

A Suffolk compilation: films from the East Anglian Film Archive which inspired the Akenfied Now schools' project

Film	Notes and questions explored with students
Cat 5 : Here's A Health To The Barley Mow : 1955 https://eafa.org.uk/work/?id=1340 Blaxhall, Suffolk	Showing a Suffolk community markedly different from now – dress, social life, music, song. Q: Which communal events will interviewees describe?
Making of Akenfield	Peter Hall arrives for filming, meeting local residents who will take roles in the Akenfield film. BBC reporter explains.
Cat 81 : Farming in Winter: 1934 - 1935 https://eafa.org.uk/work/?id=1416 Leiston, Suffolk	Pre-war representation of Suffolk farming, typifying the existence described in several Akenfield book accounts. Suffolk dialect. Q: What will interviewees say about the Suffolk landscape and living and working in it?
Cat 222 : A Celebration of Midsummer : 1964 https://eafa.org.uk/work/?id=1557 East Anglia	Vivid portrayal of school life in Suffolk landscape. Teacher's distinction between urban and rural. Generation of children represented in film likely to match group interviewed by project participants. A reference point for today's perspective. Q: What questions might you ask about memories of school?
Making of Akenfield	Village resident reflecting on filming process. Suffolk irony!
Cat 97929 : Capt. Albert E. Smith : 1962 (Anglia News) https://eafa.org.uk/work/?id=761270 Easton, Suffolk	Interviewing to elicit memory/experience, interviewee's narrative. A Suffolk life linked to a major world history event. Q: How does life in 'Akenfield' relate to world events through time?
Cat 116299 : Cinema Story : 1961 (About Anglia) https://eafa.org.uk/work/?id=779811 Beccles, Suffolk	Representation of technological change – impact of TV on local cinemas >> contemporary parallels (TV<>web, mobiles etc). Generational links (family business). Q: What changes do interviewees feel are most significant for them?
Making of Akenfield	Filming a scene for Akenfield – recreating a historical scene. Peter Hall on the improvisation process involving local people, context for this form of documentary film.
Cat 1258 : Coffee Bar : 1961 https://eafa.org.uk/work/?id=2593 Newmarket, Suffolk	Silent film made by 60s teenagers – representations of Suffolk beyond the rural – 60s teen culture. Q: How do your own experiences relate to those you hear described in interviews?
Making of Akenfield	Ronald Blythe on set with Peter Hall and actors.
Here's A Health To The Barley Mow, 1955	

Resources connected with 'Akenfield'

East Anglian Film Archive, The Archive Centre, Martineau Lane, Norwich, Norfolk NR1 2DQ

Telephone: 01603 592664 Email: eafa@uea.ac.uk EAFA website: <https://eafa.org.uk/>

1930s educational films directed by Mary Field, made around Abbey Farm, Leiston, Suffolk

Cat 78 : Farming in Spring : 1935 <https://eafa.org.uk/work/?id=1413>

Cat 79 : Farming in Summer : 1934 - 1935 <https://eafa.org.uk/work/?id=1414>

Cat 80 : Farming in Autumn : 1934 - 1935 <https://eafa.org.uk/work/?id=1415>

Cat 81 : Farming in Winter : 1934 - 1935 <https://eafa.org.uk/work/?id=1416>

Cat 328 : This Was England : 1936 <https://eafa.org.uk/work/?id=1663>

Cat 163 : The Wheatlands of East Anglia : 1936 <https://eafa.org.uk/work/?id=1498>

Cat 82 : The Farm Factory : 1934 <https://eafa.org.uk/work/?id=1417>

Cat 1333 : Town Settlement : 1934 <https://eafa.org.uk/work/?id=2668>

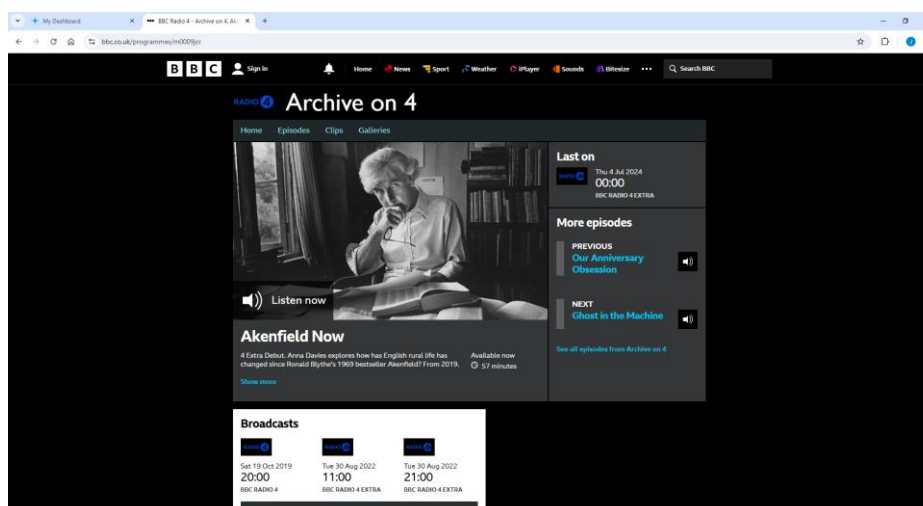
EAFA compilation of 1930s farming films with reminiscences of farm workers

