

# VE Day 80 Bishops Frome Strawman

Ideal for Farms, Stately Homes and Country Landowners

## How to Build your Strawman Beacon

This type of Beacon is ideal for farms, stately homes and our country landowners, using it as fun aspect to celebrate/commemorate and pay tribute to the many that gave their lives unconditionally. It could be a public event or just for family, friends and those that work so hard on the land but in a similar way during WWII to keep the Nation fed during those difficult times when many of the men of the land were out defending our country overseas, never to return.

Obtain the landowners's permission and involvement then ensure you locate your Bishops Frome Strawman at least 60m away from buildings, roads, railways and public rights of way, and a safe distance from dangerous materials and overhead power lines. Ensure it has good access for the transportation of materials for the bonfire and sufficient space for spectators to stand upwind.

Liaise with your local fire brigade and all emergency services in your area, presenting them with your plans, and seek their advice and support. In the event of dry weather, high winds and a heightened wildfire risk on the day of the event, please carefully consider scaling back initial plans where appropriate.

1 Prepare site by removing top layer of turf and stack away from fire area.

2 Use only wood and straw for combustible materials and wrap steel banding around them all to hold the bales together while burning to stop them from falling away. Please dispose of the bands responsibly after the event.

3 Construct a safety barrier out of ropes and stakes or scaffold poles to ensure public is kept at a safe distance from the fire.

4 In daylight, and for several hours, and up to lighting, check that there are no children or animals playing or hiding in or round the Strawman. Arrange for at least 12 marshals to be in attendance, and undertake a sufficient safety briefing before lighting the Strawman.

5 The person looking after the fire should not wear lightweight clothing that could ignite easily. They should wear a substantial outer garment of wool, or other material of low flammability, and stout boots. They should know what to do in the event of a burn injury, or a person's clothing catching fire, and should have a fire blanket ready in the Strawman area along with a number of fire extinguishers.

6 Lighting: the safest and recommended approach is to use paper and solid firelighters in six places just inside the walls of the Bishops Frome Strawman to ensure an even burn. Never use flammable liquids such as paraffin or petrol to get it going as this can result in uncontrolled spread of fire or explosion.

7 To light the Strawman: from poles 2m in length, prepare hand torches for lighting with paraffin-soaked rags wired around one end. Remember, paraffin is dangerous and great care should be taken. Paraffin can be used as directed, but it is still dangerous and should at all times be treated with great care - for example, always ensure all excess paraffin is drained off rags before use. If spilt on your clothes during the preparation of your Strawman lighting you should replace those items of clothing before approaching any naked flames. In particular, always remember to replace the lid on any container of unused paraffin and store it in a safe place away from naked flames. Do not use an accelerant on the fire itself.



A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION