



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Watching-brief at
Pen Hill Farm, Cotes-de-Val, Gilmorton,
Leicestershire**

NGR: SP 55349 88610

Mathew Morris



ULAS Report No. 2012-009
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**An Archaeological Watching-brief at
Pen Hill Farm, Cotes-de-Val,
Gilmorton, Leicestershire**

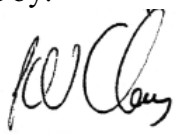
NGR: SP 55349 88610

Mathew Morris

For: Mr and Mrs B Sercombe

Planning application no. 10/00288/DEX

Approved by:

Signed:  **Date:** 08-02-2012

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An Archaeological Watching-brief at Pen Hill Farm, Cotes-de-Val, Gilmorton, Leicestershire (SP 55349 88610)

Mathew Morris

Summary

An archaeological watching-brief was carried out at Pen Hill Farm, Cotes-de-Val, Gilmorton, Leicestershire (SP 55349 88610) by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on 16th January 2011. The work was carried out on behalf of Mr and Mrs B Sercombe in advance of construction of a new single-storey extension to the dining room on the west side of the farm house. The work involved supervision and inspection of machine excavated foundations within the Scheduled area of a moated site in the deserted medieval village of Cotes-de-Val for any indication of archaeological activity. The results of the watching-brief were negative, identifying ground heavily disturbed by modern services and the footings for a former extension to the present farm house. This is probably the extension visible on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1885) but appears to have been demolished and rebuilt at some point in the early 20th century in the form it is still in today.

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A6.2012.

Introduction

This document constitutes the final report for archaeological work carried out at Pen Hill Farm, Cotes-de-Val, Gilmorton, Leicestershire (SP 55349 88610). The work was carried out on behalf of Mr and Mrs B Sercombe by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on 16th January 2011.

The proposed construction of a new single-storey extension to the dining room of Pen Hill Farm (Planning Application No. 10/00288/DEX) was located in garden against the west side of the farm house. The development impacted an area of approximately twenty-two square meters within the Scheduled area of the earthwork remains of a moated site (SM17071) within the deserted medieval village of Cote-de-Val, situated approximately 4km north of Lutterworth and 16km south of Leicester (Figure 1).

The work was requested by Leicestershire County Council's Historic and Natural Environment Team in their capacity as archaeological advisors to Harborough District Council, in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment, Policy HE12.3 (DCLG 2010). The work followed the approved *Design Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Work* (see Appendix One).

Geology and Topography

The British Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 170 (Market Harborough), indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of superficial deposits of glacial Diamicton Till overlying mudstone belonging to the late Triassic/early Jurassic Blue Lias and Charmouth Mudstone formations (BGS 1968). The site lies at c.138m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) on ground which gently slopes down from east to west.

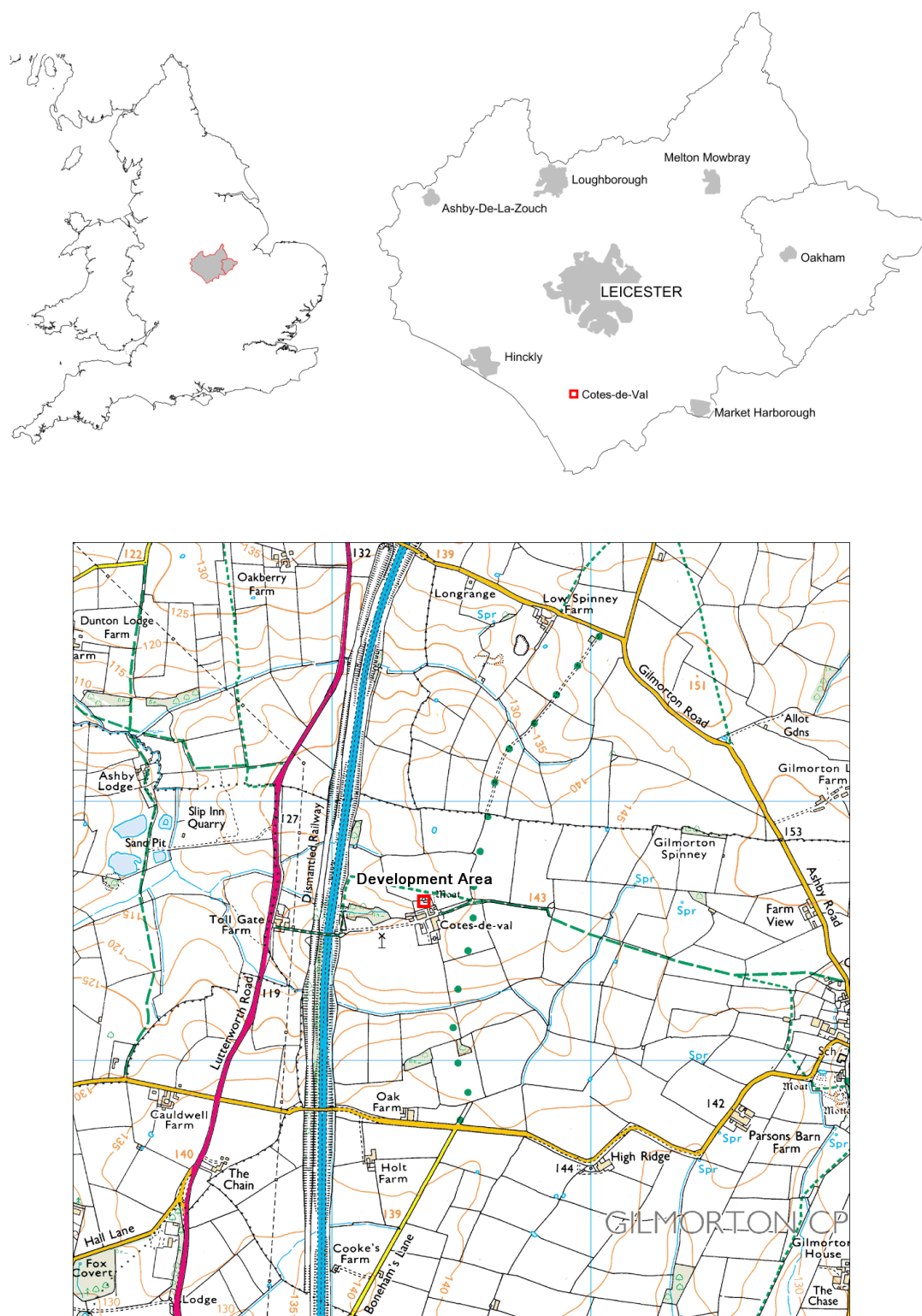


Figure 1: Location maps with development area highlighted

Reproduced from Explorer® 233 Leicester & Hinckley 1:25,000 OS map by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. © Crown copyright 2010. All rights reserved. License number AL100029495.

Archaeological and Historical Background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the development site lies in an area of archaeological interest, within the Scheduled area of the earthwork remains of a moated site (HER ref. MLE1544; SM17071) in the deserted medieval village of Cotes-de-Val (MLE1541).

The Scheduled Monument, protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites Act of 1979, is described on the *National Heritage List for England* as being:

'A moated site situated adjacent to former village earthworks which have now been modified, 4km north of Lutterworth. The moated site at Cotes de Val survives reasonably well and has historical connections with an important Leicestershire family.'

The moated site is rectangular measuring 60m x 50m in overall dimensions. The western moat arm has been infilled. The other moat arms are dry and have an average depth of about 1m, the northern and southern arms being 6-7m wide and the eastern arm 10m in width. The western arm is known to have remained extant in the 18th century at which time the site is also known to have had a drawbridge.

The site was part of the deserted village of Cotes de Val, the earthworks of which have been modified and are no longer thought to be of national importance. It is referred to as Toniscote in Domesday Book, was later held by the Cotes family and by 1279 was called Cotes Deyville.

The site today contains a farmhouse within the island, the remainder of which together with the southern arm of the moat is a domestic garden. The northern and eastern arms of the moat are situated outside the garden boundary and are a part of the surrounding pasture field. The farmhouse and garden pathways are excluded from the scheduling, although the ground beneath them is included.'

(accessed through www.heritagegateway.org.uk on 16-01-2012)

Previous archaeological work carried out in the Scheduled area by ULAS in 2003, during drainage works in the moat to the south of the farm house, encountered no archaeological deposits or features but did recover a small quantity of residual 17th or early 18th century pottery (Kipling 2003).

Archaeological Objectives

The principal objectives of the archaeological work were:

- To identify the presence or absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date of any archaeological deposits to be effected by the proposed ground works.
- To excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be effected by the proposed ground works.
- To produce a report and archive of any results.

Methodology

The project required a professional archaeologist to supervise all groundwork likely to impact upon any archaeological remains. The work involved the supervision and inspection of machine dug foundation trenches in order to identify any archaeological deposits or the natural substratum. This was carried out using a mini 360° mechanical excavator with a 0.6m toothed bucket. All exposed areas, sections and existing spoil heaps were visually inspected for features and finds. Archaeological deposits were hand cleaned, planned, photographed and sample excavated as appropriate to addressing the objectives of the watching-brief. Field notes were recorded on pro-forma ULAS watching-brief recording forms whilst any archaeological deposits or features were given unique context numbers and recorded on pro-forma ULAS context sheets if deemed appropriate. All work followed the *Institute for Archaeologists' (IFA) Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching-briefs* and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland (LMARS)*.



Figure 2: Plan showing the area of work and results of the watching brief

Adapted from 1:1250 Ordnance Survey map data, © Crown Copyright 2011. License number AL100029495

Results

The development site was situated against the west side of the farm house, in a paved area of the garden of Pen Hill Farm (Figure 2). The single footing, to be *c.*0.6m wide and *c.*1m deep, projected from the south-west corner of the farm house to the south-west corner of a small, single-storey extension on the north-west corner of the building (Figure 3).

On excavation, it was discovered that much of the area of work had been disturbed previously by an extension to the farm house which was no longer extant above ground level. A series of brick footings were identified projecting away at right-angles from the farm house. Between them was a large, *c.*1.1m deep void filled with loose brick and cement rubble, possibly the remains of an old cellar (Figure 4). The bricks appeared to be relatively modern, matching the brickwork of the present building.

The western edge of the area of work had been disturbed by a modern service trench and the only part where ground levels appeared intact was a small area at the southern end of the new footing. Here the paving could be seen covering orangeish-grey clayey-silt subsoil contaminated with brick fragments. At *c.*0.53m below ground-level compact greyish orange sandy gravel could be seen beneath the subsoil. It was unclear whether this was naturally occurring or redeposited natural material but it continued below the *c.*1m depth of the footing.



Figure 3: Photograph showing the area of work, looking north



Figure 4: Photograph showing brick footings and the brick-filled void of a former extension of the farm house, looking north

Discussion

Overall, the results of the watching brief were negative. Nothing pre-dating the present farm house, thought to be *c.* 18th or 19th century in date, was identified and it would appear that activity associated with the farm house had left much of the area heavily disturbed.

The footings for a former extension to the farm house are probably part of the building's outline visible on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1885) of the area. This suggests the building was slightly longer than later 20th century maps show. The west end of the farm house appears to have been demolished and rebuilt at some point in the early 20th century in the form it is still in today.