Cat 1363 : To Plough To Sow : 1984 <https://eafa.org.uk/work/?id=2698>

'Akenfield Now' on BBC Sounds

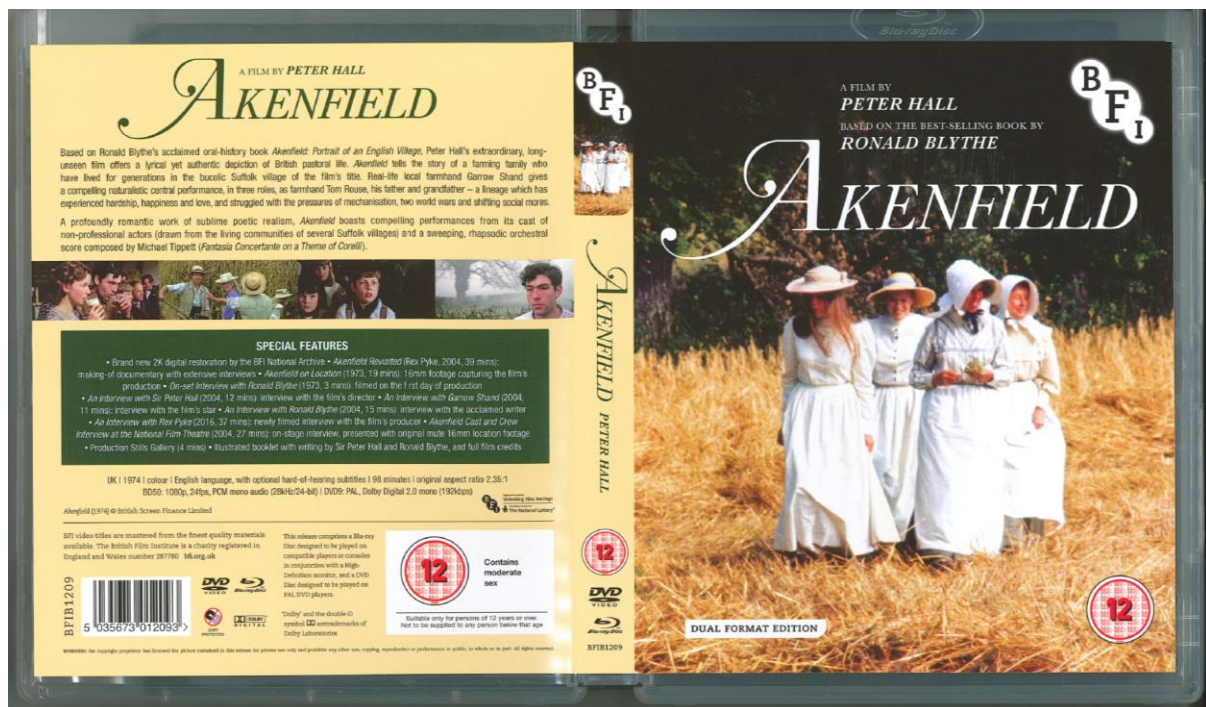
Archive on 4 radio programme (2019) about Ronald Blythe and the UEA Akenfield project

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0009jcr>



BFI DVD and Blue-ray of 2016 restoration of *Akenfield* (1974)

<https://shop.bfi.org.uk/akenfield-dual-format-edition.html>



Akenfield and Ronald Blythe in the news

2017 article about the *Akenfield* Now project:

'*Akenfield* revisited: what a rural classic reveals about our changing countryside'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/dec/24/akenfield-revisited-english-country-life>

'Making hay: on the set of countryside classic *Akenfield* – in pictures'

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/gallery/2016/jul/22/akenfield-peter-hall-on-the-set-of-countryside-classic-in-pictures>

'Ronald Blythe at 100: 'A watchful, curious and gratefully amazed vision of life''

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2022/nov/05/ronald-blythe-at-100-a-watchful-curious-and-gratefully-amazed-vision-of-life>

'A force for everything he represented': Ronald Blythe's home to become nature reserve' (2024)

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/nov/16/ronald-blythe-home-nature-reserve-akenfield>