



STONE BARN GUIDE

Learn about fenland life and our fenland farm machinery with this guide to the Stone Barn

This guide gives information about some of the objects currently stored in the stone barn. There are over 100 objects on display here so we have picked out some of our favourites to give a flavour of what is here. Over time we hope to produce a fully comprehensive guide to everything in the Stone Barn, but for now we hope this gives you a good start.

If **you** have any information about the equipment, please tell one of our volunteers or staff in the kiosk so we can update our records.

How to use this guide

With your back to the big glass doors, turn right and start at the ancient Bassingbourn Plough. Work your way round the barn anti-clockwise and try to spot the different objects on display.

If there is anything you are interested in that we haven't described, please let one of the staff or volunteers know and we will try to update the guide.



This ancient wooden plough was found in Bassingbourn Church. See the information board by the plough for more detail about this interesting object.



A hay sweep, also called a hay buck or a buck rake



The Bysouth cart. This orange cart was made at Little Downham by Bysouth (wheelwright) c 1935 to 1949



The 'Paramount 1930 Sprayer' - a crop sprayer and the engine that powered it. Crops are regularly sprayed to protect against disease and pests.



This is a celery roll. It was used to shape the ground and roll it into beds for celery to be planted.



A powered seed drill. Used to sow the seeds for a crop by dropping individual seeds into the soil and covering them to a certain average depth.



An apple packing bucket, modern with a plastic lining.



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An apple packing bucket, with a canvas lining to prevent the apples from bruising.



Wooden boxes from Longstanton, probably used to store fruit.



Trolley used in orchards and later in the harvesting of grapes in Wilburton. The crates of grapes would have been loaded onto the trolley to transport them through the vineyard.



A horse-drawn fruit cart. This was made by John Fossey of Gt. Eversden.



Fruit growing collection – take a look at the objects in the display cases. Many relate the Chivers company that farmed fruit here in the 1940s. Look closely, there are labels on the cases!



This is a half bushel measure. A bushel was a measure for liquid or dry goods, equivalent to 8 gallons or approx. 36 litres. This 1/2 bushel would hold 4 gallons or 18 litres.



A 12 row seed drill made by Smyth & Sons of Peasenhall, Suffolk. It was used to plant seeds in bulk.



Scales, made by Headly & Edwards Ltd in Cambridgeshire. It can weight up to 1 CWT – a hundredweight - or just over 50 kilograms.



A winnowing basket – whole grain was thrown up into the wind and caught again. This was used to separate out the chaff. It was also used to remove weevils or other pests from stored grain



A sickle used for cutting corn.



A seed dresser – used to treat seeds with insecticides, antimicrobial or fungicidal chemicals before planting. Can also be used to add a colour to the seeds, making them less attractive to birds and easier to see and clean up in case of accidental spillage.



A hummeler. 'Hummeler' is a local name for an awner, which is a tool for cutting the awns, or ears, of wheat and barley from the plant.



A caving, or 'keeving', fork used in threshing to remove the stalks that are bigger than chaff and smaller than straw.



McCormick tractor. This was an American design that was popular because of its early standardisation of power take-off, which connects the tractor's engine to other tools such as ploughs and seed drills.



The next area recreates an auctioneers office, showing items that would have been sold - perhaps to make room for new equipment or perhaps when a farm closed down.

A donkey cart. It would have been pulled by a donkey, which is much smaller than a horse.



A pitch fork. These were used to gather up loose straw or hay and pitch - or throw - it up to a hay loft or stack.



A foster mother. When calves are being weaned, this would be filled with milk and rubber teats attached to the spouts so calves could feed from it.



A cow collar made of wicker and willow. This may have been used to prevent the cow from moving its neck to lick or bite a sore or injury.



A calf collar. Used to wean calves; the spikes prevented the calf from sucking milk from its mother. This is *not* the way calves are weaned today!



A sheep shearing machine made by Wolsley Sheep Shearing Co. It was cooled by water.



The next area shows items used in the production of crops, especially potatoes. Behind it you can see the Martin family wagon, which is undergoing conservation work.

The Martin wagon is being repaired by our volunteers under the guidance of a conservation expert. Check back next time you visit to see our progress.



A stand for a potato riddle. The riddle, or sieve, sits on the top and the pronged feet would be pushed into the ground. Potatoes would be loaded in the top and very small ones would pass through, so that only larger potatoes were gathered in.



The sieve, or riddle, was used to sort potatoes or clean grain after threshing. It would be shaken so that the smallest items would fall to the ground, leaving just the part needed.



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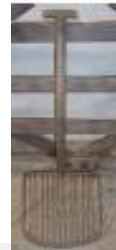
A Cooks Yaxley mechanical sack lifter.
The sack is lifted by winding it up the
lifter (instead of being lifted by hand).



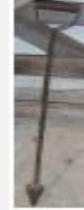
A sack lifter. It was used by two men to
lift a sack of corn onto the shoulders of
a third man who then carried the corn
into the granary or placed it in a wagon



A scoop, used to scoop up potatoes.
The prongs are close together to catch
small ones. In this scoop, the prongs
are joined together along the edge so
they don't damage the potatoes.



A dibber. This was used to make small
holes in the soil so you can drop in
seeds or bulbs.



A wooden, horse-drawn plough



The final section covers the cutters and choppers used
commonly on farms in the area.

The 'Rapid Green' bone cutter, for poultry, made by Followes and Bate of Manchester. This was not for chopping up poultry! It was for chopping up bones to make a food supplement needed by poultry to strengthen their egg shells.



This is a Wilkinson & Son cake breaker, made at the Eagle Foundry in Ely. It was used to break up cakes of animal feed.



Oil cake was made from the pulp left after the extraction of oil from plant seeds, e.g. linseed. It was sold as animal feed but had to be broken up into small pieces before it could be fed to livestock.

A cake breaker made by Barford & Perkins of Peterborough. This one won a Royal Agriculture Society first prize.



Another root cutter. Root vegetables like beet, turnips, etc. would be loaded in at the top, the handle turned and the cut vegetables would drop out at the bottom (into a basket or crate).



A root cutter. This was used for cutting roots - beet, turnips, etc. It is 'unchokable' because it was designed not to get blocked by the pieces of cut root.



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Look up! You might have missed something ... these objects are high on the walls or suspended from the roof.

A specially shaped ladder used in thatching roofs.



A thatching hook. This was used to pull the straw of a thatched roof off a burning building.



A hodding spade. This was used to cut weeds and plants from the sides of ditches to ease the flow of water. The pointed blade helps to cut through wet and sticky soil and the long handle is to reach into deep ditches.



A hay rake, used to gather up hay. This one was used in Haddenham.

