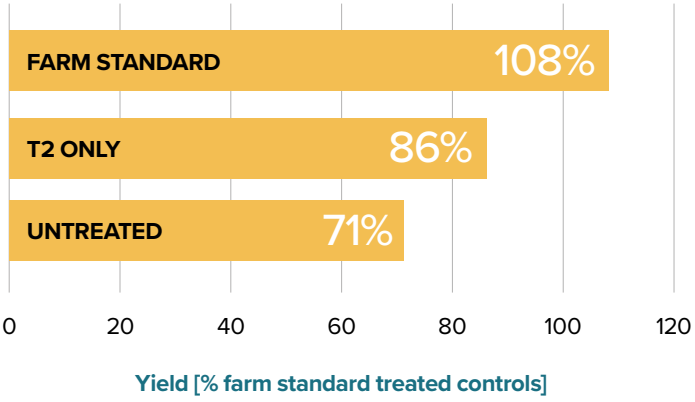
Changing weather and shifting pathogen populations can significantly impact disease incidence and pressure from one season to the next. For this reason, fungicide programmes should always be tailored to local conditions.

Bamford disease resistance scores

Untreated yield % OF TREATED CONTROLS	89	*Septoria tritici* 1-9	6.4
Mildew 1-9	[6]	Eyespot 1-9	6*
Yellow Rust 1-9	6	Fusarium Ear Blight 1-9	5
Brown Rust 1-9	6		

* Bamford carries the Pch1 Rendezvous resistance gene to Eyespot.

Bamford fungicide trial



SOURCE: Elsoms/SUUK Fungicide input trials Cowlinge, Suffolk 2023.

Bamford fungicide input considerations

PEST	RISK FACTORS	IPM STRATEGY	REGIONAL VARIATION RISK
Septoria tritici	Early-drilled susceptible varieties Wet weather Mild winter conditions	Variety selection Drill timing Fungicide choice and timing	East West North
Yellow Rust *Puccinia striiformis*	Later-sown susceptible varieties Cool damp weather	Destroy the green bridge: grass weeds Variety selection Drill timing	East West North
Brown Rust *Puccinia triticina*	Early-drilled susceptible varieties Hot and humid weather	Destroy the green bridge: wheat volunteers Drill timing Fungicide choice	East West North
Eyespot	Early-drilled crops; pre October 6th Susceptible varieties Previous cropping and soil type	Destroy the green bridge: grass weeds and wheat volunteers Variety selection Drill timing and minimum tillage	East West North

4 AGRONOMICS

Drilling

The recommended drilling window for Bamford is from the third week of September onwards, with the ideal slot being mid to late October. This relatively wide sowing window provides some mitigation against the impact of challenging weather conditions.

With moderate tillering ability it's recommended that seed rates are increased later in the season or if conditions at drilling are compromised.

On-farm experience shows that speed of development and a competitive growth habit make Bamford suitable for direct drilling.

Drilling rates are very similar to the UK standard for wheat and should be tailored to your on-farm situation, seed bed condition, local weather and soil conditions. The chart advises seed rates at drilling based on planting date and soil type.

Bamford recommended seed rates

Soil type	Early September*	Mid September to mid October	Mid to late October	Late October to mid November	Mid November to early December
Light	n/a	300-350	350-375	350-400	425-475
Heavy	n/a	300-350	350-400	375-450	475+

* Bamford's faster speed of development means it is not suited to drilling in early September.

Growth habit

Bamford has a very erect growth habit over winter and looks quite different from other more prostrate varieties. This upright habit coupled with vigorous spring growth makes it a very competitive variety against grass weeds. Bamford is likely to reach key timings for fungicide, PGR and nutrition ahead of other varieties with different growth habits.

