

**COURT FARM GRANARY  
EAST STREET, FALMER, EAST SUSSEX**

**Historic Building Record  
(Historic England Level 2/3)  
& Archaeological Watching Brief**



**Commissioned by: Mr & Mrs MacRae**

**NGR: 535545 108743**

**Planning Refs: SDNP/17/03510/LIS & SDNP/17/03509/FUL**

**ASE Project No: 180703  
ASE Report No: 2020179**

**Site Code: FCF20  
OASIS id: archaeol6-403252**

<b>Prepared by:</b>	Dr Michael Shapland FSA	Senior Archaeologist	
<b>Reviewed and approved by:</b>	Amy Williamson	Project Manager	
<b>Date of Issue:</b>	May 2020		
<b>Version:</b>	2		

**Archaeology South-East  
Units 1 & 2  
2 Chapel Place  
Portslade  
East Sussex  
BN41 1DR**

## **SUMMARY**

*In September 2020 Archaeology South-East (a division of the UCL Centre for Applied Archaeology) carried out a historic building record of the granary at Court Farm, Falmer, East Sussex. The work was requested by the South Downs National Park Authority to be addressed as a condition placed on planning consent relating to the conversion of the existing granary building into a dwelling (planning refs. SDNP/17/03510/LIS & SDNP/17/03509/FUL). The initial report was updated in April 2022 to incorporate the results of archaeological monitoring work undertaken during the course of the building works.*

*Court Farm and the adjacent church of St Laurence lie at the core of the original settlement of Falmer, which is likely to have been established as a nucleated settlement during the late Anglo-Saxon period. During the medieval period Court Farm belonged to Lewes Priory, which is still attested by a vast surviving medieval barn on the site.*

*The granary is thought to have been erected c.1782 as a large timber-framed structure with an open-fronted cartshed at ground level and a granary above. This can be related to a known period of investment in Court Farm, following its acquisition by the Pelhams of Stanmer Park in 1776. The cartshed protected the farm machinery stored there, as well as raising the valuable grain away from damp and rodents. It also allowed the grain to be easily transferred down onto the carts waiting beneath, initially via an above-ground doorway, but subsequently via a series of iron chutes. This example is unusual due to its size, and in being open on three sides when it was first built, perhaps to facilitate movement across the farmyard in which it stands.*

## CONTENTS

*List of Figures*

*List of Plates*

*Glossary of Terms*

- 1.0** Introduction
- 2.0** Scope and methodology
- 3.0** Site location and setting
- 4.0** Statutory designations
- 5.0** Historic background and map evidence
- 6.0** Description of the building
- 7.0** Discussion
- 8.0** Deposition of the archive
- 9.0** Acknowledgements
- 10.0** Bibliography

*Figures*

*Plates*

*Appendix 1: OASIS form*

*Appendix 2: Photographic record*

*Appendix 3: Archaeological watching brief report*

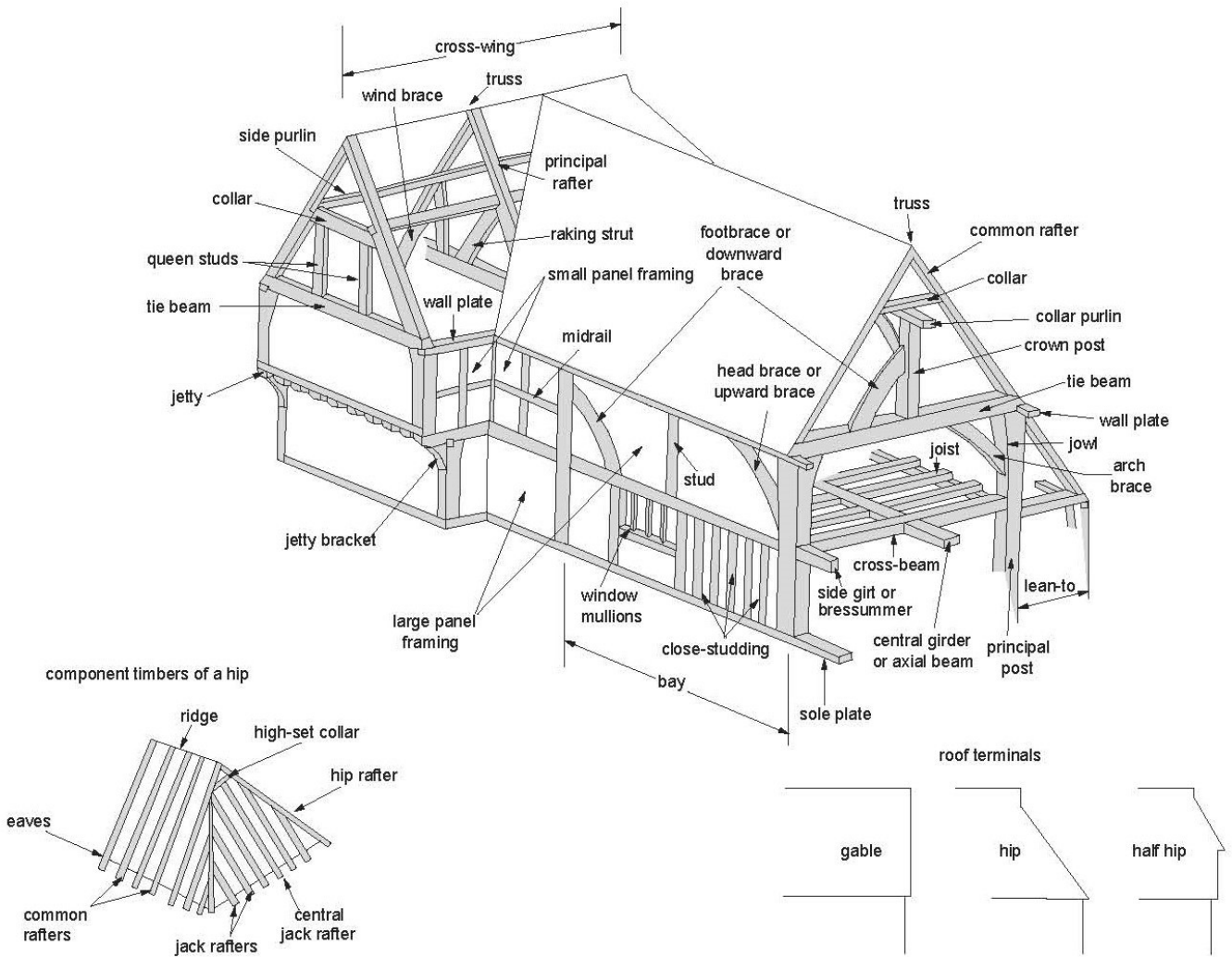
## LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure 1** Site location
- Figure 2** Site plan
- Figure 3** Early maps of the site
- Figure 4** Extract from Falmer Parish Tithe Map
- Figure 5** 1:2,500 Ordnance Survey map (1873)
- Figure 6** 1:2,500 Ordnance Survey map (1911)
- Figure 7** 1:2,500 Ordnance Survey map (1956)
- Figure 8** Ground floor plan, as existing
- Figure 9** First floor plan, as existing
- Figure 10** Section drawings, as existing
- Figure 11** 17th century granary at Peper Harow, Surrey

