

[Photos to follow.]

**Case Study>> Rural Planning>> Forest of Bere, King's
Somborne, Stockbridge, Hants**

Client>> Forest of Bere Estate

**Project>> Erection of an agricultural grain store and
general purpose agricultural building**

GP Planning Ltd successfully obtained planning permission for the erection of a new agricultural grain drying and storage installation, a grain store, and general purpose agricultural building.

The grain store was designed to allow for the storage of 3,000 tonnes of grain produced locally on the estate, to replace an old facility elsewhere on the estate considered no longer fit for purpose. The new grain store is located centrally to the landholding within an existing farmyard and will include measures to improve the energy self sufficiency of the farm, including the installation of roof mounted solar panels and a biomass boiler. The general purpose agricultural building was designed to accommodate a range of farming functions, including a machinery store, secure store for farm equipment, chemical store and staff welfare facilities.

Throughout national and local planning policy it is accepted that the rural economy should be supported and rural business has a crucial role to play in the economic future of the UK. This is particularly the case for agricultural enterprise, and the contribution that farming can make to providing food security in the future. The development of a purpose built grain store facility with associated agricultural building will enable the farmer to meet the criteria for adding value to the stored grain, through higher standards of storage, an increase in the need for traceability of feedstock and increased regulation in respect of plant diseases. This will enable the farmer to supply a product of greater value, improving the financial sustainability of the farm and supporting the rural economy and food production in the long term.

Planning Permission was granted in July 2015. Subsequently, conditions attached to the planning permission in relation to ecology and lighting were discharged and construction commenced 2016 with the grain store up and running for the 2016 summer harvest.