Bibliography

- B.G.S., 1968, *England and Wales Sheet 170 (Market Harborough): Bedrock and Superficial Deposits*. 1:50,000 scale geology series
Kipling, R., 2003, *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Cotes de Val, Gilmorton, Leicestershire (NGR SP 5535 8875)*. Unpublished ULAS report **2003-164**

Archive

The site archive consists of:

- 1 A4 watching brief record form
- 4 digital photographs
- 2 black and white photographs

The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A6.2012

Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work through the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York (summary below).

OASIS no.	universi1-117573
Project Name	Pen Hill Farm, Cotes-de-Val, Gilmorton, Leicestershire
Project Type	Watching-brief
Project Manager	Dr Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Mathew Morris
Previous/Future work	None
Current Land Use	Garden/patio
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	PPS 5
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co-ordinates	SP 55349 88610
Start/end dates of field work	16-01-2012
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council Museum Services
Study Area	c.22 square meters

A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal, the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*, in due course

Acknowledgements

Thanks are extended to the clients, Mr and Mrs B Sercombe, and the contractors, Richards Construction, for their co-operation and assistance on site. Fieldwork was undertaken, and the report written by Mathew Morris. The project was managed for ULAS by Dr Patrick Clay.

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17-01-2012

Appendix 1: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Work

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological attendance,
inspection and recording (watching brief)**

**Pen Hill Farm, Cotes-de-Val, Gilmorton, Leicestershire
SP 55349 88610**

For: Mr and Mrs B Sercombe

Planning application: 10/00288/DEX

Planning Authority: Harborough District Council

1 Introduction

Definition and scope of the specification

- 1.1 This document is a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological attendance and monitoring at the above site, in accordance with PPS 5 (Planning for the Historic Environment). This specification provides a written scheme for an archaeological watching brief, as required by the Planning Authority, of any groundworks in connection with the erection of an extension.
- 1.2 The document provides details of the following work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client as required by Harborough District Council.
 - Archaeological monitoring of development groundworks

2. Background

Context of the Project

- 2.1. Erection of single storey extension to dining room at Pen Hill Farm, Cotes-de-Val, Gilmorton, Leicestershire

Archaeological and historical background

- 2.4 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest, within the Scheduled area of the earthwork remains of the deserted medieval village of Cotes de Val (MLE1541; SM17071) and moated site (MLE1544). Consequently, there is a possibility that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the development.

3. Archaeological Aims and Objectives

- 3.1 The purpose of the archaeological work may be summarised as follows:
 - To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
 - To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
 - To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
 - To advance understanding of the heritage assets
 - To produce an archive and report of any results.

4. Methodology

General methods

- 4.1 All work will follow the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2010) and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008).
- 4.2 Staffing, recording systems, health and safety provisions and insurance details are included below.
- 4.3 An accession number will be obtained prior to commencement of the project and used to identify all records and artefacts.

Archaeological attendance for inspection and recording

- 4.4 The project will involve a watching brief during groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist. During these ground works, if any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will record areas of archaeological interest.
- 4.5 Excavation should be undertaken by a mechanical excavator using a narrow toothed bucket .
- 4.6 If significant archaeological deposits are discovered work may need to be halted in order for contingency excavation and recording to be carried out. The archaeologist will co-operate at all times with the contractors on site to ensure the minimum interruption to the work.
- 4.7 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located will be hand excavated. Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans will be tied into the National Grid.
- 4.8 Archaeological deposits will be excavated and recorded using standard ULAS procedures. Sufficient of any archaeological features or deposits will be hand excavated in order to provide the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Standard sampling amounts are:
- 50% of the exposed area of each pit and other discrete archaeological features.
 - 10% (minimum 1m section) of the exposed lengths of linear features (including slotted and interrupted ditches and pit alignments). Excavation sections will be placed to provide adequate coverage of the features and will include excavation of terminals and intersections. A flexible approach will be adopted to the location of excavation samples such that areas of exposed ditch fill with higher artefact or ecofact content may be targeted.
 - 25% of ring gullies will normally be excavated to include excavation of the terminals. Special regard will be given to significant stratigraphic relationships and concentrations of artefactual material.
 - Structural and foundation deposits will be exposed and cleaned with a view to defining their nature and any relationships.
- 4.9 All below ground stratigraphy will be recorded. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.
- 4.10 All excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.
- 4.11 Spoil will be monitored for artefacts. A representative sample of unstratified finds may be retained.
- 4.12 Any human remains encountered will be initially left in situ, covered and protected, and only be removed in accordance with a Ministry of Justice licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The landowner and/or developer, the Planning Authority and the coroner will be informed immediately of their discovery.

