



FARM WAGONS

Farm wagons were a common sight on the roads for more than a century, during which time their basic design changed very little. Wagons varied slightly from area to area. Sussex wagons would have been in common usage in this area. Most of them were made by highly skilled local craftsmen, and would last for many years, with only the occasional repair needed.

The farm wagon had many uses. It would be used to transport practically anything, playing a particularly vital role during harvesting. Wagons could haul large, bulky loads from the fields along the roads to the farmstead. To enable them to carry extra loads the wagons had ladder attachments at the back and front. These could be extended and would allow the wagon to transport up to 120 sheaves.

Farm wagons began to lose popularity with the introduction of the tractor, although they were still in common use until the end of the Second World War. However, many were still in use in the early 1950's because farmers were reluctant to mechanise; they still considered the agricultural horse and wagon to be a far more economical and versatile source of power than a tractor!