## LIST OF PLATES

- Plate 1** General view of the farm with St Laurence's church beyond, looking north-west.  
**Plate 2** General view of the granary, looking north-east.  
**Plate 3** General view of the granary and later shed, looking west.  
**Plate 4** General view of the granary and later shed, looking south-east.  
**Plate 5** General view of the granary and later shed, looking south-west.  
**Plate 6** West external elevation, showing the main entrance to the granary. View looking east.  
**Plate 7** Former north external elevation of the cartshed from within the later shed, looking south.  
**Plate 8** Former north external elevation of the cartshed, detail of the open-fronted arcade. View looking south.  
**Plate 9** Former north external elevation of the cartshed, detail of infilled cart entrance. View looking south-west.  
**Plate 10** Detail of arcade posts to the former north external elevation of the cartshed.  
**Plate 11** Ground floor, southern wall of cartshed, interior view, looking south. Note the former arcade posts incorporated into the later masonry.  
**Plate 12** Ground floor, eastern wall of cartshed, interior view, looking east.  
**Plate 13** North-eastern corner of the building, detail of former padstone incorporated into the later masonry. View looking south-west.  
**Plate 14** Ground floor, interior view of the cartshed, view looking west.  
**Plate 15** Ground floor, interior view of the cartshed, view looking east.  
**Plate 16** First floor, interior view of the granary, detail of wall construction.  
**Plate 17** Ground floor, detail of post made from re-used timber. View looking north-east.  
**Plate 18** West external elevation, detail of granary entrance. View looking east.  
**Plate 19** Northern entrance to the granary, internal view looking north.  
**Plate 20** First floor, north internal elevation, view looking north-west. Note original framed-in window opening.  
**Plate 21** First floor, north internal elevation, view looking north-east. Note original framed-in window opening.  
**Plate 22** First floor, detail of roof truss, view looking east.  
**Plate 23** First floor, detail of roof structure. View looking west.  
**Plate 24** Roof truss, detail of timber bracket and carpenter's marks. View looking west.  
**Plate 25** Ground floor, internal partition wall, looking west. Note the post incorporated into the later masonry.  
**Plate 26** Ground floor, internal western room (suspected workshop), view looking south.  
**Plate 27** Ground floor, detail of ceiling structure, view looking north-east.  
**Plate 28** First floor, detail of grain chute to grain bin floor, view looking south.  
**Plate 29** Ground floor ceiling, detail of surviving pulley. View looking north-east.  
**Plate 30** Ground floor, detail of mid-20<sup>th</sup> century tyre changer. View looking south-east.  
**Plate 31** First floor granary, general view looking east.  
**Plate 32** First floor granary, general view looking west.  
**Plate 33** First floor granary, detail of grain bin, looking south-east.  
**Plate 34** First floor granary, detail of grain bin partition, looking east.  
**Plate 35** First floor granary, detail of slotted entrance to grain bin, looking south-east.  
**Plate 36** First floor granary, later partition erected around pre-existing grain bin and roof truss. View looking south-east.  
**Plate 37** First floor granary, later door inscribed with grain tallies. View looking north-east.  
**Plate 38** North elevation of the granary during building works.  
**Plate 39** East elevation of the granary during building works.  
**Plate 40** South elevation of the granary during building works.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS



## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In September 2020 Archaeology South-East (a division of the UCL Centre for Applied Archaeology) carried out a historic building record of the granary at Court Farm, Falmer, East Sussex BN1 9PB (NGR 535545 108743; Figures 1 & 2). The initial report was updated in April 2022 to incorporate the results of archaeological monitoring work undertaken during the course of the building works.

1.2 Applications for planning permission and listed building consent for *Demolition of barn to north of curtilage listed The Granary and conversion and extension of The Granary to provide for a private dwelling house* are currently under consideration by the South Downs National Park Authority (planning refs. SDNP/20/01842/FUL & SDNP/20/01843/LIS). Planning permission and listed building consent (planning refs. SDNP/17/03509/FUL & SDNP/17/03510/LIS) were previously granted in July 2018 for: *Conversion of granary building and redevelopment of barn at rear to provide for one dwelling house*. The following conditions were attached to the 2018 planning permission:

*7. No development shall take place until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

*Reason: To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of the site is safeguarded and recorded to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework*

*8. The development hereby permitted shall not be brought into use until the archaeological site investigation and post investigation assessment (including provision for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition) has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition [1] to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority, in consultation with the County Planning Authority.*

*Reason: To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of the site is safeguarded and recorded to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework.*

1.3 This report was commissioned by Mr & Mrs MacRae in furtherance of these planning conditions.

## **2.0 SCOPE & METHODOLOGY**

2.1 The recording involved the survey of the granary to Levels 2 & 3, as defined by Historic England (2016) and set out in the written scheme of investigation (ASE 2020). A plan showing the structures surveyed is reproduced as Figure 2.

2.2 The building was recorded to Historic England Level 3 targeted at areas of proposed impact to the historic building, with a rapid Level 2 survey of the entire building to clarify its development and place the more detailed recording into context. Provision has been made for further recording during demolition in order to record areas / features not accessible during the initial survey, namely the north elevation of the granary once the attached modern structures have been removed.