Preservation in situ and Contingency Provisions

- 4.13 In the event of significant archaeological remains being located during the archaeological investigation there may be the need for contingency time and finance to be provided to ensure adequate recording is undertaken.
- 4.14 On the discovery of potentially significant remains the archaeologist will inform the developer and the planning authority in order for detailed discussion between all relevant parties to take place.

Recording Systems

- 4.15 The ULAS recording manual will be used as a guide for all recording.
- 4.16 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto pro-forma recording sheets.

- 4.17 A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be supplemented by a trench plan at appropriate scale, which will show the location of the areas investigated in relationship to the investigation area and OS grid.
- 4.18 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made. Sections including the half-sections of individual layers of features will be drawn as necessary. The relative height of all principal strata and features will be recorded. The stratigraphy of all trenches shall be recorded even where no archaeological features are identified.
- 4.19 A photographic record of the investigations will be prepared as per the brief, illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.
- 4.20 This record will be compiled and checked during the course of the excavations.

5 Finds & samples

- 5.1 The IfA Guidelines for Finds Work will be adhered to.
- 5.2 An Accession number will be obtained prior to the commencement of any on-site works, that will be used to identify all records and finds from the site.
- 5.3 Any finds that may constitute 'treasure' under the Treasure Act, 1996 will be reported to the local Coroner and removed to a safe place.
- 5.4 All antiquities, valuables, objects or remains of archaeological interest, other than articles declared by Coroner's Inquest to be subject to the Treasure Act, discovered in or under the Site during the carrying out of the project by ULAS or during works carried out on the Site by the Client shall be deemed to be the property of ULAS provided that ULAS after due examination of the said Archaeological Discoveries shall transfer ownership of all Archaeological Discoveries unconditionally to LCC for storage in perpetuity.
- 5.4 All identified finds and artefacts are to be retained, although certain classes of building material will, in some circumstances, be discarded after recording.
- 5.5 Although the environmental potential of the site is uncertain, if significant archaeological features are sample excavated, the following environmental sampling strategy will be adopted, following consultation with the ULAS Environmental Officer.
 - i. A range of features to represent all feature types, areas and phases will be selected on a judgmental basis. The criteria for selection will be that deposits are datable, well sealed and with little intrusive or residual material.
 - ii. Any buried soils or well-sealed deposits with concentrations of carbonised material present will be intensively sampled taking a known proportion of the deposit.
 - iii. Spot samples will be taken where concentrations of environmental remains are located.
 - iv. Waterlogged remains, if present, will be sampled for pollen, plant macrofossils, insect remains and radiocarbon dating provided that they are uncontaminated and datable. Consultation with the specialist will be undertaken.
- 5.6 Wet sieving with flotation will be carried out using a York Archaeological Trust sieving tank with a 0.5mm mesh and a 0.3mm flotation sieve. The small size mesh will be used initially as flotation of plant remains may be incomplete and some may remain in the residue. The residue > 0.5mm from the tank will be separated into coarse fractions of over 4mm and fine fractions of > 0.5-4mm. The coarse fractions will be sorted for finds. The fine fractions and flots will be evaluated and prioritised; only those with remains apparent will be sorted. The prioritised flots will not be sorted until the analysis stage when phasing information is available. Flots will be scanned and plant remains from selected contexts will be identified and further sampling, sieving and sorting targeted towards higher potential deposits.

