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SNY	18959
ENY	6198
CNY	-
Parish	2136
Rec'd	17/01/1996

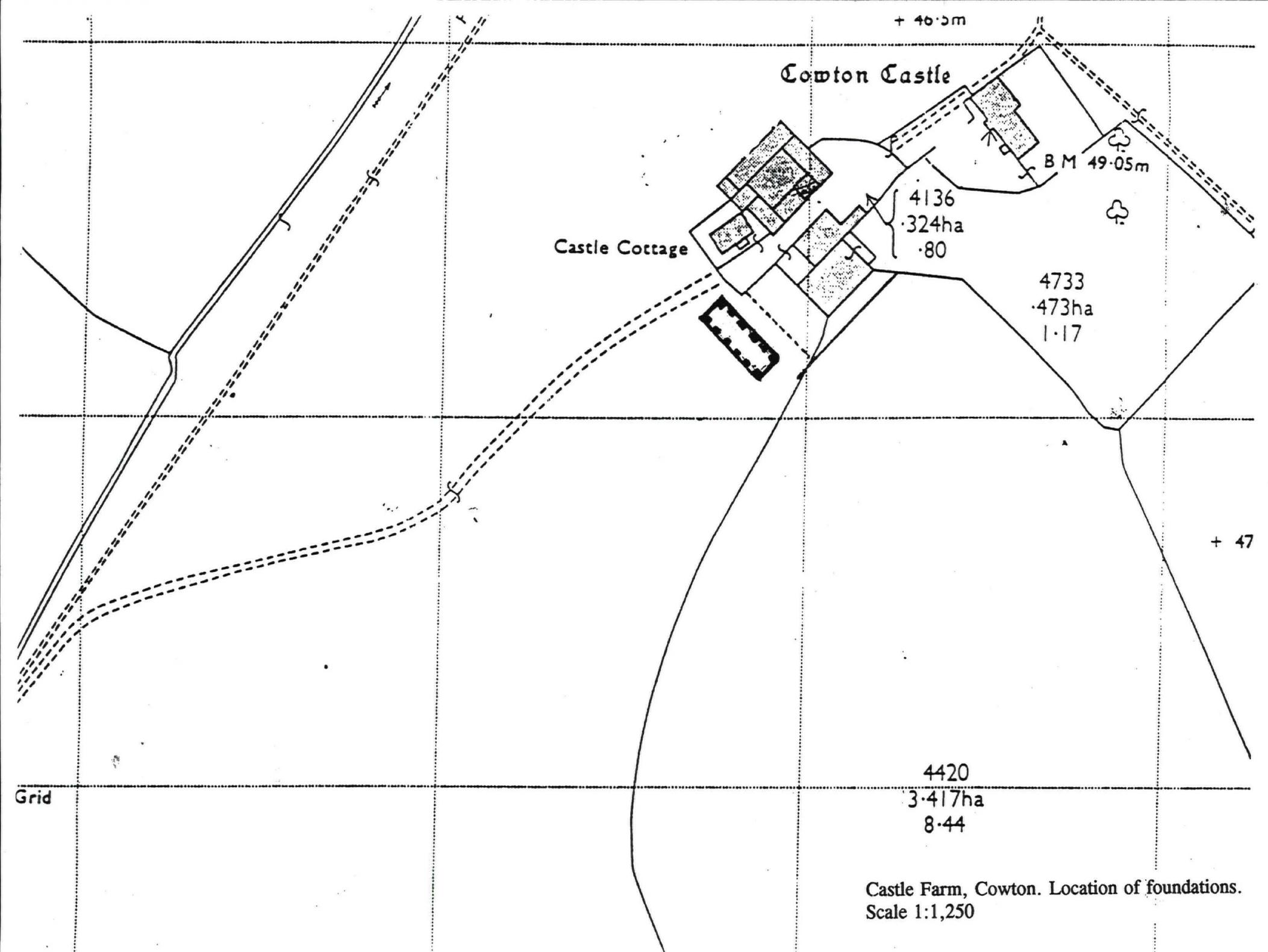
**CASTLE FARM, PEPPER ARDEN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

1. Instructions were received from Messrs Strutt and Parker (the estate managers) for an archaeological watching brief at Castle Farm, Pepper Arden, South Cowton (NZ 293 022). This work was required as a condition of a Scheduled Monument Consent for the erection of a general purpose agricultural building.
2. The watching brief was undertaken by Percival Turnbull on the 11th of January, 1996, to the standard watching brief definition supplied by the County Archaeologist and to the appropriate Standard Procedures of this Practice.
3. The site lies within the area of the deserted mediaeval settlement of Cowton, of which extensive and well-preserved earthwork remains survive in the immediate vicinity. Cowton Castle, basically mediaeval, lies 100 metres to the north-east. The mediaeval settlement is a Scheduled Ancient monument (NY 468). The area immediately affected by the development occupies a low, south-facing platform formed at least in part of rubble and farm rubbish dumped relatively recently.
4. The site of the new building occupies a footprint of approximately 6 metres by 23.5 metres. Groundworks involved the excavation (by JCB excavator) of twelve evenly-spaced pits for the insertion of the building's upright supports. Each pit was a maximum of one metre square, and was dug to penetrate the subsoil (under the modern overburden) to a depth of 50 centimetres.
5. Information from the twelve pits was consistent, and entirely negative. Modern rubble and rubbish was found in each to a depth of c. 25 centimetres from the surface. Beneath this lay a thin (c. 5 centimetres) interface layer of black, muddy soil containing modern rubbish and representing the trodden surface of the ground before the rubble was deposited. In all but the four most northerly pits, this directly overlay the natural, reddish-coloured clay: the exceptions were dug into a modern disturbance, the depth of which exceeded that of the pits.
6. No feature of archaeological interest was present, and no finds were noted other than modern rubbish.

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COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT		
17 JAN 1996		
PASS TO	INITIALS	DATE
XTR		
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Has been copied to FH.



Castle Farm, Cowton. Location of foundations.
Scale 1:1,250