



Machine reaping & binding wheat, August 1914

These later Reaper/Binder Machines not only cut and bundled the crop, but also automatically tied it into sheaves ready for stooking and drying. Machines like these can occasionally be seen in present day use drawn by a small tractor, usually when the straw is required for thatching,

EB105 (*Richard Campion*)



Machine reaping wheat at Bletsoe, c1900

This early 'sail' reaper simply cut the crop and formed it into crude bundles. The bundles were then hand tied with twisted 'bands' of straw (see sheaves in background). Making bands was reputed to be one of the worst jobs at harvest, particularly if there were thistles in the crop.

EB39 (*Richard Campion*)