5.7 Where there is evidence for industrial activity, macroscopic technological residues (or a sample of them) may be collected. Separate samples (c. 10ml) may be collected for micro-slugs (hammer-scale and spherical droplets). All industrial samples will be undertaken with reference to the Centre for Archaeology Guideline on Archaeometallurgy (English Heritage 2001).

5.8 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner. Where appropriate they will be cleaned, marked and receive remedial conservation in accordance with recognised best practice. This will include the site code number, finds number and context number. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self sealing plastic bags, again marked with site code, finds and context

6. Report and Archive

6.1 Arrangements will be made for the archive, consisting of record sheets, original drawings, drawn plans, photographs, notes, copies of all reports along with an index to the archive to be deposited at Leicestershire Museums in accordance with the relevant procedures.

6.3 The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent and marked with the site accession number.

6.4 The archive will be prepared in line with appropriate professional guidelines (e.g. UKIC and ADS guidelines for the preparation of archaeological archives for long term storage and *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2007).

6.7 The full report in A4 format will usually follow within six weeks of the completion of the fieldwork and copies will be directed to the client, the Planning Authority and to the Historic Environment Record.

6.8 The report will include consideration of:

- A non-technical summary.
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the work.
- The location, date, significance and quality of the building.
- The nature, location and extent of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.
- The anticipated degree of survival of archaeological deposits.
- The local, regional and national context as appropriate highlighting any research priorities where applicable.
- Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.
- The location and size of the archive.
- Contents of the archive

7 Publication and Dissemination of Results

7.1 A summary of the work will be submitted to the local archaeological journal. A larger report will be submitted for inclusion if the results of the evaluation warrant it.

7.2 University of Leicester Archaeological Services supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS form at <http://oasis.ac.uk> will be completed detailing the results of the project. Once the report has become a public document following its incorporation into the HER it may be placed on the web-site.

8. Copyright

8.1 The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.

9. Timetable

9.1 The watching brief is due to commence in January 2012.

10. Health and Safety

10.1 A Risks Assessment form will be completed prior to work commencing on-site, and updated as necessary during the site works (see end of this document)).

11 Insurance

11.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with St Pauls Travellers Policy No. UCPOP3651237 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters (50%) and Brit Insurances (50%) Policy No. FUNK3605.

12. Monitoring arrangements

12.1 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to both the Client and his representatives and to the Planning Authority subject to the health and safety requirements of the site. Notice will be given to the Development Control Archaeologist before the commencement of the archaeological survey in order that monitoring arrangements can be made.

12.2 Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

13. Bibliography

AAF *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*
2007

English *Centre for Archaeology Guidelines on Archaeometallurgy*
Heritage 2001

Institute for *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*
Archaeologists
(IfA) 2008