- 2.3 The record was made by Michael Shapland and Susan Chandler in September 2020. Subject to accessibility and survival, a digital photographic record was made of the exterior and interior of the granary and its immediate environs, including general external and internal elevations, setting, surviving architectural detail, fixtures and fittings. An index of the digital photography, together with location plans are included as an appendix to this report.
- 2.4 The written description and photographic record is supplemented by measured plans and sections of the building. These were provided by the client, checked by the surveyors on-site and augmented with additional features where necessary (Figures 8-10).
- 2.5 Additional photographs of the north elevation of the building, taken during the course of the building works have been incorporated within the main building record report. The results of the archaeological watching brief maintained during the groundworks associated with the proposed development are presented as Appendix 3.

### **3.0 SITE LOCATION AND SETTING**

- 3.1 Falmer is located within the South Downs National Park, within the high ground of the chalk downs 5.7km from the sea. The modern village is bisected by the A27 dual carriageway running east/west some 100m to the north of Court Farm, and by the great mass of the Brighton and Hove Albion football stadium a short distance to the west, with two university campuses laid out nearby. Court Farm lies at the core of the historic nucleated village, with the adjacent church of St Laurence and the large pond which gives the settlement its name. The core of the farm covers an area of c.2.5 hectares; the granary lies in the centre of the farmyard, bounded by a substantial medieval barn to the north, stables to the west, a cartshed and cottages to the south and several modern agricultural sheds to the east. The house at Falmer Court lies apart from its farmyard a short distance to the west.
- 3.2 The modern ground surface lies at c. 90m OD, with a gentle slope down to the east. The natural geology of the site comprises Lambeth Group clays, silts and sands formed approximately 48 to 59 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period.<sup>1</sup>

### **4.0 STATUTORY DESIGNATIONS**

#### *Listed Buildings*

- 4.1 Although the granary is not itself listed, it lies within the curtilage of two listed buildings. List descriptions must not be treated as comprehensive schedules of those elements which are legally protected as, no matter what the grade, this legislative cover not only relates to both the interior and exterior of the designated structure, but also extends to any building within the curtilage which predates July 1<sup>st</sup> 1948.
- 4.2 Court Farmhouse was listed at Grade II on 17<sup>th</sup> March 1952 (Historic England National Heritage List, list entry number 1043933). The listing ascribes an 18<sup>th</sup> century date to the house, describing it as a two-storey building faced with knapped flints, with a hipped tiled roof.

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> [accessed 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020]



- 4.3 The barn to the east of Court Farmhouse was listed at Grade II\* on 17<sup>th</sup> March 1952 (Historic England National Heritage List, list entry number 1275514). The listing ascribes a 16<sup>th</sup> century date to the barn, describing it as a long timber-framed structure with two wagon entrances and a hipped thatched roof.

*Conservation Areas*

- 4.4 The granary lies within Falmer Conservation Area, as defined by the South Downs National Park Authority.

*Archaeological Notification Areas*

- 4.5 The granary lies within Falmer Historic Village Archaeological Notification Area, as defined by East Sussex County Council (ref. DES8434). This is designed to trigger consultation with the East Sussex County Council Archaeology Section, in the event of extensions, new detached buildings, below ground impacts to a listed or curtilage listed building, hard landscaping, and cable and pipe trenches.

## **5.0 HISTORIC BACKGROUND AND MAP EVIDENCE**

- 5.1 The following historical background draws on the Archaeological Impact Assessment and Heritage Statement previously conducted for the site (Conservation Plus 2020; Grant 2020), and the architectural study of the adjacent barn (Martin and Martin 1998). Falmer is likely to have been established as a nucleated settlement during the late Anglo-Saxon period. Its name, first attested in 1086 as *Falmere*, means ‘the dark pool’ (Mawer & Stenton 1930, 308): this relates to the large pond which still lies at the heart of the village, a short distance from Court Farm. The core of this original settlement would have comprised a manorial enclosure and its associated church, of which Court Farm and the adjacent church of St Laurence are very likely to be the direct successors, albeit with their upstanding structures many times replaced and rebuilt. The granary therefore stands in direct association with a high-status manorial enclosure whose origins are likely to lie in the 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> century, if not before.
- 5.2 The first direct mention of this settlement comes in the *Domesday Book*, which assessed it at 21 hides and records that it had been held by St Mary’s Abbey in Wilton prior to 1066. It was subsequently given to Gundrada, wife of William de Warenne, overlord of the Rape of Lewes, and used to endow Lewes Priory. Court Farm served the Priory as an important grange (estate centre) throughout the medieval period, as evidenced by its vast surviving medieval barn, one of several originally present on the site.
- 5.3 Following the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1537 the farm was granted to Thomas Cromwell, and after his execution to Anne of Cleves, upon whose death in 1557 it reverted to the Crown, with whom it remained until sold by Charles I in 1628/9. Throughout this period it was leased out to the Dobell family. It subsequently passed through various secular landowners before being acquired in 1776 by the Pelhams of nearby Stanmer park, in whose hands it remained until it was sold to Brighton City Council in 1947.
- 5.4 A particular of the manor of Falmer made in 1769 gives the total acreage of the demesne farm as a little over 2020 acres. It contains the following description of the

