

HILL FARM

Holden of the Manor of Barnhorn previously named Constables

PROPERTY DETAILS (NGR TQ 6920 0780)

This farm was situated on the northern point of the old Barnhorn Green, the original settlement of Saxon Barnhorn. There was a windmill here which was built c1130 on a huge man made mound which was used as a signalling point in earlier times. The windmill had it's own stoutly built stone barn which was still extant in the 1970's and the monks called it the Farm of the Mill. It was called Nutbrown in the 15th century and was associated with Simon Notebrown (1430) and Richard Notebrown (1457). It was later called Constables for at least 250 years after a family of Constable who held it from the Battle Abbey Estate. This was once part of Barnhorn Farm. (6)

The property described in a sale in 1901. Substantial brick and timber cottage of six rooms and a garden. Flint brick and tiled barn, straw yard with open sheds and two boxes, stable of three stalls, chaff house with granary over. 125 acres of arable and meadow land and 13½ acres of pasture in Barnhorn Marsh. (1)

The cottage descibed in a sale in 1926 as brick and timber built partly weather tile, tiled roof. Contains on ground floor Sitting Room, Kitchen and Scullery. Upper Floor three bedrooms. Garden, earth closet, well water. Farm buildings are brick and flint built with slated or corrugated iron roofs and include dairy, modern cow house for 14 cows, Bull House, large barn, lean-to cart lodge, three-bay open sheds, calving pens and cattle yard. Water troughs fed by rain water from buildings. 105 acres of pasture and arable land at £170 per annum. Also a bungalow the property of the tenant but which the landlord has the option to purchase by arbitration at the end of the tenancy, is built of timber on concrete foundation with asbestos tile roof. (2)

OWNER DETAILS

In the possession of Battle Abbey until the dissolution, afterwards the Battle Abbey Estate

1568>	granted to Sir Anthony Browne 200 acres land and mill 6s (8)
<1673-1721	The Rt Hon Francis Lord Montague pays 6s (18)
1721-1750	Sir Thomas Webster 6s (18)
1750-1799	Sir Whistler Webster son of above (18)
1799-<1823	Sir Godfrey Webster brother of above and M.P. for Seaford (18)
<1823-1836	Sir Godfrey Webster son of above (18)

1836-1853	Another Godfrey Webster (18)
1853-1857	Sir Augustus Webster brother of above, Captain in Royal Navy & Deputy Lieutenant of Sussex (18)
1857-1901	Sold to Lord Harry Vane, later Duke of Cleveland. Later Duchess of Cleveland on death of the Duke c<1878 (18)
1901-	Miss Lucy Webster, daughter of Sir Augustus, Lady of the Manor (18)



Two views of Hill Farm previous name Constables taken 1989

TENANT DETAILS

<1727-1738>	John Wood (3)
<1833>	Rev William Gordon leaseholder, Messrs Christmas tenants (4)
<1843>	as above and was listed as cottage and garden with barn, yard etc and was farmed with Barnhorn. (4)
<1901>	Cottage buildings and land 113 acres let to Burton Spray, 12 acres let to George Parks, Sportin Rights to Major H.L.M.Dunn (1)
<1926>	Mrs Flora C. Palethorpe at £169 per annum for the lands and £1 yearly for the site of one acre for the bungalow. (2)

SOURCES

- 1 Hastings Library
- 2 ESRO BAT 2182
- 3 ESRO AMS 5641/2 Rev Ott Tithe Book
- 4 ESRO Land Tax
- 5 ESRO TD/E 141 Tithe Award
- 6 James Donne local historian writing in the 1970's