Institute for *Code of Conduct*
Archaeologists
(IfA) 2010

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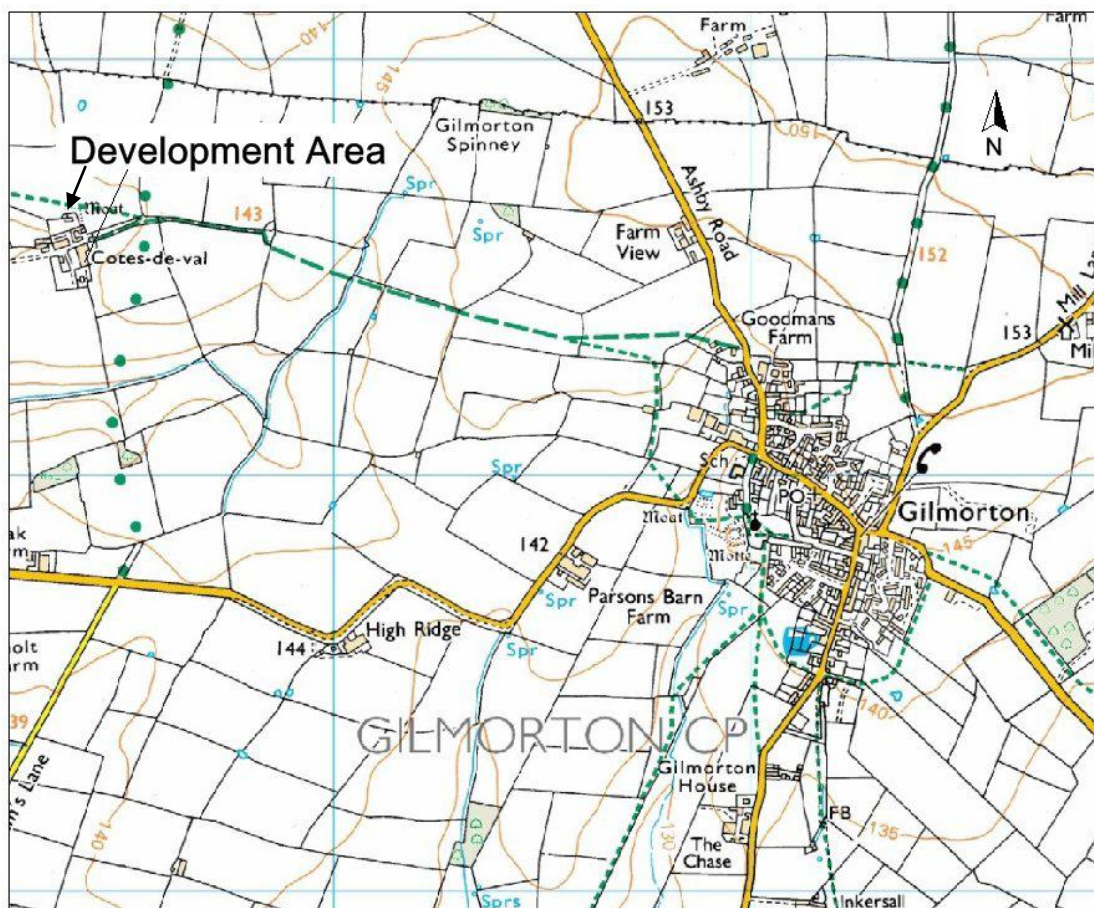