site: *The buildings are a farmhouse, 2 large barns and a stable. The house and stable are very old and almost untenable and must be entirely rebuilt. The barns are very large and will want much repairs. The whole expense of the necessary new buildings and repairs cannot be estimated at less than £1,000.* The farmhouse was duly rebuilt in 1779-1781, and money spent on repairing the farm buildings the following year.<sup>2</sup> This gives a plausible context for the construction of the granary.

- 5.5 The first available map of the site is Yeakell and Gardner's Map of Sussex from 1778-83, which shows a cluster of structures on the site of Court Farm, although these are probably indicative meaning that it is not possible to ascribe them specific identities (Figure 3). The first detailed depiction of Court Farm is an estate map drawn by William Figg for the Pelhams in 1799-1800 (Figure 3).<sup>3</sup> This shows the farmhouse within its manorial enclosure with the church adjacent, and the farm buildings immediately to the east. The granary appears to be present by this time, represented by a simple rectangle, standing within a farmyard defined by the extant stables on its western side, great barn on its northern side, further agricultural buildings to the south and a second large barn (since demolished) to the east.
- 5.6 The next available map relates to the 1840 Falmer tithe award, at which time the site was tenanted from the Pelhams by James Hodson and his family (Figure 4). This shows the granary with its associated farm buildings arranged in a similar fashion to 1799, excepting that the great barn on the eastern side of the yard appears to have been substantially rebuilt.
- 5.7 By 1873 the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 25" Ordnance Survey map shows the granary in its current form, with dashed line indicating its open-fronted north elevation, and a cluster of small pens – perhaps a piggery – along its southern wall (Figure 5). What appear to be flights of steps lie at its western end, and a narrow rectangular structure had been built immediately to the east by this time, perhaps an animal shed. A small pond lies to the north. This is much as the site appears on the Ordnance Survey maps from 1898 through to 1930 (Figure 6).
- 5.8 By 1959 the pond to the north of the granary had been replaced by a large open-fronted shed (Figure 7), which by 1968 had been extended to occupy the entire northern side of the granary, which is how the site remains to the present.

## **6.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING**

- 6.1 The granary comprises a rectangular structure of six bays built over two storeys, accommodating an open-fronted cartshed at ground level and a granary above (Plates 1-7). It is aligned along ground which slopes down from west to east, and is abutted on its northern side by a large steel shed dating to the middle part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This was built in two stages during the 1950s and 1960s (Plates 3-7; Figure 7). It has a simple frame of cast concrete and steel, clad with corrugated iron and asbestos cement, and represents an unexceptional example of its very common type. A rudimentary stable structure abuts the shed at its north end.

### **6.2 Exterior**

#### *Construction*

---

<sup>2</sup> East Sussex Record Office, refs SAS/P 377 & CHR 2/6.