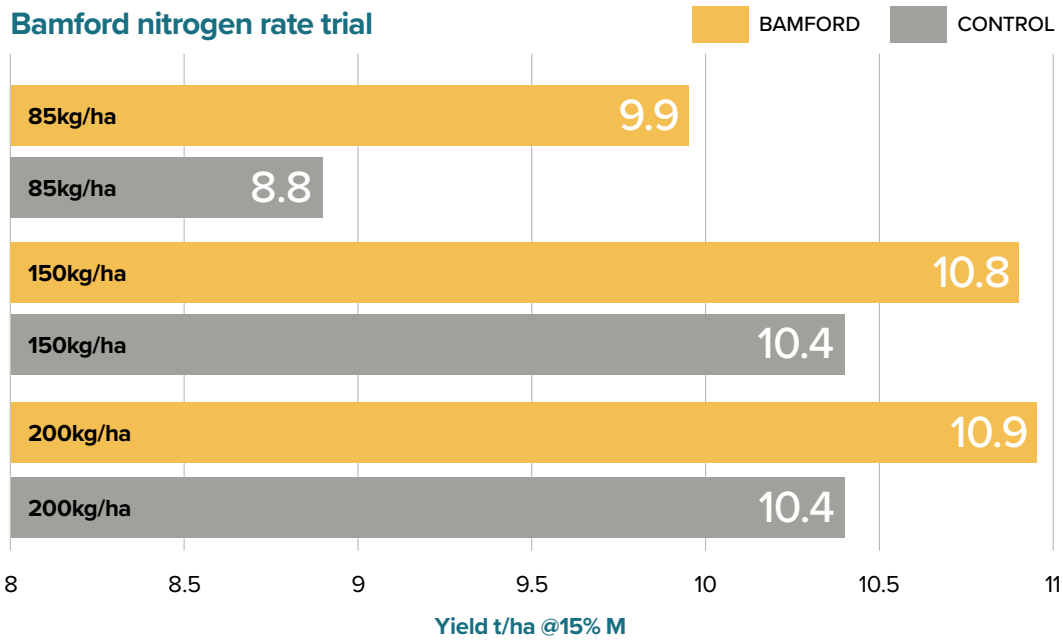
4 AGRONOMICS

Fertiliser

As Bamford is fast-developing, slightly higher phosphorus levels are beneficial to support root development and nutrient uptake.

Bamford nitrogen application	FIRST SPLIT % of total dose	SECOND SPLIT % of total dose	THIRD SPLIT % of total dose
WHEAT STANDARD	33%	33%	33%
BAMFORD	40%	30%	30%

*In trials, Bamford responded well to a front-loaded nitrogen programme with 30-50% of the total dose applied in the first application.



SOURCE: Elsoms/SUUK nitrogen trials Cowlinge, Suffolk 2022.

Tillering

AHDB benchmark the optimum plant number to be around 260 plants/m^2. Bamford is an intermediate tillering variety and establishing this benchmark is considered good practice.

Most varieties will comfortably carry three tillers per plant, which should deliver 750-800 ears/m^2 in spring. Too many tillers may reduce the effect of targeted agronomy.

Correct ear density will help canopy management which can increase airflow for greater disease tolerance. Supporting tiller formation with higher potassium levels can also support stem strength.

3.4
BAMFORD AVERAGE TILLER COUNT PER PLANT

SOURCE: Elsoms/SUUK agronomy development trials, tiller count average across 2022-2025.

4 AGRONOMICS

PGRs

Bamford is stiff strawed and demonstrated good standing ability in trials. The use of PGRs is commonplace in a standard wheat crop as they can help to reduce stem height and promote tiller retention; all factors in decreasing the risk of lodging.

Start with a resistant variety

Resistance to lodging is an important factor to consider when looking to maximise return with a high yielding variety.

The application of nitrogen can increase the risks of lodging so growing a variety with a good resistance in the first instance is paramount.

We would always suggest a programmed approach to PGRs, with best results often achieved by splitting applications across the season.

Accuracy of timing

It is important to make sure the timings on these split doses are correct and that they are not applied if the crop is under stress.

"We recognise the importance to the milling sector of a sustainable soft wheat crop going forward. Bamford fits the bill".

CHRIS McCALLUM
Trader, Cefetra

Bamford agronomy scores

Resistance to lodging +PGR 1-9	7
Resistance to lodging -PGR 1-9	7
Straw length +PGR CM	81
Straw length -PGR CM	90

Bamford PGR timing

	T0	T1	T2
Growth stage	**BBCH 29-30** Tillering to the start of stem elongation.	**BBCH 31-32** First to second node detectable.	**BBCH 37-39** Check label requirements for individual actives.
Why?	Rooting enhancement and anchorage. Supports tillering and tiller retention.	Strengthen the stem, reduce final crop height and reduce overall lodging risk.	Reduce overall crop height and reduce lodging risk.