Fig. 1 Location plan

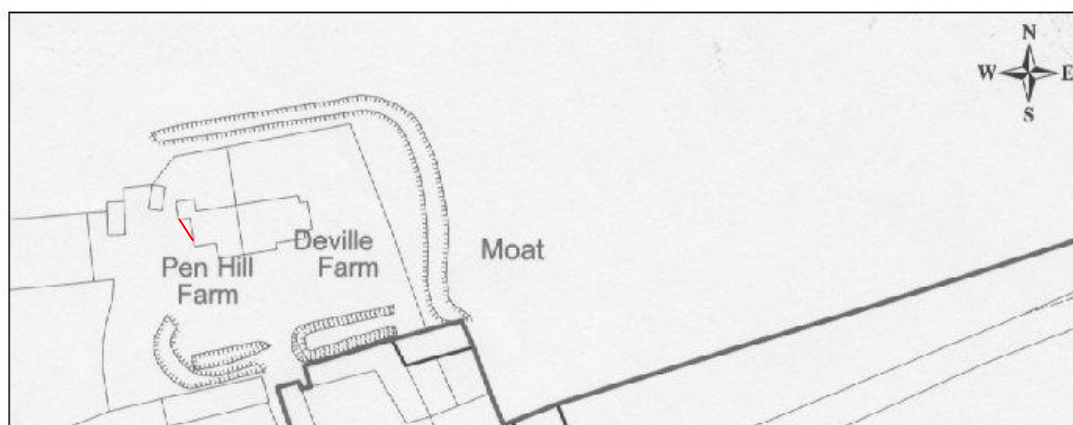


Fig. 2 Pen Hill Farm with extension highlighted in red

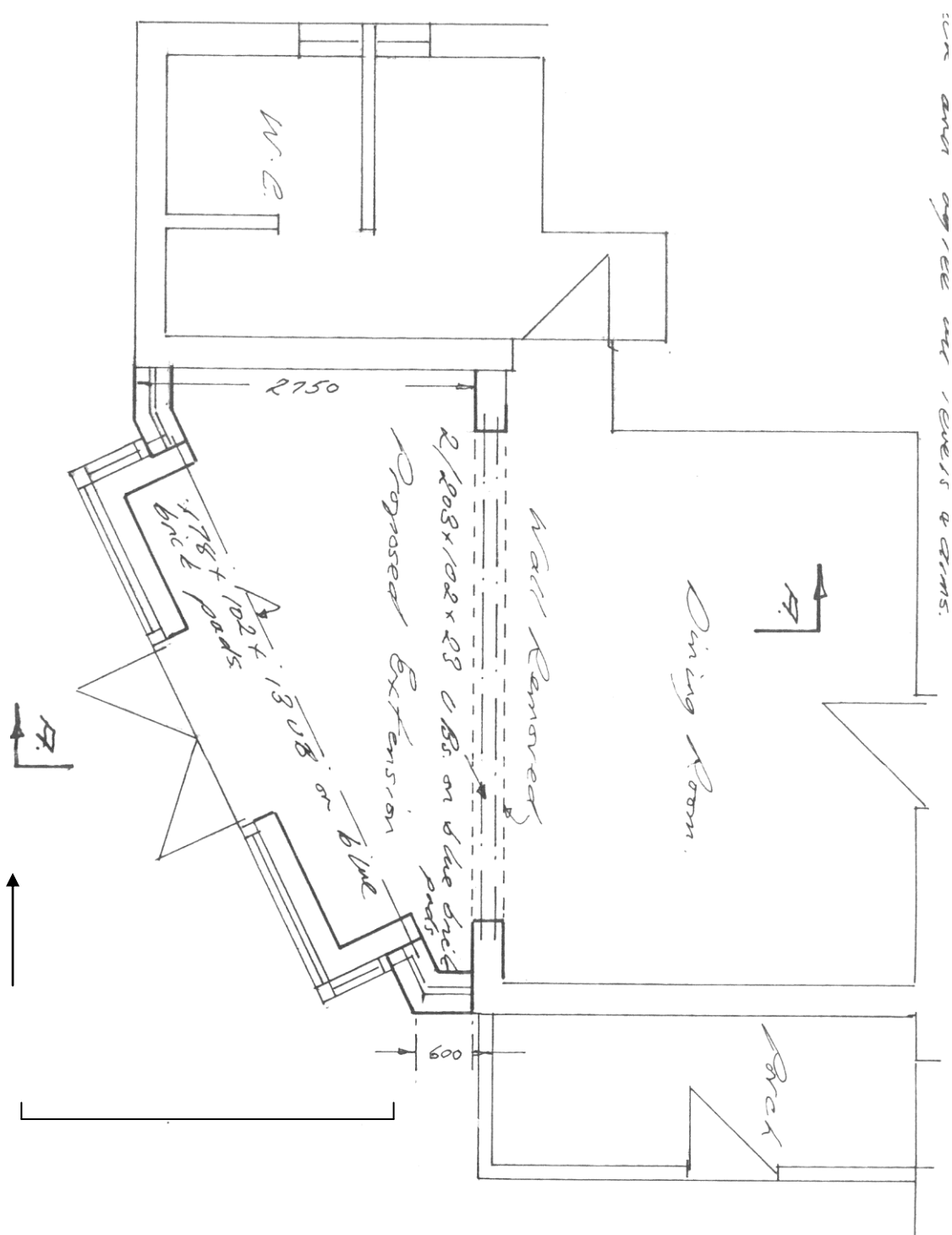


Fig. 3 Plan of the extension. North to the top. Scale bar = 3m

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