<sup>3</sup> East Sussex Record Office, ref. ACC3714/1/4

- 6.2.1 When first built, the granary would have principally been a timber-framed structure, although it has since been partially rebuilt in masonry. At ground level it would have been open to both front and rear, comprising an arcade of principal posts which would originally have been set atop timber pads with footings of stone or brick laid beneath, although these have since been encased in concrete (Plates 8-10). Wedge-shaped timber kerbs lie to the rear of each post, so as to deflect damage from passing carts. The posts are strengthened with high-set arched braces, which are nailed in place and continue along the soffit of the bressumer which runs horizontally between ground and first-floor levels.
- 6.2.2 The western end wall of the building is likely always to have been of solid masonry construction, as at present, due to the steep rise in ground level at this end of the building (Plate 9). This wall is of bungaroosh, comprising coursed and roughly-knapped flint interspersed with ironstone rubble, and quoins of red brick laid in side-alternate fashion. Since it was constructed, the building's eastern end elevation and rear wall have been replaced in masonry at ground level, matching that at the western end of the building (Plates 11 & 12). This appears to have been undertaken in stages, starting with the eastern end elevation, as indicated by a straight joint to the masonry at the building's rear. The original arcade of timber posts still partially survives encased in the later masonry (Plate 11): evidence that the east elevation was originally open comes in the form of padstones (relating to former arcade posts) which remain *in-situ* at the north-eastern and south-eastern corners of this wall (Plate 13). The building would originally therefore have been substantially open at ground level, excepting at its western end, so as to facilitate free movement of carts to collect the grain stored in the granary above (Plates 14 & 15).
- 6.2.3 The original ground-level arcade appears to have been largely infilled at a relatively early date, certainly prior to the Ordnance Survey map of 1873 (Figure 5). This shows the granary as only open to the front, and with a cluster of what may be pigsties against its long rear wall. No trace of these structures now remains above ground.
- 6.2.4 At first floor level, the timber frame comprises relatively slender studs between bressumer and wall-plate, interrupted by one or two raking struts to each bay (Plate 16). The studs and struts are mostly nailed in place, although most bays have one larger stud which is properly jointed into place for extra rigidity. The whole would have been weatherboarded externally, as at present.
- 6.2.5 Whilst the majority of the building's timber frame is of new-felled oak, it is striking that many of the posts at ground level have evidently been re-used from elsewhere. They are unusually weathered, and have redundant mortice holes, many of which have been infilled with new wood (Plate 17). The bressumer is likewise quite weathered, but insufficient was visible to establish whether it too is formed of much older timbers. The granary is thought to have been erected in 1782, a year or so after the associated farmhouse had itself been rebuilt, raising the distinct likelihood that timbers from the old house were used to build the new granary. A manor house has been present at Court Farm since before the Norman Conquest; exactly how old these re-used timbers are it is impossible to say, but they are very likely to be of medieval date.
- Doors*
- 6.2.6 The principal entrance to the building lies in the west elevation at first floor level, hung with a ledged and braced door faced with beaded planks of equal width (Plate 18). The general character of this door is mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, as is the associated flight

of red brick steps, indicating that it is a later insertion. A row of redundant nails relating to removed internal cladding would seem to bear this suspicion out. It may be that access was originally via a ladder into the north elevation, or perhaps that the ground level around the building was only raised in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, leading to its partial rebuilding in masonry at ground level, and the provision of a new western entrance.

- 6.2.7 One other external doorway is present, above ground level in the centre of the north elevation (Plate 19). This is evidently original, since its jambs are properly jointed into the surrounding timber frame: this would originally have been the principal means by which sacks of corn were lowered into the waiting carts below. Its door is of similar character to its western counterpart, excepting that its planking is of irregular width, indicating an earlier date. It is hung on mismatched strap hinges of generalised 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century type, and so have probably been re-used from elsewhere (Hall 2005, 51-2). The door is screwed to these hinges: screws only became common from the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Rybczynski 2000), so the present arrangement is not original to the building. This suspicion is reinforced by the archaic timber lock-case, which articulates poorly with the rest of the door, and is likewise screwed in place.

#### *Windows*

- 6.2.8 Since the ground floor of the building would originally have been substantially open, it is unlikely to have incorporated windows originally. One window-opening was subsequently created in the north-facing elevation, when it was partially rebuilt with masonry (Plate 10).
- 6.2.9 Turning to the first-floor, there are two openings to the north elevation, both of which appear to be original, since they are properly jointed into the surrounding timber frame (Plates 20 & 21). They are fitted with iron bars, which are likewise probably original, due to the value of the crop stored within. Their present horizontally sliding sash windows are unlikely to be original, since window openings to granaries were intended for ventilation rather than illumination, meaning that they typically took the form of louvres or grilles rather than glazed windows (English Heritage 2006, 53-7). A further, smaller, window with a fixed light of six panes lies in the building's east elevation (Plate 3), but it was inaccessible for closer study.