5 END-MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

Grain quality

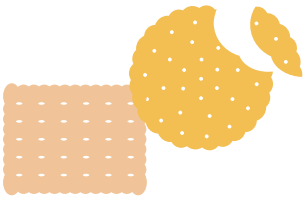
As a UKFM Group 3 wheat, Bamford consistently produces the grain quality required by a range of premium end markets.

It is suitable for domestic biscuit and cake milling, approved for distilling and has UKS for export. End-market choice is a major driver of gross margin, with access to these markets dependent on achieving the required grain quality specifications.

Market options

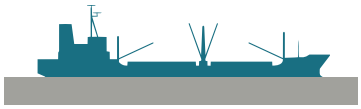
Bamford opens the door to these markets as it is capable of meeting the criteria demanded by premium contracts, which can deliver significant financial uplift compared with feed markets.

Importantly, these opportunities are widely available across the UK, with established demand from processors and merchants in each of the end-markets where Bamford delivers. In addition, buy-back contracts are available throughout the UK.



Suitable for biscuit and cake milling

Approved for distilling



Has UKS for export

High-yielding feed-only option

Bamford grain quality measure	UKFM GROUP 3	EXPORT [UKS]	DISTILLING	BAMFORD
Minimum specific weight kg/ha	74	75	72	78.5
Protein content %	11.5	10.5-11.5	11.6 max	10.7● 11.6■
Maximum admix %	2	2	2	Variable
Minimum Hagberg Falling Number	220	220	180	256
Chopin Alveograph W	n/a	70-120	n/a	111
Chopin Alveograph P/L	n/a	0.55 max	n/a	0.6
Minimum moisture content %	15	14	15	Variable

● Grown to standard feed spec.

■ Grown to milling spec. with additional inputs

Variable: Data varies from sample to sample.

6 ELSOMS

Unlocking the power of plants

Elsoms agricultural division provides UK farmers with a comprehensive range of high-performing arable crops, developed through our own and our partners' breeding programmes.

Our portfolio spans competitive varieties of cereals, oilseeds, and pulses, giving farmers the choice and resilience they need to adapt to changing markets, regulations, and environmental pressures.

By combining advanced plant science with generations of expertise, we deliver solutions that not only help farms grow efficiently but help everyone grow more from less.

Innovation with purpose

Innovation is at the heart of everything we do, and it always comes with the same intent; positive advancements that help unlock the power of plants.

Our approach blends cutting-edge science with practical application ensuring that new ideas work in the real world for the people who grow and depend on our seeds.

Leading seed technology

With over 30 years of specialist experience, we're the UK's leading seed treatment experts.

Our core focus is maximising quality and consistency, and our enhancements give crops the best start, ensuring even germination, stronger early growth, and higher marketable yields.

Powered by partnerships

We work as partners, with researchers, breeders, growers, suppliers and distributors.

Our purpose is not just supplying seeds or services, it's also building collaborative relationships that solve real challenges and deliver better outcomes for everyone we work with.

Our strong partnerships give us access to a wide variety of breeding material from across the world allowing us to continually improve and develop higher-performing and more sustainable varieties.

7 OUR ARABLE TEAM

Driven by passion

Our dedicated team of breeders, scientists, agronomists and crop teams bring a genuine enthusiasm for what they do to every part of our business.

Their depth of sector knowledge is extraordinary, and they're constantly looking for ways to evolve, finding new and better ways for our customers to grow more from less.

Speak to our experts

If you have any questions about Bamford winter wheat or if you want to discuss our wider portfolio, contact our arable team today.

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Agronomy Best Practice

Use plant protection products safely.

Always read the label and product information before use.

Consult a BASIS Qualified Advisor for advice and guidance on crop protection products.

Consult a FACTS Qualified Adviser for advice and guidance on nitrogen applications.

DATA SOURCE

All information and data is sourced from AHDB Recommended List Winter Wheat 2026/27 unless stated otherwise.

Unlocking the power of plants