#### *Roof*

- 6.2.10 The roof is hipped, and constructed from rafters laid atop side-purlins which run between the principal rafters of each truss (Plates 22 & 23). The rafter pairs meet at a ridge-board at the apex of the roof. The trusses have king-posts and raking struts: whilst the rest of the roof is nailed together, these trusses are properly jointed, and bear prominent carpenter's marks (Plate 24). The junction between each tie-beam and its respective principal posts has a curved timber bracket, which is bolted in place. The roof is presently clad with slate, but is likely to have been tiled originally, due to the relative paucity of slate in the region at the time the granary was built.

## 6.3 Interior

### *Ground Floor (Cartshed)*

- 6.3.1 The ground floor of the building consists of a cartshed, which appears to have originally been substantially open on three sides of the building, prior to its partial remodelling in masonry during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This enabled carts to move freely, facilitating the transfer of the crop to and from the granary above. A line of five substantial posts is present inside the cartshed, extending along the axis of the building and further supporting the granary above (Plates 14 & 15). These posts are of similar type to the arcade along the north external elevation, and likewise appear to have been re-used from an earlier context, quite possibly the medieval incarnation of Court Farmhouse itself. They rest upon timber pads, and bear curved braces to the cross-beams above: unlike the posts to the exterior of the building, these are all properly jointed and pegged together (Plate 17).
- 6.3.2 The western-most bay at ground level has been partitioned off with a masonry wall, encasing one of the axial posts within its fabric (Plate 25 & 26). This forms a small tool-shed or workshop, presumably to maintain the carts and other machinery kept within the building. It is accessed internally via a doorway (the door is absent) with an internal window adjacent, which has been blocked with brick.
- 6.3.3 The ground floor ceiling is constructed from deep but narrow oak joists, which are socketed into the chamfered cross-beam at each bay division (Plate 27). Some of the joists are pegged in place, others not. One small grain chute is present between two of the joists, where it has been inserted at a later date to facilitate transferring grain from the floor above. It is of iron lined with timber, and has a timber trapdoor (Plate 28). The remnant of a second chute of similar type lies nearby: others were presumably once present, but the rest of the structure is too degraded to be certain. One further trapdoor, also a later insertion, is also present.
- 6.3.4 This space may at one time have contained mills or other machinery relating to crop processing. A single, archaic timber pulley has been inserted into one of the ceiling joists, which appears too broad to be a simple hoist (Plate 29). It may once have connected with a belt and drive-shaft powered from elsewhere, perhaps the horse engine known to have previously existed adjacent to the associated barn (Martin and Martin 1998). The only other historic fixture present here is the rusted remains of a mid-20<sup>th</sup> century tyre changer bolted to the cement floor, manufactured by Harvey Frost & Co. Ltd of Bishops Stortford (Plate 30).

### *First Floor (Granary)*

- 6.3.5 The upper floor of the building houses the granary, which is accessed from the west via an external door (Plates 6 & 18). Its original layout comprised a full-length passageway along its northern side, accessing six large grain bins, one for each of the building's bay divisions (Plates 31-34). These are formed by chest-height timber partitions, constructed in a similar fashion to the building's external walls: slender studs strengthened by straight diagonal bracing, mostly nailed together but with proper pegged joints to the principal timbers. Each grain bin is clad with close-fitting horizontal planking, so as to prevent grain loss and deter rodents; the granary floor is formed of close-fitting oak floorboards, for a similar purpose. The entrance to each bin is augmented with vertical slotted timbers, so that it can be closed off by sliding shutters, although no shutters are extant (Plate 35). The ceiling of granaries from

this period would commonly also have been plastered for extra protection (Brunskill 1999, 93), but there is no surviving evidence of that here.

- 6.3.6 The granary has been subdivided into three principal spaces by timber walls, which consist of tight-fitting vertical and horizontal planking nailed around two of the existing grain bin partitions and roof trusses in an ad-hoc fashion, accompanied by a handful of additional studs (Plate 36). The eastern partition retains a matchboard-built door hung on mass-produced strap hinges of late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century type. It has a timber lock-box, and what appears to be a cat entrance, so as to further deter the intrusion of rodents. One evocative feature here is the survival of a grain tally ('Hollis' and 'Stricklands'), written in pencil, chalk and crayon (Plate 37).

## **7.0 DISCUSSION**

- 7.1 The granary at Court Farm can be dated to the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century on the basis of its construction, which lies at the transition from proper timber-framing (present in the roof trusses, the ground floor, and some of the principal posts), and debased framing held together with nails, as with much of the external walls at first-floor level. Iron bolts were also beginning to make an appearance at this time, but are limited here to the curved brackets beneath each roof truss. This accords with both the cartographic evidence, and with a known period of investment in the farm buildings in 1782, following the site's acquisition by the Pelhams of Stanmer Park.<sup>4</sup>
- 7.2 The granary is raised over a cartshed, which is the most common type (English Heritage 2006, 53-7). This served to protect the farm machinery that was stored beneath, as well as raising the valuable grain away from damp and rodents. It also allowed the grain to be easily transferred down onto the carts waiting beneath, initially via an above-ground doorway, but subsequently via a series of iron chutes. Making the cartshed open at both ends was not an uncommon arrangement, allowing the sacks to be dropped directly onto a cart as it passed straight through (Brunskill 1999, 90-93). However, this example is unusual in being open on three sides when it was first built, although parallels do exist, such as the 17<sup>th</sup> century example at Peper Harow in Surrey (Figure 11).
- 7.3 Although this was not a particularly ostentatious or elaborate building, especially in comparison with the adjacent medieval barn, it is nevertheless a relatively large example of its type, situated prominently in the centre of its farmyard. The size of a granary can be used as a rough indication of the former arable acreage of the farm that it served (English Heritage 2006, 53-7), which at Court Farm is known to have been a little over 2020 acres in 1769.<sup>5</sup> The substantial nature of this building can also be taken as a reflection of the value of the crop held within, as can the bars set across the upper-floor windows and doors. This was essentially a giant savings bank, containing the greater part of the arable wealth of the farm, often accumulated over several years.

---

<sup>4</sup> East Sussex Record Office, refs SAS/P 377 & CHR 2/6.

<sup>5</sup> East Sussex Record Office, refs SAS/P 377 & CHR 2/6.

## **8.0 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

- 8.1 The project archive will be deposited with the East Sussex Record Office (The Keep, Falmer), pending discussion, under the site code FCF20. The archive will comprise all survey material collected and produced in undertaking the project.

## **9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 9.1 Archaeology South-East would like to thank Mr & Mrs MacRae for commissioning this historic building record, and for their kind hospitality during the site visit.

## **10.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

ASE 2020. 'Court Farm Granary, East Street, Falmer: Historic Building Record Written Scheme of Investigation.' Project no. 180703. Archaeology South-East: unpublished Report.

Brunskill, R. W., 1999. *Traditional Farm Buildings of Britain and their Conservation*. London and New Haven: Yale University Press.

Conservation Plus 2020. 'Falmer Court Granary, Falmer, East Sussex: Heritage Statement' (revised). Unpublished Report.

English Heritage, 2006. *Historic Farmsteads. Preliminary Character Statement: South East Region*. English Heritage/University of Gloucestershire

Grant, K., 2020. 'Court Farm Granary, East Street, Falmer, East Sussex: Archaeological Impact Assessment.' Archaeology South-East: Project No. 200246; Report No. 2017338.

Hall, L., 2005. *Period House Fixtures & Fittings, 1300-1900*. Countryside Books.

Historic England, 2016. *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*. Swindon: English Heritage.

Martin, D. and Martin, B., 2006. *Farm Buildings of the Weald 1450-1750*. Kings Lynn: Heritage Books.

Martin, D. and Martin, B., 1998. 'Falmer Court Barn, Falmer, East Sussex.' UCL Field Archaeology Unit, Architectural Report No. 1217 (revised). Unpublished Report.

Mawer, A. and Stenton, F. M., 1930. *The Place-Names of Sussex* (two vols). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Rybczynski, W., 2000. *One Good Turn: A Natural History of the Screwdriver and the Screw*. London: Scribner.

Salzman, L. F., 1940. *Victoria History of the County of Sussex: Volume 7 - The Rape of Lewes*. London: Victoria County History.